

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 11^h July 2013, at 7.30 pm,
in the Old School Room, Charlton**

PRESENT Cllr R L Davies (Chairman)
Cllr B B Browne
Cllr S M Eggleston
Cllr E G Grazier
Cllr Mrs B W Jack (until Item 16, Minute 85/13)

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

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(No members of the public were in attendance) .

71/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

72/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

73/13 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

The Clerk reported that there has not been a request to Wychavon DC for an election to be held and, therefore, the Parish Council is able to co-opt. The Clerk will arrange for the notice of co-option to be displayed on notice boards, so that Co-option can be considered at the September meeting.

74/13 APPOINTMENT OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Crothorne and Charlton Village Hall Committee and Workman Trust.

The Chairman has not received a reply from Mrs Powell and it was agreed that these appointments be considered again at the next meeting

75/13 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 9th MAY 2013

The draft minutes were circulated with the agenda. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Grazier, and resolved, that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

76/13 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Liz Eyre was not in attendance and there was no report.

District Councillor Tom McDonald confirmed that he had circulated his regular newssheet locally. The social housing in Crothorne is now completed. He referred to the recent draft pronouncements regarding flood insurance, which is due to come into operation in June 2015; meanwhile the existing scheme will be extended to that date. It would appear that the arrangements for the insurance cover would not extend to houses built since 2009. WDC hopes to use some of the New Homes Bonus for a local enterprise zone. He confirmed that he is aware of the various concerns surrounding the Boston Lane chicken shed planning application.

77/13 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Footpath Warden. Clive Bostle was invited to speak. He said that the Public Walk will now take place on Saturday, 24th August. He arranged for WCC to trim paths 509 and 510, off Boston Lane and he has carried some work out on paths 503 and 514, towards Crophorne.

He commented that he is also working on the Wychavon Way and is involved with a group making arrangements to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Battle of Evesham.

2. Lengthsman. Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance and his worksheet for June was circulated with the agenda. The Council hoped that Steve Gwilliam would be able to undertake the cleaning of the lychgate several times during the year.

Members also raised concern about the size of the yew trees in the Cemetery and Cllr Grazier agreed to arrange a meeting with a landscape contractor.

The overhanging hedges in Ryden Lane, near the grit bin are in need of attention: this would seem to be too big a job for the lengthsman and the Clerk was asked to draw it to the attention of the highway authority.

3. Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall. The Chairman had attended the AGM. The current income from hiring and expenditure both exceed £11,000 and some £1,100 is received from the feed-in tariff. There are no plans to increase charges, but there are plans for a library and coffee room to be set up.

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

5. Annual Return. Following a meeting of the Finance Working Group the Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return has been submitted to the Auditors. The Chairman reported that the Finance WG agreed that, periodically, the Parish Council would check the bank statements.

6. Damaged street light no.18, The Strand. This column seems to be satisfactory, although there is no evidence that Prysmian have done any work.

7. Dog fouling on The Green. Cllr Davies has met the Dog Warden, who suggested that to convert the litter bin near the bus shelter may be the best solution. Members felt that further signage should be displayed and there ought to be an item in Five Alive. It was agreed that the matter be deferred and raised at the next Parish Meeting.

8. Faster broadband in Charlton. A report prepared by the Chairman was circulated with the agenda. It was felt that, on the figures given there is some chance of broadband speeds being increased in the area. More campaigning may be needed in the future.

78/13 REQUEST FOR RURAL RATE RELIEF

A copy of a letter from WDC and the application for Rural Rate Relief for the licensee of "The Gardeners Arms PH" was circulated at the meeting. It was resolved that £291.43p, as requested, be granted.

