

MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 5 MAR 26

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL Held on Thursday 5 March 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs David Rawlings (Chairman), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Jonathan Branton, Liz Garforth-Bles, Hannah Piet, Lord Suffolk; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); one member of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Tom Blanden, Philip Thompson. Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall.
2. Public Questions/Points.
 - A question was asked about July events in Charlton Park selling tickets without having a premises licence; in response it was suggested that they were selling tickets at their own risk – the risk of not getting a licence when they applied and having to re-imburse; or perhaps they intended to operate under a TEN at shorter notice.
 - A late arrival was allowed to ask a question later – he didn't understand the level of the precept and reserve and requested more in the PC notes in the Chat about these decisions. Some of the background was explained to him.
3. Declarations of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
5. Last Minutes. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 22 Jan 26, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed.
6. Finance. The account stood at £80,083, the RWE payment of £60,000 having been received. The following payments were approved:
 - 2026.3.1, £450, Wiltshire Council, LHFIG invoice for the horse/rider warning signs.
 - 2026.3.2, £31.94, to the Clerk, expenses in the year 2025/26.
 - 2026.3.3, £2238.60, to the Clerk, annual salary less PAYE.
 - 2026.3.4, £1492.40, to HMRC, Clerk's PAYE.
 - 2026.3.5, £155, to Charlton PCC, 50% contribution for Parish Chat costs.
 - Additionally for information the annual payment of £10 to the Village Hall for defibrillator electricity had recently been paid by SO.

The account was heading for a year-end figure of £15648.

7. Solar Farm Community Benefit. The PC decided that 2 signatures would be needed to operate the account; and that those nominated to act as authorised signatories would be the Clerk and those Cllrs holding the posts of Chairman, Deputy Chairman and RFO, with nominations to change as and when the individuals holding those posts changed. Accordingly the initial nominations were: Cllrs Marion Adkins (also Main contact/portal administrator), Tom Blanden, David Rawlings, and the Clerk Michael Bromley Gardner. In discussion about spending the money it was agreed that it should be limited to projects benefitting many people, and not just, for example, on more road signs.
Action: RFO and Clerk

8. Emergency Plan. In the PC Chairman's absence the item was deferred.

Chairman

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9. Noticeboards. An estimate of the cost of repairing the main noticeboard had not been obtained. The Clerk was to attempt to wedge the posts in the holders, as a trial.

Action: Clerk

10. Pub ACV. It was agreed that the re-application for the pub to be designated an Asset of Community Value should proceed despite its recent purchase by village residents.

Action: Clerk

11. Moving Main Bus-stop. A brief update was given. There had been recent publicity about the new funding for Bus Stop Infrastructure improvements in Wiltshire. However having checked it was now known that this would not cover moving of bus stops.

12. APM Update. GemFest and RWE (developers of the Minety solar farm) had agreed to attend and speak at the APM – GemFest to concentrate on their mitigations for the perceived excessive noise of last year and RWE to speak about the transport plan. Cllrs suggested that GemFest should not be early on the agenda.

13. Standing Orders/Policies. In a brief update, David Rawlings said he was still awaiting input/responses from others.

14. Planning. Report on Planning Applications:

- Current applications: Great Elm Farm – 6x No Objection.
- Considered by the PC since the last meeting:
 - Land to west of Bullocks Horn Lane, residential curtilage. No objection.
 - Minety Solar Farm, variation of conditions. Objection to change of timings.
- Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:
 - Little Lype Farm, 2 change of use applications – approved.
- Not yet decided at Wilts Council:
 - Land to East and South of Minety Substation (grid connection cable).
 - Lype Fields Farm rural workers dwelling.
 - Charlton Park Estate – demolition of some existing barns, erection of 2nd car storage building.
 - Land off Pond Lane – variation of condition for BESS.
 - 7 and 10 Park St, retrospective LBC replacement of windows
 - Purlieus House, erection of polytunnel.
 - Land off Pond Lane – variation of condition for BESS.
 - 7 and 10 Park St, retrospective LBC replacement of windows.

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

- The pre-BKV village clean-up would be on Sat May.
- Some concerns were expressed about the state of the Tetbury Lane verge close to the B4040 junction.
- Some Cllrs requested that the VH heating should be switched on for PC meetings.

16. Dates of Next Meetings. 7 May, 2 Jul, 3 Sep, 5 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm.

Chairman