

CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 9th January 2014,
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 Mrs B W Jack
Cllr R R Sims

In attendance: County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre (until Item 6, minute no. 6/14)
District Cllr Mrs Val Wood (standing in for Cllr McDonald) (until Item 6, minute
no.6/14)
Clive Bostle, Footpath Warden
Steve Bullen, representing Evesham Town Plan Steering Group
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(No members of the public were in attendance).

1/14 CYCLING INITIATIVES IN THE VALE

Steve Bullen was invited to address the Meeting. His interest started after the successes of cycling by the national team and he has been teaching people of all ages in all aspects of cycling. He emphasized that communities need to take the lead and this should encourage the development of 'quiet lanes'. He has recently noted an improved attitude to cyclists by car drivers. Ideally a parish councillor should take up the interests of cyclists and mobility scooter drivers. Mr Bullen confirmed that education of cyclists is an important aspect of his task.

Cllr Browne referred to an attempt in the 1990s to establish a cycle route between Evesham and Pershore, which was abandoned due to costs required by regulations: he hoped that this proposal will not face the same problems.

Mr Bullen agreed to email two documents to the Clerk for forwarding to Members. It was agreed that this matter be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

2/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Grazier.

3/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4/14 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th NOVEMBER 2013

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

5/14 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

District Councillor Val Wood, substituting for Cllr Tom McDonald, who is seriously ill, said that, in the meantime, either she or Cllr Liz Eyre will take up any parish queries. She reported that Government funding and the Council Tax base have been announced, so that precepts can be agreed. New Homes Bonus is to be continued and WDC intends

that some of this funding will continue to be allocated to town and parish councils. The technical information requested by the Inspector at the SWDP inquiry is shortly to be provided and further consultation can be held in the summer. With the present economic climate WDC is continuing to reduce expenditure and improve efficiency through joint working and shared services, etc.

County Cllr Liz Eyre reported that the Cabinet at WCC has agreed that Council Tax will increase by 1.94%, a total of £4 million, which is to support the costs of 'Looked After Children'. The budget recommends £3 million to support demographic growth. She is aware that several of the highways in the Parish have been inspected and patching is due to be carried out; these will probably be delayed until the Spring due to the current problem with flooding across the County. Members expressed their concern that the temporary traffic lights near the Cemetery bridge, installed for Severn Trent Water, have been there for many days; the Clerk was asked to find out how long this will continue and to circulate Members when a response has been received.

6/14 **REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

1. Footpath Warden. Clive Bostle reported that he has been busy with arrangements for the commemoration of the Battle of Evesham in 2015 and, coupled with poor weather, he has not been able to achieve a great deal. He has removed a tree from the path between The Bight and Ryden Lane.

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

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

7/14 **REQUEST FOR GRANT – CROPTHORNE AND CHARLTON VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELD**

A letter from the Management Committee was circulated with the agenda, with a request for Charlton PC to make a contribution towards the cost of maintenance of the playing field. It was reported that Cropthorne PC currently contributes £750 per annum towards field maintenance, as well as a ring fenced £900 pa for play equipment and additional facilities.

After some discussion comparing the facilities provided by the respective parish councils and the current Band D Council Tax, it was proposed by Cllr Eggleston and seconded by Cllr Mrs Jack that no financial contribution be made. An amendment that a one-off payment of £200 be made was proposed by Cllr Browne and seconded by Cllr Davies. On being put to the vote the amendment was lost by 3 votes to 2. The substantive motion was then put to the meeting and was carried by 3 votes to 2. The Clerk was asked to inform the Village Hall Management Committee of the decision.