79/13 FINANCE**1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.04.13 - 03.06.13**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

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

(1) the following accounts be paid:

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| R D Gurney | net salary, 01.06.13 – 31.07.13 | £451.00 |
| | expenses, March – June | £ 51.80 |
| HMRC | | £169.00 |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Staples UK Ltd – (May/June) (2 invoices) £37.50 + £7.50 VAT | £ 45.00 |
| Steve Gwilliam (June) | £176.00 |
| Worcestershire CALC (Clerk’s meeting) | £ 10.00 |
| New Farm Grounds Maintenance (June) £465.00 + £93.00 VAT | £558.00 |
| Worcestershire CC (refund for lengthsman overpayment) | £176.00 |
| N Power Ltd £156.59 + £7.83 VAT | £164.42 |
| Wychavon DC (for Rural Rate Relief) | £291.43 |

(2) the payments made 20.06.13 be confirmed:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| New Farm Grounds Maintenance (May) | £545.00 + £109.00 VAT | £654.00 |
| Steve Gwilliam (May) | | £176.00 |

80/13 FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Cllr Davies and Derek Arnold have recently met the EA to discuss matters of interest and concern. A meeting in the village is still to be arranged. There are still blockages on Merry Brook to be cleared, including, possibly, the step at the Cemetery bridge. There is concern at the work needed between the Gardeners Arms and the Cemetery bridge, possibly with the provision of a flood relief channel. The PC is still aware that WDC is holding some £5,000 for flood alleviation in Charlton. The footbridge by the Green is still causing some concern, but the EA seems reluctant to prepare a report to WCC, the owners. There is still some concern that the large housing development at Hampton will have an impact on Charlton, it being downstream from the run-off from this scheme.

81/13 REGISTRATION OF THE GREEN

The Clerk reported that The Green has been registered by the Land Registry. He still has the deeds and other documents relating to both the Green and the Cemetery and the Clerk was asked to ascertain the cost of these documents being kept by Lloyds TSB.

82/13 PROVISION OF MEMORIAL SEAT ON THE GREEN

The Chairman had followed up the suggestions from Bob Hirons, which were discussed at the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk makes the necessary arrangements with St Peter’s Garden Centre, at Littleworth, for the bench to be delivered, as soon as possible. The Clerk agreed to make the purchase and subsequently to be re-imbursed. It was agreed that the Clerk Bob Hirons would arrange for it to be fixed securely and the Clerk will keep Mr Barratt informed of progress.

83/13 CHARLTON CEMETERY

Cllr Browne produced an updated computer layout of the Cemetery, which can only be produced at A4 size. The original Cemetery map is at a much larger scale, which is necessary for day to day use. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Grazier and agreed that the Clerk spend up to £100 to arrange for 3 copies of a larger scale, up-to-date map of the Cemetery.

Cllr Browne referred to suggested changes to the right to burial in Charlton, and this should be discussed in detail at a meeting of the Cemetery WG, and report back at the next meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Eggleston, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jack, and agreed by 3 votes to 1 that the reference to ‘non residents’ be deleted immediately. The Clerk

was asked to circulate the revised information to local funeral directors.

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84/13 CHARLTON CHURCH

Following recent concerns over several aspects of the Church in Charlton, a meeting was held for residents to discuss possible options. The Chairman attended and his report on the proceedings was enclosed with the agenda. It was considered that it was not within the remit of the Parish Council to pass comment on the actions which may be considered by the PCC, but the PCC be asked that the Parish Council be kept informed of proceedings..

85/13 NEW HOMES BONUS

This item was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

86/13 HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

It was felt that a progress report from County Cllr Liz Eyre on the matters raised at the Annual Meeting would be useful at this time.

87/13 LAND OFF THE STRAND

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

88/13 PARISH PLAN

There was no report.

89/13 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

(1) Chicken shed, Boston Lane (12/01396). The Chairman has spoken to the Planning Officer, who is still waiting for a report from Regulatory Services. It was agreed that no further comments be sent from the PC, unless requested by WDC.

(2) Housing scheme at Hampton. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

(3) Replacement dwelling, Haselor Farm (12/02816). The Clerk reported that a planning appeal has been lodged and it is to be considered by written representations. The Clerk will respond to the Inspectorate confirming the views of the PC.

90/13 ITEMS FROM CALC

Cllr Browne reported that the recently appointed Police and Crime Commissioner and his Deputy had attended the June meeting. It was evident that police resources are stretched.

91/13 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC – Register of Interests training, 2nd or 7th October 2013

2. WDC – watercourse at Yessell Farm, Yessell Lane

3. Peter Luff MP –Planning policy changes re the travelling community *Clerk to circulate*

4. SWDP – this document has been submitted; hearing is to be arranged

92/13 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

None.

93/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 12th September 2013, at 7.30 pm.

12th September 2013