

## MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 2 MARCH 2021

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Held on Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 7pm by Zoom**

Present by Zoom: Cllrs Anne Hodgkins (Chair), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour (until after Item 9), Liz Garforth-Bles, Hannah Piet, Philip Thompson, Robert Whitworth, Viscount Andover; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); 4 members of the public.

At the outset the Chairman said she would take Item 13 after Item 6 in order to allow Cllr Philip Baffour to leave at about 7.45pm for another meeting. She also announced that she had a medical procedure to undergo soon and that Marion Adkins as Deputy Chair was already briefed to act as Chair while she was recovering

1. Apologies. Cllrs Jenny Walker; Wilts Cllr Toby Sturgis.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. None.
3. Declarations of Interest. Nil.
4. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. Nil.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 5 Jan 21, having been circulated in advance, were approved and would be signed at some time in the future.
6. Finance. The bank balance was £13,593.41 and after the payments listed below would be £11,012.48. The following payments were authorized:
  - 504, cheque cancelled, unissued.
  - Standing Order, £10, Charlton Recreation Centre, for annual defibrillator electricity.
  - 505, £1829.15, Clerk's annual salary 2020/21.
  - 506, £457.29, HMRC, for Clerk's PAYE.
  - 507, £286.26, Clerk, for 2 tree plaques.
  - 508, £8.23, Clerk's annual expenses 2020/21.
13. Pub. Butcombe had replied in very friendly vein and had no problems with the PC proposal to nominate the pub as an Asset of Community Value. The Clerk would now finalize the nomination form and send it in. **Action: Clerk**
7. Covid Response Update. The Charlton Collective and the Whatsapp group were still active if required. There had been no call for it recently – local charities and supermarket and pharmacy deliveries were working well. Anne Holland was maintaining contact with the older and more vulnerable in the village.
8. Minety Solar Farm Community Benefit (CB). Anne Hodgkins briefed the PC on her meeting with Minety and Hankerton PC Chairmen. Minety had been vehemently against contacting the applicants about CB before a decision on the application. However at Hankerton PC the evening before it had been reported that Minety had been persuaded to change their mind, and a Hankerton Cllr had now been appointed by Hankerton to work on the approach to the applicants. The PC agreed they were content to approach the applicants now, and for that approach to be led by the nominated Hankerton lead Cllr, and that they had a preference for annual payments. The next step was to await a draft approach to the applicants from Hankerton PC.

Chairman

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9. Five Lanes Solar CB. Anne Hodgkins briefed the PC on her meeting with Malmesbury Without and Brokenborough PC Chairmen (also Minety PC because the proposed connection to the grid was in Minety Parish) followed by a joint meeting with Savills, the agents for the applicants. At the latter meeting she had, as arranged with the other PCs, raised the subject of CB. Savills had seemed quite remote from the finances. Their key points were that a single payment at the start of the project was much more likely than annual payments, they had asked for examples of PC projects, and they wanted it all agreed before the LPA decision. There was then discussion about Charlton's position. Robert Whitworth requested that a project to renovate the church railings be added to the potential project list. The PC's current project list requires more detail on costs and the Chair and Vice-Chair will aim to fill in more ahead of the next meeting. The PC agreed that as Five Lanes Solar CB could be a fluid situation decisions on it, and on the Minety Solar Farm CB, should be delegated to the Chair. **Action: Chair, Vice-Chair**

10. Battery Storage Facility Complaint. No response had yet been received. Copies of the complaint letter should be sent to Cllrs. **Action: Clerk**

11. Phone Box. The PC formally agreed that a library/book exchange should be the agreed role of the telephone box. It was then necessary to plan on repairing the phone box and then converting it for its new role. Tom Blanden was attending the meeting and volunteered to become responsible. He and the Clerk would liaise to work up a plan. The Clerk would contact Purton PC to find out about their use of a phone box as a wi-fi hotspot. **Action: Clerk**

12. Recreation Centre Play Area Upgrade. A brief update was given. The PC had promised £800 from the Battery Fund Year 1. The Recreation Centre Committee (RCC) was asking the Area Board for £5000 towards a current project cost of about £15000, and would need to raise more. Longer-term the RCC aspired to extend the project to teenagers and adults.

13. Item taken after Item 6.

14. CSW Update. Anne Hodgkins reported. Currently the CSW team did not have a usable device after the equipment and a replacement had both failed; a working replacement was being chased. She had attended a Malmesbury Area meeting about speeding at which the Police and Crime Commissioner had been represented and had promised to do more. Auto-speedwatch, a device that recorded vehicle number-plates and speeds, had featured but the result was not acceptable evidence for enforcement; she therefore continued not to recommend Charlton to sign up to it. The Clerk was asked to move the SID back to the eastern position. **Action: Clerk**

15. Best Kept Village. The PC agreed to enter the Best Kept Village competition again. Jane Tsabet would again be asked if she would lead the village effort. **Action: Clerk**

16. Brickell Bulbs. A few gaps had appeared in the Brickell bulbs coverage after Gigaclear's broadband fibre work. The PC agreed to buy replacements as necessary from the outstanding Best Kept Village prizemoney. Jenny Walker would be asked to identify the gaps. **Action: Jenny Walker**

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17. Charlton Bridge Road Signage. A local resident had requested the PC to consider asking for improved signage at Charlton Bridge on the B4040 between the village and Malmesbury. The PC agreed. **Action: Clerk**
18. Elections. The Clerk had issued an email brief. He could answer most questions that Cllrs might have.
19. May PC Meeting – Remote or Physical. The next meeting would be on 18 May. The PC decided to hold a physical meeting in the Village Hall, subject to covid restrictions.
20. Annual Parish Meeting. The PC decided to hold an Annual Parish Meeting in July.
21. 'Agatha Raisin' Filming. There was a short information brief on the filming of a TV programme 'Agatha Raisin' in Charlton village.
22. Planning. Planning Applications considered since the last meeting: Apartment 7 Charlton Park House, wood-burning stove, retrospective, LBC; Elmhill Farm, convert outbuilding to dwelling, PNCOU; both no objection. Land at Braydon, change of use agricultural/stables to commercial/ machinery storage and site office; PC objection. Planning Applications decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting: Apartment 7 Charlton Park – approved; Elmhill Farm - refused. Earlier Planning Applications not yet decided: Minety Solar Farm (no objection but with conditions). Report of current Planning Applications: 3 Suffolk Close, single-storey extension.
22. Councillors' observations, items for next meeting. Nil. The Clerk gave a brief update on the missing post-box on Pink Lane.
23. Dates of Next Meetings. 18 May, 6 Jul, 7 Sep, 2 Nov.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.