

CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 14th March 2013,
at 7.30 pm, in the Old School Room, Charlton**

PRESENT Cllr B B Browne (Chairman)
Cllr R L Davies
Cllr E G Grazier
Cllr Mrs B W Jack
Cllr Mrs R A Powell

In attendance: County Cllr Liz Eyre
Cllr Tom McDonald
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(No members of the public were in attendance).

20/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Eggleston.

21/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Davies declared a non pecuniary interest in Item 10 (minute no. 29/13).

22/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th JANUARY 2013

The draft minutes were circulated with the agenda. It was agreed that the following amendment be made:

Minute 7/13, add to line 12, "less the WDC grant of £514, totaling £11,016.

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

23/13 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Footpath Warden. Clive Bostle had sent his apology. The Chairman reported that Mr Bostle had informed him that work had been done on Footpaths 510/511, adjacent to "Broadway View" and he has working on Footpath 513, between Haselor Lane and Crophorne with paths, hedging and steps.

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

3. Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall. There was no report. The Clerk was asked to remind the Village Hall Committee that Cllr Mrs Powell has been appointed as the Charlton Parish Council representative.

4. Workman Trust/Old School Room. Cllr Mrs Powell reported that the Trust will have to carry out repairs on the roof and grants for this work are being sought. It was suggested that by the Parish Council that, if solar panels were included, grants may be more readily available.

5. Registration of The Green and Cemetery. The Clerk reported that he has submitted registrations for both the Cemetery and The Green to the Land Registry.

6. Telephone kiosk. There was no update and the Clerk agreed to send the details to Cllr McDonald for him to take up with officers at WDC.

7. Changes to arrangements with HMRC. The Clerk reported that, from 1st April 2013, it will be a requirement for HMRC to be informed, online, every time a payment is made.

8. Damaged electric cable, The Bight, Charlton. At the end of January the owner of farmland in The Bight cut through an electric cable, which served the street lighting column (no. 20). The Clerk reported this to Western Power who, with the landowner's information was able to make the cable safe. However, the power to the street light was not re-connected. When contacted at the end of February Western Power apologized for this oversight, but to date the street light has not been reconnected. The Clerk will report this again.

24/13 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Liz Eyre reported that WCC is continuing to search for economies, while keeping the high standard of service. She reported that WCC and health services are pooling resources to improve aspects of health care in the County. An Early Help system is being established to assist dysfunctional families, of which there are some 900.

District Councillor Tom McDonald reported on the changes to Section 106 monies undertaken by WDC. The letter received by the Clerk included a form for submission when funding is required for a project in the Parish. He referred to changes in waste collection, the effects of the closure of Evesham bridge and further WDC monies towards flood alleviation. He mentioned that car parking charges would not be increased and Council Tax is unaltered for 2013/2014. He reported on the work being done by WDC with their Economy Plan to attract more businesses and jobs.

25/13 FINANCE

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.12.12- 01.03.13

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

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

(a) the following accounts be paid:

R D Gurney	net salary, 01.02.13 – 31.03.13	£451.00
	expenses, 01.11.12 – 28.02.13	£ 56.00
HMRC (4th Quarter)		£169.20
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery (January/February)		
	£27.87 + £2.94 VAT (2 invoices)	£ 30.81
Steve Gwilliam (February)		£176.00
Worcestershire CALC		£ 10.00

(b) the payments made 07.02.13 be confirmed:

N Power	£153.45 + £7.67 VAT	£161.12
Steve Gwilliam (January)		£220.00

26/13 AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk reported that he had attended a Clerks meeting with Grant Thornton, who now have the contract for external auditing parish councils. There are likely to be some changes, which will include reporting the Internal Auditor's report. The Chairman and Clerk will discuss any implications of these changes

27/13 FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Cllr Davies reported that he had informed the EA of fallen trees in the Merry Brook, near the Cemetery bridge and downstream towards Jubilee Bridge. There is still a need to tackle the stretch between the footbridge on the Green and the Cemetery bridge. The work by the EA with residents is continuing, and it is known that some residents have not yet been approached.

28/13 NEW HOMES BONUS

The Chairman confirmed the amount that the Parish Council will receive from the New Homes Bonus, namely £1,078 per year for 6 years. Cllr Davies has made enquiries for replanting trees on the Green and will discuss the details with Cllr Mrs Powell.

29/13 USE OF THE GREEN

A request has been received for the Scout Group to use the Green on one Wednesday evening in the summer for pioneering practice, involving building a footbridge across the Brook. This was agreed.

It was also agreed that Charlton Fair can be held on the Green this June.

30/13 PROVISION OF MEMORIAL SEAT ON THE GREEN

Following the offer of a seat in memory of Mr and Mrs Barratt Cllr Mrs Jack and Cllr Mrs Powell agreed to discuss the purchase, location and fitting of the seat with Ray Hirons. The Clerk will keep Mr Barratt informed of progress.

31/13 HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

County Cllr Liz Eyre reported on the various highway matters that have been brought to her attention, including The Bight, Ryden Lane and the possible footway between the Church and The Dovecote. The Clerk will check the matters of the possible footway, including the suitability of taking the soil and vegetation away from the adjoining wall. Cllr Mrs Eyre expected to have further information for the Parish Meeting.

32/13 LAND OFF THE STRAND

There was nothing to report, but the advice of the EA will be sought regarding the treatment of the sloping bank.

33/13 PARISH PLAN

Cllr Davies said that there was nothing to report.

34/13 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee on 24th January 2013, which were enclosed with the agenda, were noted. It was agreed that when the Clerk receives details of controversial applications these are emailed to Members.

35/13 PARISH MEETING (11th April 2013)

The Chairman said he would invite the usual persons to give reports at the Parish Meeting. He would prepare a report of the Parish Council's work and the Clerk will prepare a draft statement of the accounts.

36/13 ITEMS FROM CALC

The Chairman reported that there continues to be a funding problem with Worcestershire CALC.

37/13 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC – changes to Section 106 Agreements and Potential projects
2. WCC – notification of bid for Worcester Parkway Station
3. WDC – Parish Matters (enclosed)
4. Magazines, including Local Council Review, Clerks and Councils Direct

38/13 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

The Chairman reported that there is a possibility that Charlton Church may close and another use be sought. This is likely to continue to be a matter for consideration during the coming months.

39/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday, 11th April 2013.

The Annual meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Thursday 9th May 2013, at 7.30 pm.

9th May 2013