

Minutes of the ~~Annual~~ Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 10th July 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 E G Grazier
Cllr Mrs B W Jack (until Item 15, Minute no. 92/14)
Cllr R R Sims

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

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(One member of the public was in attendance. He expressed concern with the development currently taking place without planning permission at The Hill, Canada Bank. The Chairman explained that this matter had been taken up with the Planning Officer at Wychavon DC and is on today's agenda. He read out a letter which the Parish Council had received from the Head of Planning at Wychavon DC, which explained that, in his view, planning permission was not needed, as the structure is 'covered' by the planning permission for the caravans. The Clerk was asked to display the letter of the Parish notice board).

77/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Wood.

78/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Grazier declared an interest in the flood alleviation scheme (Minute xx/14).

79/14 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 8th MAY 2014

The draft minutes were circulated at the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Sims, seconded by Cllr Grazier, and resolved, that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

80/14 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Cllr Liz Eyre was not in attendance and Cllr Bradley Thomas, newly elected to Wychavon DC, had sent his apology.

81/14 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- 1. Footpath Warden.** Clive Bostle reported that he had had cleared FP507 following a complaint. He reported that there are still problems with FP502; there is now a straight path across the newly planted asparagus field. He has also attended a forum promoting all long distance footpaths in the Cotswold area.
- 2. Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall.** There was no report.
- 3. Workman Trust/Old School Room.** There was no report The Clerk was asked to let Emily Hall-Roberts a list of PC meeting dates.

82/14 FINANCE**1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.04.14 – 03.06.14**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

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

Staples UK Ltd	£12.50 + £2.50 VAT	£ 15.00
R D Gurney salary (April – June 2014)		£683.21
expenses (March – June 2014), £86.90 + £0.55 VAT		£ 87.45
HMRC (first quarter)		£170.80
Community First (subscription)		£ 20.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (June) £405.00 + £81.00 VAT		£486.00
Steve Gwilliam (June)		£183.50

3. Confirmation of Payments made on 09.06 2014:

Steve Gwilliam (May)	£132.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (May) £405.00 + £81.00 VAT	£486.00

83/14 REPORT OF THE FINANCE WORKING GROUP

The Notes of the FWG, held on 9th June 2014 were circulated with the agenda. On reviewing the comments made by the External Auditor in 2013 it was found necessary to amend the accounts, which had been approved at the May meeting. These were explained by the Chairman. Copies of the amended Accounts were circulated, agreed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk/RFO. The FWG completed the Annual Return, which the Clerk has now sent to the External Auditors.

84/14 NEW FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

There has been no progress in reviewing the Financial Regulations.

85/14 FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Cllr Davies reported that he had visited the EA at Tewkesbury, organized by Wychavon CALC. The updating of flood notices was explained and Charlton is included as being in a 'high risk area'. He reported that there is hope for a flood gauge on Merry Brook, upstream of the village; it is hoped that this will monitor excess flood water from the new housing estate in Hampton.

The Chairman has submitted an application for improvements downstream of the village and which will be funded by the PC and grants from WDC. Discussion need to be finalised with the landowner. The Clerk is seeking clarification from the Planning Officer that planning permission is not needed.

Steve Gwilliam had told the Clerk that he has cleared one of the blocked gullies across the Green, so that now 2 of the 3 gullies are clear; it is hoped that this will be sufficient to take surplus water from the highway.

86/14 CHARLTON CEMETERY

Cllr Grazier reported that he had arranged an inspection of the Yew trees. The advice given is that the ivy needs to be taken off immediately, with pruning and the suggested planning of 4 new trees taking place in November. It was proposed by Cllr Sims,

seconded by Cllr Browne, and agreed that for up to £200 Cllr Grazier arranges for the ivy to be removed.

Cllr Browne reported that he and the Clerk had pegged out the first grave plot in the Cemetery extension. They had had a meeting with Richard Hill, funeral director in Pershore, to discuss the size of graves and to confirm the location of the new grave. New conditions are due to be discussed at the next meeting.

87/14 THE GREEN

The Clerk reported that the application for a grant from the New Homes Bonus has not proceeded, as WDC had required publicity to be undertaken in the community. Members commented that it was thought that publicity was needed if the project cost over £1,000. The Clerk agreed to check this and to proceed as necessary, with notice being given on the website.

88/14 NEW HOMES BONUS

The application for the new seat on the Green should proceed separately, with other applications for work in the Cemetery and on the land opposite the Cemetery be considered at a later date.

89/14 FLORAL DISPLAYS

It was noted that at least one of the half barrels used for floral displays is in need of replacing. Cllr Grazier agreed to search for and acquire suitable containers. The Clerk was asked to convey the thanks of the Parish Council to Brenda Bowley for arranging for the floral displays. It was also agreed that Steve Gwilliam be asked to suggest where some additional bulb planting could be undertaken around the village in the autumn

90/14 HIGHWAY, FOOTWAY AND STREET LIGHTING MATTERS

The clearing of the footway between Charlton and Cropthorne is obviously too great a task for the lengthsman and this will be pursued with County Cllr Liz Eyre along with other on-going highway issues.

Cllr Sims raised the problem of recent road accidents in and near the Parish, including Jubilee Bridge and Boston Lane. It was agreed that this matter be raised at the next PACT meeting (in August) and that suggestions for speed limit reductions be put before that meeting.

91/14 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- 1. Lengthsman.** Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance. His worksheet for May was circulated with the agenda and was noted.
- 2. Broadband progress.** A power cable is currently being installed in Charlton and super fast broadband should be operational by the end of September.
- 3. Telephone kiosk.** There has been no progress. The Clerk will contact WDC for an update.
- 4. PACT meeting.** The next meeting is on 11th August.
- 5. Cycling initiatives in The Vale.** There was no report.
- 6. Parish Plan.** There was no report.
- 7. Building at 'The Hill, Canada Bank.** The letter of reply from WDC to the Clerk's letter was circulated with the agenda. This matter was discussed during the open forum. It was agreed that the Clerk puts a copy of this letter on the Parish notice board.

92/14 BRIGHTENING THE BUS SHELTER

Cllr Sims reported that he has seen that some bus shelters locally have been used by local art groups to brighten up what are often utilitarian structures. He felt that the bus shelter in the village could benefit from being brightened up and he suggested that Helen Fowler and the local Art group might accept the task. The Chairman and Cllr Sims agreed to visit Helen Fowler to discuss the matter.

93/14 LAND OPPOSITE THE CEMETERY

This matter has been discussed under Minute no. 88/14.

94/14 PLANNING ISSUES

The Clerk reported that WDC are setting up briefing sessions on their Local Enforcement Plan and the role of the Planning Compliance Officer. Suggestions of time and venues are requested at this stage. Members wished to attend and suggested a venue with convenient car parking.

95/14 ITEMS FROM CALC

Cllr Browne attended the executive meeting earlier this week. Again the main discussion related to the financial problems of CALC now that the County Council has withdrawn its funding, in spite of promoting greater links with parish councils under localism. An increase in subscriptions and merging with other CALCs are some of the options being considered.

96/14 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

- (1) WCC – Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement
- (2) Sheppey fund raiser – fireworks (8th November), Murder Mystery (7th February)
- (3) WDC – Parish Matters (enclosed)
- (4) Clerks and Councils Direct

97/14 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

None

98/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 11th September 2014 at 7.30 pm in The Old School Room.