

## MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7 SEP 21

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Held on Tuesday 7 September 2021 at 7pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Anne Hodgkins (Chair), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Tom Blanden, Liz Garforth-Bles, Hannah Piet, Philip Thompson, Jenny Walker; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); 10 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllr Viscount Andover. Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall hoped to come later after the CATG but did not arrive.
2. Declarations of Interest. None.
3. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
4. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. Questions to clarify the date of the meeting at which the Perry Green barns planning application would be decided, and how the decision would be reached.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 6 Jul 21, having been circulated in advance, were approved. There were no outstanding actions.
6. Finance. There was £20,237 in the account. The following payments were authorized:
  - cheque number 516, £16.86, Clerk, APM refreshments.
  - 517, £198.50, Jenny Walker, for bulbs for planting in the village.
  - 518, £103.08, Tom Blanden, as agreed at Item 13 – telephone box.
  - The PC approved in advance a payment of £36 for the Chair attending Cllr training.
7. Solar and Battery Planning Updates. The Clerk updated the meeting on the Minety and Five Lanes Solar Farms and the Purlieus Farm Battery Storage Facility applications, and the Chair updated on Community Benefit. No decisions were needed.
8. Battery Storage Facility Complaint. A response had been received from the Head of Planning at Wiltshire Council (circulated to Cllrs). He had visited the site and with green fencing and landscaping he found the impact acceptable. He had not answered the PC's second point, about the handling of the applications which had resulted in the colour problem. The PC agreed that we should, with regret, accept that no correcting action was now possible, and that we should write back to ask again how the problem could be avoided in future.

**Action: Clerk**

After separate brief discussion about the lights problem inside the site the Clerk was to contact the local resident to offer PC help if it were needed.

**Action: Clerk**
9. Planning Application PL/2021/06296. The Chair led the preliminary discussion, after which the following questions for the applicant were identified:
  - Do the barns have to be so large? And how many head of cattle will this size of barns be capable of holding? And does the applicant have any intention of increasing his herd above the 60-head that is mentioned in the application?
  - Why do the barns have to be so tall?
  - Given the strong local resident opposition evidenced on the webpage, would the applicant consider making some concessions like a) moving further south, or even

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moving into the second field; b) reducing the size of the whole development; c) reducing the height of the barns?

- Will there be on-site piped water, thus negating the need for daily tractor-towed water-trailer supply runs?
- Please provide a realistic estimate of traffic flows, by type of vehicle, into and out of the site, daily, weekly and more longer-term.
- Will there be internal barn lighting all night or only when needed ie when being visited?
- What is the applicant's view of how BS5502: Part 33: 1991 affects his proposal, specifically the sentence 'Planning regulations normally prevent livestock waste storage facilities to be located within 400m of a protected building ...'.

**Action: Clerk**

The Chair concluded by urging all Cllrs to read all the responses on the webpage in preparation for the decision meeting, agreed to be on Thu 30 Sep. She said she would call on each Cllr to give his/her decision (ie objection, no objection, request for specified conditions) with reasons.

**Action: All**

10. Water Leak B4040. The Clerk briefed on his correspondence with Wessex Water following complaints from residents (it had been copied to Cllrs), the conclusion of which was that the leaks were not caused by farm vehicles but by elderly infrastructure. He would nonetheless speak to the farmer about avoiding driving over the leak location.

**Action: Clerk**

11. Footpath Complaint at Perry Green. The Clerk and Liz Carforth-Bles briefed on the complaint that the stile at the B4040 end of footpath CHAR 4 was not dog-friendly (dogs had to go over the stile, either under their own power or by being carried). The law does not require footpaths to be dog-friendly, and the farmer had given reasons for using this design. The stile is of good quality and the PC concluded that there was no further action it could take.

12. Wilts Council Draft Climate Strategy. The Clerk was to send links to the documents. Cllrs were asked to respond by email to say if and how they wanted the PC to respond, by 26 Sep, after which the Clerk, the Chair and Philip Baffour would try to pull together a draft response to be finalized at the 30 Sep PC meeting.

**Action: All**

13. Phone Box Book Exchange. Tom Blanden introduced his paper on work needed on the phone box with costs. The PC approved the immediate expenditure of £82.88 for the shelving and £36.70 for 'Book Exchange' panels. Decisions on his other recommendations were deferred to later meetings, pending further estimates. Philip Baffour expressed the thought that we should not spend too much as it was only an antique phone box.

14. Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Cllrs were asked for thoughts on whether and how we might commemorate this event. The Clerk was to include mention of it in the next Chat article and seek residents' ideas. Jenny Walker said an all-in photograph made a useful historical record.

**Action: Clerk**

15. Remembrance. The PC decided that a wreath should be laid as usual and that an increased donation of £120 should be made to RBL in recognition of the likely increased need for the RBL following recent events in Afghanistan.

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16. 'Lost Paths'. Liz Garforth-Bles described the 'Lost Paths' initiative led by the Ramblers. Detailed work was needed to identify whether any of these lost paths were actually of any value – but some were in Charlton Park and might need careful handling. The Clerk had offered to have a preliminary talk with the Agent. Cllrs willing to help assess the paths should contact Liz. The Clerk was asked to send the papers to all Cllrs.

**Action: Clerk**

17. CSW/SID Updates. Anne Hodgkins updated on CSW. We had had the device in July and had it this month; on one occasion the team had been accompanied by a traffic policeman who had stopped and spoken to some speeders; and 2 more volunteers had come forward. On the SID, the Clerk would liaise with Tom Blanden about training.

18. Planning. Applications considered since the last meeting: Charlton Park 3 greenhouses demolition, Beechwood House form agricultural access to paddock, Sawmills Pink Lane garden store – no objection; Conigre House – objection to certain aspects in Conservation Area and other comments. Applications decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting: Village Hall air-source heat pump – approval. Earlier Planning Applications not yet decided: Minety Solar Farm, Five Lanes Solar Farm, Purlieus Farm Battery Storage Facility, Land at Braydon convert barn to dwelling – no objection to any but comments submitted. Current Planning Applications: none

19. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting. The main noticeboard had a swollen pin-board; Footpaths to request funding support if needed; BKV report to be sent out; missing post box at Pink Lane – Clerk to chase; Clerk to write to Ellen Blacker to offer PC's thanks and best wishes on her retirement. Clerk to forward Wilts Council proposals regarding the road signs at Charlton Bridge (which should be funded from the Structures budget, not CATG). Chair to keep Clerk informed of any further instances of HGVs using Tetbury Lane.

19. Dates of Next Meetings. 2 Nov. Proposals for 2022: 11 Jan, 1 Mar (APM and short PC), 3 or 10 May tbc, 5 Jul, 6 Sep, 1 Nov.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chairman