

MINUTES OF CHARLTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held on Thursday 1 March 2018 at 7.30 pm in Charlton Village Hall

Present: Cllr Marion Adkins (Chairman), M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Cllr Toby Sturgis (Wilts Council); and 10 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Parish Cllrs Chris Eakin, Viscount Andover, Liz Garforth Bles; and Neil and Margaret Medland.
2. Wiltshire Council. Cllr Toby Sturgis made a report then answered questions.
3. Minutes of Last Annual Parish Meeting. The Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting had not been on the village noticeboards but were available at the back of the Village Hall for members of the public to read before the meeting started; they were proposed and seconded, approved and signed.
4. Chairman's Report. Cllr Marion Adkins reported on behalf of the Parish Council.
 - PC met every 2 months throughout the year, with an extra meeting in July to look at one particular planning application, a total of 7 meetings.
 - Elections in May 2017 resulted in 6 Cllrs re-elected unopposed and 3 vacancies. The vacancies were filled by co-option, 2 in May and the last in September. There are currently 3 Cllrs from the wider Parish outside the village.
 - 17 planning applications plus 4 Change of Use applications which we can comment on in 2017 (11 in 2015, 6 in 2016). We objected to 2, both involved the new barn off the B4040 at the base of Stonehill, both were then withdrawn.
 - planning applications included 2 applications for a total of 3 sites at the Upper Stonehill electricity substation of 50 MW battery storage systems, which are intended to counter the risk of power overloads - they release power when needed in a fraction of a second and last for 30 minutes, during which time other power generation can be switched on and brought on-line.
 - on one of these we met the company concerned and asked for a thicker shelter-belt to protect it from view - the company agreed. and this company have offered us a £3000 per year of their lease community grant. This depends on them winning a contract from National Grid for their proposed site.
 - Precept for 2018/19 (coming year):
 - PC budget for 2018 calculated at £6200, including earmarking £1200 for Village Hall support to repairs.
 - decision to increase reserve considerably, driven by need to pay up to 30% of Highways minor improvements, and by PC wish to be in position to make genuine improvements when they are needed.
 - Precept set at £7200.
 - All PC agendas, Minutes and end-of-year accounts are published on PC website - website address published in Chat monthly
 - Best Kept Village competition – 2nd last year (2nd year running), by 2 points (and 2 ahead of 3rd).. Also won 10 bags of free compost for

Chairman – signature and date

being in the first 30 entries received - all given to Village Hall for flower-bed. Will be covered later.

- Traffic and Speeding - have had some successes, covered in a separate item later.
- PC kept an eye on Broadband developments over recent years. Now have BT fibre on telegraph poles, plus Voneus/Cotswold Wireless and soon Gigaclear in outlying areas. Still pockets of non-availability but it does seem to be 'getting there'.
- Brickell Legacy - as announced last year Mrs Dawn Brickell left a £500 legacy to the PC to purchase spring bulbs for planting in the village. Jenny Walker is leading for the PC, covers this later in the meeting.
- BT phone box - has survived BT's latest attempt to close it down (we need to acknowledge that it is almost never used) but still needs repair to the door and preferably a re-paint. We have asked BT.

5. Finances. Philip Baffour handed out a detailed summary of the 2017/18 accounts. He forecast an end-of-year balance of £4528. The Chairman pointed out that this figure included c£250 remaining for bulbs and a Highways invoice for c£500 was awaited.

6. Traffic. Clerk gave a brief update. New signage and road markings for the centre of the village were expected imminently. Replacement 'unsuitable for HGVs' signs had been bought by the PC (and erected by Highways). And the PC was awaiting cost estimates for dealing with the narrow gap between road and footpath east of the pub.

7. Community Speedwatch (CSW). Anne Hodgkins reported. Now 6 members of the team. Have the machine every other month. Best to use 3 team members each time. Average 270 vehicles/hour (but that hides considerable variations) of which 8-10% speeding, top recorded speed 60mph, 90% of speeders get follow-up letters. The Chairman recorded a vote of thanks to the CSW team.

8. World War 1 Commemoration Trees. The Chairman wished to inform the meeting about this project. The PC had arranged to take part in the Wiltshire Council scheme to plant 10,000 trees across the county to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. In Charlton 5 trees would be planted, one for each Charlton serviceman's death. They would be 5 crab-apple trees, in the far right corner of the Recreation Centre playing field – agreed by Lord Suffolk and the Recreation Centre Committee. The intent was to have a small planting ceremony on Sun 11 Nov 18 (Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day coinciding this year) after the usual Remembrance Sunday wreath-laying ceremony. The PC was considering a spread of ages for the individuals to plant the trees, perhaps a current serviceperson, perhaps someone from a family mentioned on the WW1 Roll of Honour (naming those who served in the war).

9. A Web-Based Noticeboard for the Parish? The Clerk spoke about the possibility of having a village/parish website in order to provide a web-based noticeboard – a means of keeping residents more up-to-date with what was going on now that most people were used to electronic communication. But it would depend on someone volunteering to run it. Hannah Piet suggested a Facebook page instead for the same purpose but easier, but it would still need someone to run it. Nobody offered themselves on the spot.

10. Best Kept Village (BKV) Competition. First the Chairman paid tribute to the late John Jerman's contribution over the last 4-5 years, not just at BKV time but on rubbish collection from the village and wider throughout the year. Now, did the village want to enter again, and would anyone volunteer to run the effort? On a show of hands there was agreement to enter but no volunteer leader.

11. Brickell Legacy Bulbs. Jenny Walker spoke about what she and others had done last autumn planting the first tranche of bulbs and in outline the plan for this year.

12. Recreation Centre Report. Jane Tsabet, the Treasurer, reported. The Committee was 4 members short and needed a Chairman. It also needed volunteers to run events. It was running a £5000 operating surplus, and various improvements were planned. The Chairman thanked the Recreation Centre Committee for their work, as the Recreation Centre was a great asset for the village.

13. Any Other Business. Nil.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman – signature and date