

CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 13th March 2014,
at 7.30 pm, in the Old School Room, Charlton

PRESENT Cllr R L Davies (Chairman)
Cllr B B Browne
Cllr Mrs B W Jack
Cllr R R Sims

In attendance: District Cllr Mrs Val Wood (standing in as the Ward councillor)
Clive Bostle, Footpath Warden
Sarah Gisbourne (for Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall)
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

25/14 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman opened the meeting by reporting the death in late February of Wychavon DC Cllr Tom McDonald. He had served this Parish and the Fladbury Ward very well, taking up many issues on behalf of residents and he will be a hard act to follow. The funeral took place on the previous Monday.

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(No members of the public were in attendance).

26/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Eggleston and Cllr Grazier.

27/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

28/14 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th JANUARY 2014

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

29/14 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Liz Eyre has sent her apologies and details of her report were itemized by the Chairman, who will email it to Members. The report included reference to the need for foster homes in Worcestershire, WCC has received additional grants for education from central Government, and a new Chief Executive Officer has been appointed for the County Council. The Chairman agreed to send a reminder about the upgrading of the footway between the Cemetery bridge and Cropthorne.

District Councillor Val Wood reported that the by election will be held on 22nd May, along with the European election. She commented that WDC has increased its budget by 1.94%; WDC has been in existence for 40 years; the Planning Inspector has submitted his report on the SWDP and this will be published in about 6 weeks; a food bank has been set up in Pershore. She drew attention to the Intelligently Green Awards in WDC.

30/14 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES

1. Footpath Warden. Clive Bostle reported that he has walked all footpaths north of B.4084. He noted that the field above The Bight is still flooded around the bridge.

There is still a lot of debris left over from the storms, including several small trees, mainly elm, but the grass continues to grow. He is waiting for WCC policy to confirm that he can start strimming; this may not be until May. The path between the Green and Crophorne appears in good condition, which is good as this is well used. He will look to arrange a footpath walk for later in the year. .

2. Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall. Sarah Gisbourne said that she was not expecting representing Charlton PC on the VH Committee would involve much voluntary work and she is unable to undertake this. She has told the VH Committee and the Chairman has offered to email minutes of the meeting to the Clerk. .

3. Workman Trust Old School Room. There was no report. The Clerk was asked to find out the date of the next meet and to obtain the minutes of any meeting.

31/14 FINANCE

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.12.13 – 03.02.14

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council make a donation to St Richard's Hospice, in memory of Cllr Tom McDonald. This would be paid from the Chairman's allowance. It was proposed that £25 be donated and this was agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Sims, and agreed, that the following accounts be paid:

R D Gurney	net salary, 01.02.14 – 31.03.14	£455.47
	expenses, 01.11.13 – 28.02.14	£ 69.00
HMRC (fourth quarter)		£170.80
Steve Gwilliam (February)		£132.00
St Richard's Hospice		£ 25.00

3. Confirmation of payments made on 06.02 2014:

Steve Gwilliam (January)		£176.00
N Power	£158.31 + £7.92 VAT	£166.23
Staples UK Ltd (January) (2 invoices)	£59.31 + £9.47 VAT	£ 68.78

32/14 TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENTS FOR 2014/2015

1. Internal Auditor. It was agreed that Cllr Browne speaks to Charles Tooby to see if he wishes to continue; otherwise the Clerk will arrange for an alternative auditor.

2. Lengthsman. It was agreed that the Parish Council continues with the Lengthsman Agreement with WCC for 2014/2015..

33/14 FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Cllr Davies reported that he has had discussions with the EA especially looking at The Bight, but high water levels have delayed much progress. It was noted that the work undertaken since 2007 has shown dividends, as no properties in Charlton were flooded during this winter. Fallen trees across Merry Brook during the recent storms are to be cleared by the EA.

A fallen tree at the Jubilee Bridge car park across Merry Brook downstream of Charlton village has the potential to dam the watercourse and the Clerk was asked to inform WCC of this problem.

34/14 CHARLTON CEMETERY

Notes of the Cemetery Working Group were circulated with the agenda and, subject to a minor amendment, were noted. The revision to the conditions is being drawn up and should be available at the May meeting. It was agreed that the marking out of the first grave plot (no. 687) in the extension to the Cemetery. It was agreed that a quotation is needed for the work on the trees and one tree ought to be removed: Cllr Browne agreed to discuss with Cllr Grazier. It was noted that soil has been deposited on graves by the lychgate and this will be inspected.

