

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 12th July 2012, at 7.30 pm, in the Old School Room, Charlton

PRESENT Cllr B B Browne
Cllr R L Davies
Cllr S M Eggleston
Cllr E G Grazier
Cllr Mrs B W Jack
Cllr Mrs R A Powell (from Item 5, Minute no. 77/12)
Cllr M P Wood

In attendance: County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre
Cllr Tom McDonald
Clive Bostle, Parish Footpath Warden
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(Two members of the public were present. No matters were raised).

73/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Wood.

74/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

75/12 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH MAY 2012

The draft minutes had been circulated previously and it was agreed that the following amendment be made:

Minute 46/12, apology also received from Cllr McDonald.

Subject to this amendment it was proposed by Cllr Grazier, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and resolved, that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

76/12 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Footpath Warden. Clive Bostle was invited to speak. He reported that he has been strimming paths off Boston Lane. The walk on 21st July is being advertised locally. He has objected, on behalf of the Ramblers, to the current planning application at Merrybrook Equestrian Centre, including a comment that the plans and details are difficult to understand. He also confirmed that Path 502 through the maize field has now been cleared.

2. Lengthsman. Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance and his worksheet for June was circulated with the agenda. The Clerk was asked to remind the highway authority that the ditch near the caravan site in Boston Lane is still blocked by rubble.

3. Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall. Cllr Mrs Powell had not arrived and there was no report.

4. Workman Trust/Old School Room. Cllr Mrs Powell had not arrived and there was no report.

5. Current Planning issues. The Clerk reported that he has not received any further information regarding activities at Fenn Croft, and no planning application had been

submitted for the solar panels. The Clerk was asked to inform the WDC Enforcement Officer that some 20 ton loads of stone have recently been delivered to the land.

6. Damage to street light column no. 13, The Dovecote. The Clerk reported that he has now received the invoice for this work. This had been sent to Countrywide Farmers, who have sent a cheque for the full amount to the Clerk. This invoice is included for payment at this meeting. On taking advice from the CALC Executive Officer the Clerk will send a VAT receipt to Countrywide Farmers.

7. Badgers on Canada Bank. The Clerk reported that he had been kept informed by County Cllr Liz Eyre and WCC officers. The County Council has been issued with a licence from Natural England for necessary work on the badgers' sett.

8. Registration of The Green and Cemetery. The Clerk reported that he has discussed these matters with the Land Registry, who explained that registration would cost £40 for each application. He has the requisite form and will submit. On the matter of applications for adverse possession of land the Clerk was advised to read the Guidance notes before deciding how to proceed. It was agreed to consider this issue of the land opposite the Cemetery and the extension of The Green at a later meeting.

77/12 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Liz Eyre reminded the PC that WCC is seeking savings in the region of £100 million; this will impact to a greater or lesser extent on all aspects and services of the County Council.

She said that there would be a need for communication between WCC, local residents and tourists of the diversions which will be necessary when Evesham Bridge is closed.

District Councillor Tom McDonald reported that there has been a large increase in the use of The Sheppey and a survey of the favourite items has been carried out. WDC is aware of the concerns of residents of Charlton with proposed development at Hampton, and the possible impact on flows in Merry Brook. The ownership of the land between The Strand and the brook needs to be investigated further and he said that WDC would be looking to dispose of the redundant telephone kiosk.

He reported that Marks and Spencer are looking to return to Evesham.

He reminded the Council that the New Homes Bonus money is available for each parish council for 6 years, and this can be used either each year or in one lump sum.

There will be a consultation on changes to the South Worcestershire Development Plan.

WDC is on target to find £2 million in savings; this has had an impact on staffing.

Cllr McDonald reported that he has been appointed as a local authority representative on Severn Trent Water.

