

MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 12 MAY 20

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 12 May 2020 at 11am by Zoom

Present by Zoom: Cllrs Anne Hodgkins (Chair), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles, Hannah Piet, Philip Thompson, Robert Whitworth, Viscount Andover; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); no members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllr Jenny Walker.
2. Election of Chair. Anne Hodgkins indicated her willingness to stand again; there were no other nominations and she was elected unanimously.
3. Election of Deputy Chair. Marion Adkins indicated her willingness to stand again; there were no other nominations and she was elected unanimously.
4. Declarations of Interest. None.
5. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
6. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. None.
7. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 3 Mar 20, having been circulated in advance, were approved and would be signed at some time in the future. There were no outstanding actions other than those which had been negated by the COVID-19 'lockdown'. Anne Hodgkins mentioned the SID update which she had sent out by email a few days earlier, saying that the SID had not been moved since the lockdown restrictions were imposed but that she had downloaded further data.
8. Exemption from External Audit. In accordance with Sect 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, the PC declared that the PC was exempt external audit, since both gross annual income and expenditure are below £25,000.
9. Approval of 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement had been sent out in advance and Cllrs urged to note all points. The PC now decided that all points had been covered and that the Chairman should sign it (which she would do after the meeting).
10. Approval of 2019/20 Accounts. Marion Adkins as RFO had sent out the 2019/20 accounts and the Accounting Statements in advance of the meeting, urging Cllrs to note the contents. Robert Garforth Bles had conducted the Internal Audit. Cllrs had no questions on the details of the accounts and the PC approved the accounts. The Accounting Statement would be signed after the meeting.
11. Finance. There was £6183.99 in the account at the end of the year. After receipt of the Precept and a VAT reclaim on the purchase of the SID there was now 16591.72 in the account. The following payments were authorised:
 - cheque number 490, £264.72, to Community First - insurance.
 - 491, £184.33, WALC membership.
 - 492, £15, to Anne Holland for printing the COVID-19 Response flyers.
12. COVID-19 Response. Anne Hodgkins outlined the activity that had taken place in the parish since the outbreak started. The volunteer help group had provided 28 errands to

Chairman

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11 different households (a few of which were marginally outside the parish). Hannah Piet reported that no-one had telephoned her in response to the encouragement for anyone not on the internet to register their name with us; we could therefore safely assume that we had the details of everyone in that position. A Chat covering Jun/Jul was being produced. In conclusion, the communication means would continue to be the Village Hall Facebook page, the PC would continue to support the activity of the volunteers coordinated by Tanya Kelly and a further mid-Chat update (eg around 1 July) would be considered.

13. Facemasks. The PC has been given 200 facemasks by the Chinese firm building the Upper Stonehill ESS, in sealed bags of 5 at 4 bags to a box of 20. What to do with them? The first question was whether to donate them to the Malmesbury surgery/local care homes or to keep them within the parish; by a majority the PC voted for the latter course. The next question was how to distribute them; by a majority the PC voted to request more facemasks from the company (1000) so that we could distribute a bag of 5 per household; failing the extras, to advertise them on the Facebook page and invite households to ask for them (there would be 40 bags of 5). **Afternote:** the company was not able to offer more facemasks.

14. Solar Farm. The PC briefly discussed the planning application for the solar farm at Upper Stonehill (known as Minety Solar Farm). Anne Hodgkins said she particularly wanted to check the assertions about environmental and biodiversity claims, noting there were 2 SSSIs abutting the area. No other comment was made. Cllrs will respond in the usual way by email.

15. Planning. Planning Applications considered since the last meeting: none. Planning Applications decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting: former stable range Charlton Park re-roofing (LBC), 12A and 12B Charlton Park House reinstate internal wall – both approved. Current Planning Applications: Minety Solar Farm.

16. Councillors' observations and items for the next meeting. The Chair led a brief review of this meeting – all Cllrs were very happy with it. Brief overviews by portfolio holders of each portfolio (for information to new councillors) would be held over until some other future meeting. The Community Fund/BKV 2019 prize money should be considered at the next meeting.

17. Dates of Next Meetings. 7 Jul, 1 Sep, 3 Nov. The time for the next meeting remained tbc – if schools had re-started Philip Baffour might be unable to attend a day-time meeting, and Lord Andover had a slight preference for after 4pm due to childcare.

The meeting closed at 11.50am

Chairman