

# CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

1

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013,  
at 7.30 pm, in the Old School Room, Charlton**

**PRESENT** Cllr B B Browne (Chairman)  
Cllr R L Davies  
Cllr S M Eggleston  
Cllr Mrs B W Jack

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

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

*(No members of the public were in attendance).*

## **1/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received and accepted from Cllr Grazier and Cllr Mrs Powell.

## **2/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

## **3/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

The draft minutes had been circulated previously. It was proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jack, and resolved, that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

## **4/13 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**1. Footpath Warden.** Clive Bostle was invited to speak. He commented that the very wet weather has restricted walking on paths in the area. He reported that the footbridges upstream of the village had survived the recent high water levels in the Merry Brook, and he needed to check on the safety of a willow tree, adjacent to the Merry Brook off Ryden Lane. He commented that WCC had installed a new kissing gate on FP510 off Boston Lane, and also at the Crophorne end of that path.

**2. Lengthsman.** Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance and his worksheet for December was circulated with the agenda.

**3. Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall.** There was no report.

**4. Workman Trust/Old School Room.** There was no report.

**5. Registration of The Green and Cemetery.** The Clerk reported that this in hand.

**6. Payments deferred at September meeting.** The Clerk reported that he has not had a reply to his letter, sent after the previous meeting and this matter is now resolved.

**7. Telephone kiosk.** The Clerk reported that WDC officers have told him that they are having some difficulty confirming whether the electrical supply has been disconnected. They comment that they may not legally be able to remove the kiosk. Cllr McDonald asked the Clerk to supply him with the background information and he will take up the matter with Ian Marshall at WDC.

**8. Provision of dog bins.** The Clerk reported the costings provided by WDC, namely £310 for each bin, £19.92 for installation, £4.60 for twice yearly cleaning and £57.20 for weekly emptying; all plus an admin cost and VAT. It was agreed to take no action, pending the publication of the Parish Plan.

**5/13 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

**District Councillor Tom McDonald** circulated his report at the meeting. He referred to the current difficulties that WDC, and other local authorities, are now in with the changes to the Benefit system; and to the current use of speed warning signs in Fladbury. He highlighted the lack of a planning policy which protects the Merry Brook valley upstream of the village and hoped that reference could be included in the Parish Plan; this could have a bearing on the outcome of the current application for a chicken shed off Boston Lane. He drew attention to the present round of WDC grants and the solar park being developed at Throckmorton.

**County Cllr Liz Eyre** sent her apologies for the meeting.

**6/13 FINANCE****1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.10.12- 03.12.12**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

**2. Accounts for Payment**

It was proposed by Cllr Eggleston, seconded by Cllr Davies, and agreed, that the

(a) following accounts be paid:

R D Gurney net salary, 01.12.12 – 31.01.13	<b>£451.00</b>
HMRC (third Quarter)	<b>£169.98</b>
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery (November/December)	
£19.28 + £3.95 VAT (2 invoices)	<b>£ 23.13</b>
Steve Gwilliam (December)	<b>£132.00</b>
Worcestershire CALC £50.00 + £10.00 VAT	<b>£ 60.00</b>
B B Browne (for the website)	<b>£ 25.11</b>

(b) payments made 13.12.12 be confirmed:

Steve Gwilliam (November)	<b>£132.00</b>
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (November)	
£140.00 + £28.00 VAT	<b>£168.00</b>

**7/13 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**

The report of the Finance Working Group, held on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012, together with proposed details of the budget for 2013/2014, were circulated with the agenda. The FWG had been aware that, at the time of the meeting, the Government had not published their changes to Housing Benefit and Council Tax. The Chairman explained the up to date information, that next year's Tax Base figure for Charlton is 255.07, compared with 268.97 for the current year. This would mean that to keep the precept at the present level of £11,616 the Band D equivalent will rise by 5.45%. WDC will give a grant for 90% of the difference, but this would still show an increase of 0.75% (from £43.19 to £43.51 on a Band D property). To achieve a zero Band D equivalent the precept would need to be reduced to £11,530.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and agreed that the Precept for 2013/2014 be £11,530, less the WDC grant of £514, totaling £11,016.

**8/13 FLOOD ALLEVIATION**

Cllr Davies reported that the meeting between the EA and residents to discuss progress is awaited. Merry Brook coped well with the recent heavy rainfall and Cllr Davies has spent an afternoon clearing out the brook between the Cemetery bridge and Brook Lane.

**9/13 NEW HOMES BONUS AND TREE PLANTING**

The Chairman reported that the New Homes Bonus for Charlton has increased to £1,078 per year for 6 years. Cllr Davies is to discuss the number and type of trees that the EA recommend for planting on the Green, after which he will inform WDC officers.

**10/13 THE GREEN/CANADA BANK ACCESS**

WCC has been aware of the problem of the lack of visibility at the junction of the access off The Green on to Canada Bank. Discussions have been held with some residents and the possibility of a mirror is being investigated with landowners, as it is accepted that cutting back the hedge will prove to be impractical.

The Clerk was asked to proceed to obtain a quotation for a new sign at this access.

**11/13 HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS**

Members expressed their concern with the poor state of the adopted section of Ryden Lane. The Clerk was asked to report the number of potholes in this highway to WCC.

**12/13 LAND OFF THE STRAND**

The Clerk reported the reply he had received from WDC to several matters relating to land off The Strand, adjacent to Merry Brook. WDC has suggested that this land could be taken over by the Parish Council and retained as an amenity. There is unlikely to be any financial contribution from WDC to cover the cost of the necessary improvements (although it might be funded via the New Homes Bonus). It was agreed that there should be some discussion with the EA before the Parish Council reaches a decision.

The Clerk received confirmation that the land opposite the Cemetery has never been owned by WCC.

**13/13 PARISH PLAN**

Cllr Davies reported that there had been little progress over the holiday period.

**14/13 REPORTS OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012, which were enclosed with the agenda, were noted.

The Clerk was asked to inform the Town Clerk at Evesham of the Parish Council's views on application W/12/01396, and asking the Town Council to support our views.

**15/13 PARISH MEETING (11<sup>th</sup> April 2013)**

It was agreed that this follows the same format as in previous years, with local organizations being asked to give reports.

**16/13 ITEMS FROM CALC**

The Chairman reported that there was a speaker on Neighbourhood Plans at the December Area Meeting. He also mentioned that there could be a financial problem within a few years, if some of the current grants cease.

**17/13 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

The following correspondence was noted:

1. Local Council Review magazine
2. WCC Budget consultation meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> January at County Hall

3. SWDP consultation from 11<sup>th</sup> January until 22<sup>nd</sup> February.
4. The Chairman and Clerk had received from Mr Alastair Barrett, asking whether a bench could be installed on The Green, in memory of his late parents who had lived on The Green. It was agreed that this offer be accepted with pleasure. The Clerk was asked to reply accordingly and, in the meantime, to obtain the cost of a bench, including a base, its installation and a plaque.

**18/13 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**

The Chairman reported that Neighbourhood Watch information is now being communicated via email.

**19/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This is scheduled for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013, at 7.30 pm.

14<sup>th</sup> March 2013