



CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 14th November 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
Cllr R R Sims (from Item 4, minute no. 116/13)

In attendance: County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre (until Item 6, minute no. 119/13)
Clive Bostle, Footpath Warden
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(Four members of the public were in attendance. Two issues were raised. First, there was concern about the lack of progress with super fast broadband in Charlton. The Chairman commented that he had received a letter from the broadband 'team' which gave hope for an improvement in the service; the Government has set aside some £250 million for the rural areas. Second, a petition had been submitted to Cllr Grazier regarding the poor condition of Ryden Lane, for him to forward to County Cllr Liz Eyre. The Chairman commented that the Parish Council has been pressing WCC for some time for repairs to be carried out.

PC Dave Shortell was in attendance and reported on the PACT meeting held on 11th November. He explained that the Panel decides which of the concerns raised should be pursued and these are speeding through the village and the safety of children. He has already carried out some checks in Charlton and, when completed, information will be passed to the Clerk).

114/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Cllr Wood.

115/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

116/13 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Clerk formally reported that one application has been received for the vacancy, from Mr Richard Sims: his application details had been circulated to Members with the agenda. It was proposed by Cllr Eggleston, seconded by Cllr Browne, and agreed, that Mr Sims be elected. Mr Sims signed the Acceptance of Office and took his place at the meeting.

117/13 APPOINTMENT OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVE ON CROPTHORNE AND CHARLTON VILLAGE HALL

It was reported that Sarah Gisbourne had volunteered to represent Charlton PC on the Village Hall Committee. That this be accepted was proposed by Cllr Browne, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jack and agreed. The Clerk will pass on details to Jacqui King at Crophorne Village Hall.

118/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th SEPTEMBER 2013

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

Minute 103/13, line 5, delete 'Cllr Davies will speak to', it now reads 'The EA are going'
Subject to these amendments it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Grazier and resolved, that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

119/13 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

District Councillor Tom McDonald's monthly report was circulated with the agenda.
County Cllr Liz Eyre spoke about the three highway matters, which are on-going. First, she had received the petition from residents of Ryden Lane and informed the meeting that pothole work is due to be carried out in this financial year, probably in January or February, and it should be surfaced dressed in 2014. She reminded the meeting of the current financial restraints on the WCC highway budget, but would agree to making £1,000 available from her allowance towards the work. Second, the drainage aspects on The Bight need to be resolved before any highway work can be done; there will be a need for grants, possibly New Homes Bonus money, to be obtained and contributions from householders, prior to a Parish Meeting. Third, she is hoping for S.106 money to establish a cycle route between Charlton and Jubilee Bridge. Members expressed concern at the extensive re-surfacing of the car park at Jubilee Bridge, when there are financial restraints on expenditure. She reported that the budget cut proposals at WCC are on-going.

120/13 FOOTPATH WARDEN

Clive Bostle reported that there are still problems with the path across the cabbage field off Sidings Lane and that willows by the brook on the footpath between The Bight and Ryden Lane need to be cut back.

121/13 FINANCE**1. Receipts and Payments Account: 02.08.13 – 01.11.13**

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, 01.10.13 – 30.11.13	£455.47
	expenses, 01.07.13 – 31.10.13	£51.60 + £0.20p VAT £ 51.80
Staples UK Ltd – (September/October) (3 invoices)	£24.22 + £4.85 VAT	£ 29.07
Steve Gwilliam (October)		£220.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (October)	£670.00 + £134.00 VAT	£804.00
Charles Tooby		£ 65.00
Joseph Baker Workman Trust	room hire 2012/13	£120.00
	room hire 2013/14	£120.00
N Power Ltd	£158.31 + £7.92 VAT	£166.23
B B Browne	£18.72 + £3.75 VAT	£ 22.47

(2) the payments made 07.10.13 be confirmed:

New Farm Grounds Maintenance (September)	£280.00 + £56.00 VAT	£336.00
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Steve Gwilliam (September)	£132.00
Grant Thornton £125.00 + £25.00 VAT	£150.00

122/13 REPORT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The report of the External Auditor on the previous year's accounts was circulated with the agenda and was noted.