35/14 WAR GRAVES COMMISSION SIGN

As there is the grave of one serving soldier in the cemetery the WGC has asked if a sign can be displayed. This was agreed in principle, and Members hoped that a smaller sign than the one shown to the Parish Council could be displayed. Cllr Browne agreed to discuss this with the WGC.

36/14 THE GREEN

(1) Damaged notice board. Bob Hirons has kindly repaired the damaged notice board and has not charged the PC for this work. The Clerk was asked to write to him to thank him for this.

(2) Seats. The Clerk reported that funding for a new seat can be obtained from the New Homes Bonus. It was agreed that the Clerk submits an application and sources a seat similar to the one given by the family of Mr and Mrs Barrett.

(3) Charlton Fayre. This is planned for 21st June on the Green and the request for its use has been received. Consent is granted and the Clerk was asked to draw attention to insurance issues relating to stallholders.

37/14 ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDAS AND MINUTES

This matter was raised as a means of being generally more convenient to Members. It was agreed that the Clerk checks with CALC to see if this procedure is legal.

38/14 NEW HOMES BONUS

As well as the new seat for the Green referred to previously it was thought that work around and opposite the Cemetery could be considered. The Clerk reported that Peter Luff, MP, has written to say a Ministerial Statement confirmed that Wychavon DC will continue to receive the New Homes Bonus as originally planned.

39/14 HIGHWAY, FOOTWAY AND STREET LIGHTING MATTERS

The Chairman reported that he had discussed highway matters , particularly Ryden Lane, with County Cllr Liz Eyre and it is hoped that up-to-date information will be available for the Parish Meeting in April. It is noted that Canada Bank/Yessell Lane is due to have surface dressing. Work in The Bight would not be considered until the EA work has been done.

The street light in Brook Lane is still flashing: the Clerk will report again.

40/14 CYCLING INITIATIVES IN THE VALE

The reports supplied by Steve Bullen, after the last meeting, were circulated at the meeting. Comment was made that it is hoped for a decent cycle route to Pershore. The Chairman agreed to refer to this initiative at the next PACT meeting.

41/14 PARISH PLAN

There was no report.

42/14 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Lengthsman. Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance. His worksheet for March was circulated with the agenda and was noted. Steve Gwilliam will be asked to monitor the soil spilling on to Canada Bank.

2. Charlton Church. A report from Howard Heath about the clock was reported. The PCC are considering installing an automatic winding system, as the current clock winders are having difficulties. The PC agreed that it would be prepared to support this and suggested that the PCC seek grants, eg from New Homes Bonus.

3. Broadband progress. Cllr Sims has attended a meeting in County Hall. He said that 'good words' were said, but there was little encouragement to specific responses. County Cllr Liz Eyre has said that Charlton is included in the first phase, but is not guaranteed.

4. Subsidised bus service review. There is a temporary deferral until September.

5. Telephone kiosk. A letter has been received from WDC indicating that the cost of disconnection the electricity is £441.97. The Chairman agreed to check with the interested party to see if he wishes to proceed.

6. PACT meeting. The continuation of speed cameras around the area will continue and the EA is being pressed to re-start dredging of the River Avon.

7. Traffic lights at Cemetery bridge. These will continue until STW has mended the broken sewer, likely to be by the end of March.

8. Meeting dates for 2014/2015. These were circulated with the agenda.

43/14 REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The report of the Planning Committee meetings of 20th February 2014 was circulated with the agenda and was noted.

44/14 ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARISH MEETING (10th APRIL 2014)

It was agreed that this meeting follows the usual format, with invitations being sent to local organizations.

45/14 ITEMS FROM CALC

Cllr Browne was unable to attend the Executive, but funding continues to be a problem.

46/14 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

- (1) WDC – Non Domestic Rate Bill for Cemetery – Nil Charge
- (2) Worcestershire Outreach Project – details of grant funding
- (3) Clerks and Council's Direct
- (4) Register of Electors – to be circulated by email

47/14 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

None

48/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 10th April 2014.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 8th May at 7.30 pm.