8/14 **FINANCE**

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.11.13 – 03.12.13

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Browne, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and agreed, that the following accounts be paid:

R D Gurney net salary, 01.12.13 – 31.01.14	£455.47
HMRC (third quarter)	£170.80
Staples UK Ltd – (November/December) (2 invoices)	
£41.52 + £5.66 VAT	£ 47.18

Steve Gwilliam (November)	£132.00
Steve Gwilliam (December)	£132.00

9/14 BUDGET REQUIREMENTS AND PRECEPT FOR 2014/2015

The draft budget, which was amended at the previous meeting, was circulated with the agenda, together with correspondence from WDC. The estimated Council Tax base for 2014/15 is 255.81 and the 'shortfall grant' is expected to be £447. It was agreed that the Band D Council Tax should remain at £43.19. That a Precept of £11,048 be requested was proposed by Cllr Eggleston, seconded by Cllr Browne, and agreed. WDC require this information by 31st January 2014 and the Clerk was asked to wait for confirmation of the 'shortfall grant' of £447. If this changes the Finance WG should meet to consider the precept.

10/14 FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Cllr Davies reported that the tree which was blocking the flow near the Cemetery bridge has been removed and that STW has cleared the brambles from near the pumping station. It was agreed that Steve Gwilliam be asked to give a quotation to clear the bank opposite the Cemetery.

Cllr Davies reported that a meeting had been held to consider possible action off The Bight. An agreement was reached and this will be funded by the EA. Action is still being considered for the stretch below the Cemetery bridge.

11/14 CHARLTON CEMETERY

It was agreed that a meeting of the Cemetery WG be held on Thursday 6th February 2014, at 6 pm in the Old School Room.

12/14 TELEPHONE KIOSK ON THE GREEN

A letter from WDC regarding the removal of the telephone kiosk was circulated with the agenda. The Clerk had ascertained that there would be a likely cost of some £350 for the disconnection of the power and the PC would be able to dispose of it as it wishes. The Chairman agreed to speak to the person who has expressed a wish to acquire the kiosk and to get a definitive response. The Clerk was asked to keep WDC informed of the position.

13/14 THE GREEN

(1) **Damaged notice board.** The repairs are almost complete.

(2) **Damaged seats.** The damaged seat has been removed. The Clerk was asked to approach WDC to apply for funding from the New Homes Bonus for a new seat.

14/14 NEW HOMES BONUS

It was agreed that the Cemetery WG gives consideration to possible work that would attract funding from the New Homes Bonus.

15/14 HIGHWAY, FOOTWAY AND STREET LIGHTING MATTERS

It was noted that the WCC Countryside Section would not provide funding for that part of Ryden Lane that is a bridleway.

The Clerk was asked to report the flashing street light at Brook Lane/Ryden Lane. The

Clerk reported that to replace the lantern on column 12 in The Dovecote, so that it goes out at midnight, would be £350 plus VAT. It was agreed that this not be pursued.

16/14 PARISH PLAN

There was no report.

17/14 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

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

2. Charlton Church. There was no information.

3. Deeds for the Cemetery and Village Green. It was agreed that these can be deposited in the County Records Office, as they would be available for public inspection. The Clerk was asked to take copies for general use at meetings.

4. Land opposite the Cemetery. This was considered in Minute 10/14 above.

5 Broadband progress. A newsletter is due at the end of January.

6. Subsidised bus service review. It is known that several residents have submitted their views to WCC and it was agreed that the Parish Council does not submit further comment.

18/14 REPORTS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings of 14th November 2013 and 5th December 2013 were circulated with the agenda and were noted.

19/14 ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARISH MEETING (10th APRIL 2014)

It was agreed that this meeting follows the usual format.

20/14 MEETING DATES FOR 2014/15

A list of suggested meeting dates was circulated with the agenda. This was agreed subject to the Annual Parish Meeting in 2015 being held on 15th April 2015.

21/14 ITEMS FROM CALC

Cllr Browne gave a brief report of the CALC Area meeting in December.

22/14 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

(1) WCC – Annual Monitoring Report, 2012-2013

(2) WDC – Wychavon Community Grants scheme

(3) WCC - Budget consultation meeting, 22nd January at County Hall

23/14 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

1. Cycling initiatives

2. PACT meeting

3. Parish meeting

24/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 13th March at 7.30 pm.