123/13 DRAFT BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR 2014/2015

A draft budget for the next financial year, drawn up by the Chairman and Clerk, was circulated with the agenda. The figures were explained by the Chairman and some adjustments were considered. Cllr Browne reminded the Parish Council that details of the council tax base and possible grants to offset the reduction in the precept are not yet available. The Clerk reported that the precept details are not required by WDC until late January 2014 and this matter can be decided at the next meeting, after a meeting of the Finance WG.

124/13 FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Cllr Davies reported that there had been a meeting with the EA regarding the drainage issue in The Bight, the highway aspects of which had been reported by County Cllr Liz Eyre earlier in the meeting. The Clerk had circulated a letter from WDC with the agenda regarding the Parish Flood Alleviation Support Grant Scheme. The Council agreed that WDC be informed that this money should be available for the work that the EA is to carry out downstream from the Gardeners Arms.

125/13 CHARLTON CEMETERY

Cllr Browne has prepared an agenda for a meeting of the Cemetery WG, which has yet to be arranged.

126/13 THE GREEN

(1) Damaged notice board. Following the damage to one post at the parish notice board it was reported that Mr Hirons had quoted £75 for a repair and £150 for a new post. The Clerk reported that there is a £125 excess for any insurance claim and it was agreed that the cost would be covered by the PC. After some discussion it was agreed that a new post would be appropriate and Cllr Davies agreed to discuss this with Mr Hirons.

(2) Damaged seats. Two seats near the bus shelter are in need of repair. After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Eggleston, seconded by Cllr Jack, and agreed that one damaged seat be removed and that a new seat be funded from the New Homes Bonus. The Chairman agreed to discuss this matter with Mr Hirons and to submit an application for the funding.

127/13 NEW HOMES BONUS

This has been discussed in the previous item.

128/13 HIGHWAY, FOOTWAY AND STREET LIGHTING MATTERS

County Cllr Liz Eyre had given an update on the on-going highway matters earlier in the meeting. The Clerk was asked to report the flickering light at Brook Lane/Ryden Lane and to obtain a quote for the new lantern for column no. 11 in The Dovecote.

129/13 PARISH PLAN

There was no report.

130/13 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Lengthsman. Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance. His worksheet for October was circulated with the agenda and was noted.

2. Crothorne and Charlton Village Hall. There was no report.

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

4. Charlton Church. A report is to be given in Five Alive.

5. Deeds for the Cemetery and Village Green. The Clerk reported that Lloyds Bank no longer give the service for looking after such documents. It was suggested that the deeds, being historical records, now that these properties are registered with the Land Registry, could be deposited at the County Records Office at The Hive in Worcester. The Clerk will make enquiries regarding cost and accessibility. It was suggested that the documents be scanned for the parish records prior to their deposit.

6. Land opposite the Cemetery. This is currently with the EA and STW regarding the clearing around the pumping station.

7. Memorial seat on The Green. This is now in place and the money has been received.

8. PACT meeting. This was held in Fladbury on 11th November and Cllr Davies and Cllr Browne had attended. This was reported by PC Shortell at the start of this meeting.

9 Broadband progress. This had been discussed at the start of the meeting and it was suggested that a report be put in Five Alive to appraise residents.

131/13 REPORTS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings were circulated with the agenda. The minutes of the meeting of 12th September were noted. The meeting of 31st October 2013 was inquorate and the comments made on the planning applications were confirmed.

132/13 ITEMS FROM CALC

Cllr Browne reported that the CALC Executive had discussed the disclosure of pecuniary interests; there is a link to the WDC web site from the Charlton web site. The AGM accepted an increase in the subscription for 2014/15. The funding problem with the Worcestershire Association continues.

133/13 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. War Memorials Trust – re maintenance of war memorials
2. WCC – details of work at the Jubilee Bridge picnic site
3. WDC Parish Matters – circulated at the meeting
4. WCC – notification of consultation on Worcestershire Minerals Plan

134/13 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

Precept (and Finance WP).

135/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 9th January 2014 at 7.30 pm.