

## MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7 SEP 23

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL Held on Thursday 7 September 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Marion Adkins (Chairman), Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles, Hannah Piet, Lord Suffolk, Philip Thompson, Jenny Walker; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllr Tom Blanden.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions.
  - Community Benefit money – will there be any public consultation on how to spend it? Answer given – expect there will be some form of consultation.

At this point Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall was invited by the Chairman to give her update.

3. Declarations of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 3 Jul 23, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed. No outstanding actions.
6. Finance. First the Clerk reported on the circumstances of a £40 fine imposed by the external auditors after he had failed to send in the Exemption Certificate on time due to an administrative error. There was currently £28,550 (+) in the account, having received the outstanding 2x£282 Minety BESS community benefit payments, and the £5755.50 insurance payout on the bus shelter. The following payments were authorized:
  - cheque not yet written, audit fine £40, can be paid when invoice received.
  - ditto, £tbc around £50, Cllr training for David Rawlings, can be paid when invoice received.
7. Five Lanes Solar Farm – Community Benefit. The PC approved the signing of the Deed received from the applicants' agents. The Clerk to sign as Proper Officer.
8. SID Deployment Policy. The PC decided to adopt a policy based entirely on the revised Wilts Council policy guidance – 'SIDs can be deployed on a long-term basis if desired. However, it is recommended that to maintain effectiveness they should be deployed on a temporary basis and normally be in place at a site for between 2 and 8 weeks and not be redeployed until a minimum time of 4 weeks has elapsed. Deployment periods are at the discretion of the relevant Parish Council based on individual site circumstances, but it is recommended that this is evidence led. Decisions were delegated by the PC to the SID Cllr in consultation with the Chairman. **Afternote:** the Clerk will draft an amended SID policy document based on this decision. **Action: Clerk**
9. SID – a 2<sup>nd</sup> Device?. The PC decided to buy a 2<sup>nd</sup> SID device of the same type as the first (because of the quality of the display and in order to be operating with a single data download system), initially at least to use the 2<sup>nd</sup> socket but in due course to consider, in conjunction as necessary with Wilts Highways, a location on the western approach into the village on the B4040 from Malmesbury. **Action: Clerk**

Chairman

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10. Planning Applications Policy. The PC decided to continue considering planning applications as now, with Cllrs viewing papers on-line and responding by all-informed emails, but to be prepared to decide applications in a PC meeting much more often; examples of when this might happen could include (but not limited to) any time that the PC is heading for an objection, and any time that it becomes apparent that residents object.

11. Planning Applications Consideration.

- PL/2023/05159, 1 Perry Green, replacement of hedge with fence (retrospective). The PC decided by a majority to object to this application, on the grounds that the new fence was aesthetically wrong for the Conservation Area; additionally some residents and other drivers at the road junction had complained that the fence was further forward than the old hedge had been, causing sightline problems when driving and joining the B4040 from Vicarage Lane; and Cllrs also reported that the new fence looked like it had been sited outside the line where the hedge roots had been, thus it looked as if the householder had taken additional ground.
- PL/2023/06212, Land North of Queen Street, formation of field track (part retrospective). The applicant, Mr Holland, was in attendance and answered some questions. Notwithstanding the local residents' objections (not Charlton Parish residents), the PC accepted that the proposed field track could not be used by MJ Church as a new access to their waste site without a new change of use planning application, and for that reason the PC had no objection.

David Rawlings volunteered to take on the SID Cllr portfolio including leading on SID movement.

**Action: David Rawlings**

12. Book Exchange. The Chairman reported that the PC Chairman Tom Blanden had said he would start work on putting back the Book Exchange windows on Saturday and that she recommended that he be allowed to get started. The PC accepted this. There was a short inconclusive discussion on what to do if the work was not in fact started as stated.

13. Footpaths – Next Actions. Liz Garforth-Bles spoke, thanking Roy Evans, the Footpaths Group leader, for the huge amount of work he had already completed, including a first draft Charlton Walks booklet (a few copies of which were handed out). Some caution was expressed about the large amount of colour pictures included in the booklet, which might make it expensive to print. She then requested £432 (no VAT) for improvement work on a gateway at the eastern end of bridlepath CHAR7; there had recently been a bad accident there due to the state of the ground. The PC agreed this expense. Roy Evans then spoke about his work. The key point was TORs for the Footpaths Group, for which he produced a draft; the TORs should be considered and approved at the next meeting.

**Action: Clerk, Liz Garforth-Bles**

14. Highways and Traffic. There was nothing to report as the promised draft plan from LHFIG for signage improvement in the village centre had not yet arrived.

15. PC Website. The website would no longer be free. There were now 3 levels – Gold, Silver and Bronze at £30/£20/£10 + VAT per month. The Clerk recommended that Bronze was sufficient, also that the website was so easy to use that he strongly recommended that we stay with it. Also there were 2 new features – email alerts and a News page. The PC agreed to the £10 level.

**Action: Clerk**

16. Planning. Report on Planning Applications:

Chairman

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- **Considered by the PC since the last meeting:**
  - New House Farm PNCOU – no comment or objection.
- **Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:**
  - 42 Perry Green – replacement and enlargement of existing rear extension. Approve.
  - Five Lanes Solar Farm – permitted.
- **Not yet decided:**, Land off Pond Lane (BESS), Land at Somerford Farm (BESS), Land at Stonehill (BESS), Purlieus House (removal of Agricultural Occupancy restriction), Minety Sub-station extension. Minety Solar Farm variation of conditions.
- **Current Planning Applications:**
  - 1 Perry Green.
  - Land North of Queen Street.

17. Councillors' observations and items for the next meeting.

- For next meeting:
  - Consider the future of 'Urgent Items'. (Incl analysis of when used.)

18. Dates of Next Meetings. 2 Nov. Agreed for 2024: 4 Jan, 7 Mar, 4 Jul, 5 Sep, 7 Nov. APM Sat 6 Apr. **Afternote:** 2 May not available, 9 May instead.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.