78/12 FINANCE

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.04.12 – 01.06.12

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Davies, and agreed, that

(a) the following accounts be paid, and

(b) the accounts paid on 21.06.12 be confirmed:

R D Gurney	net salary, 01.06.12 – 31.07.12	£451.00
	expenses, 01.05.12 – 30.06.12	£ 22.00
HMRC (first quarter)		£169.11

Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery (May/June)	
£48.47 + £9.70 VAT	£ 58.17
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (June)	
£280.00 + £56.00 VAT	£336.00
Steve Gwilliam (June)	£176.00
Prysmian Cables and Systems Ltd	£1,727.42 + £349.48 VAT
N Power Ltd	£144.22 + £7.21 VAT
	£2,096.90
	£151.43

Confirmation of payments made 21.06.12:

New Farm Grounds Maintenance (May)	
£280.00 + £56.00 VAT	£336.00
Steve Gwilliam (May)	£176.00

79/12 REPORT OF FINANCE WORKING GROUP

The Chairman reported that the FWG had met on 21st June 2012 and had agreed and completed the Annual Return. The Clerk confirmed that this had been sent to the External Auditors, Clement Keys.

80/12 TO ADOPT THE WYCHAVON DC CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chairman explained the background to this new Code of Conduct, which is under the Localism Act and which was circulated with the agenda. He had been to a "training" session at WDC, where many questions had been raised about the Code and Members Interests. He explained the variations which had been made. That the Code of Conduct be adopted was proposed by Cllr Browne, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jack, and agreed. The Chairman then explained the new Register of Members' Interests form, which was also circulated with the agenda. The information is in a simpler form from the previous form, but it now requires information of the spouse/partner, and the information must be published on the WDC website. The information must also be included on the Parish Council website, and this was accepted. The PC Standing Orders will have to be amended.

81/12 CEMETERY FEES

The new fees were circulated with the agenda and were accepted, to come into effect on 1st September 2012.

82/12 FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Cllr Davies reported that work is progressing with the flood doors and discussions between the EA and the insurance companies are in-going. Ponding upstream of the village has progressed well, but has now halted. It was noted that WCC (and County Cllr Liz Eyre) is still considering drainage works in The Bight. Cllr Davies reported that the grass cutting contractors have been refused permission to treat the Brook chemically and Cllr Davies will meet with them to discuss the next stage.

83/12 HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

The Clerk was asked to report potholes in Ryden Lane and Boston Lane, repairs to the latter needing to be done before work starts on Evesham bridge. It was confirmed that WDC is responsible for street pavement cleaning.

84/12 MATTERS RELATING TO THE GREEN

(1) **Track alongside The Green.** A report of the meeting between members of the PC and residents whose properties front the track was circulated with the agenda. The meeting covered items including parking and driving on The Green, gravel creep and signage. Cllr Davies will suggest wording for a sign and the Clerk will arrange to obtain a price and Cllr Davies agreed to email residents of the PC's decision.

(2) **Telephone kiosk.** This was dealt with by Cllr McDonald earlier in the meeting.

(3) **Willow tree.** Cllr Grazier will seek advice about what work is needed on the willow tree. He was asked to seek advice on the yew trees in the Cemetery.

(4) **Treatment around felled trees.** Cllr Grazier agreed to seek advice on this.

(5) **Silt in Merry Brook below Canada Bank bridge.** Cllr Davies will explore where the responsibility for clearing this lies. It could mean that a working party is needed.

(6) **Planting a tree for the Jubilee.** Cllr Grazier will make enquiries and take advice.

(7) **Scrub adjacent to the footbridge.** It appears that the publican has accepted responsibility for this. The PC hope that the trees will remain after the scrub is removed.

85/12 PARISH PLAN

Cllr Davies reported that returned questionnaires are being analysed.

86/12 IMPROVEMENT TO LAND OPPOSITE THE CEMETERY

Cllr Davies will check with WDC regarding the ownership of this land.

87/12 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee on 17th May 2012, which were enclosed with the agenda, were noted.

88/12 ITEMS FROM CALC

The Chairman reported that there are several aspects of the Localism Act that parish councils need to be aware of.

89/12 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC – notice of the early annual canvass for the Register of Electors
2. WCC – arrangements for renewal of National Travel Passes
3. Wychavon CAB – letter of thanks for the grant
4. Audit Commission – change of external auditor for 2012/2013
5. Magazines, including Newline, LCR, Clerks and Councils Direct

90/12 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

1. Ideas for the New Homes Bonus
2. Provision of dog bins

91/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

This is scheduled for Thursday 13th September 2012, at 7.30 pm.

12th July 2012