

# MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 5 JANUARY 2021

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Held on Tuesday 5 January 2020 at 7pm by Zoom**

Present by Zoom: Cllrs Anne Hodgkins (Chair), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles, Philip Thompson, Robert Whitworth, Viscount Andover; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Toby Sturgis (to Item 16); one member of the public.

At the outset the Chairman said she would take Item 16 after Item 5 in order to allow Cllr Toby Sturgis to hear the item and then leave as he needed to get to another PC's meeting.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Jenny Walker, Hannah Piet.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. None.
3. Declarations of Interest. Nil.
4. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. A request from the Recreation Centre Committee (RCC) for funding had arrived only on Sunday. It would be included after Item 12.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 3 Nov 20, having been circulated in advance, were approved and would be signed at some time in the future.
16. Enforcement Case Report. The situation was that Wilts Council Enforcement had closed the case with no action taken as they had been advised by Planning that the colour of the battery containers had not been laid down in the permission. The question for the PC was whether to take any further action. Cllr Toby Sturgis offered some advice. The PC decided to write to Cllr Sturgis as Cabinet Member for Planning to complain. **Action: Clerk**
6. Finance. There was £14,245.78 in the account. Expected end-of-year balance of uncommitted funds was £8758. Authorization of payments:
  - 500, £15.58, Clerk, for 123 Reg website domain name 2 years.
  - 501, £240, Boswell Roofing Ltd for bus shelter roof and gutter repairs.
  - 502, £71.94, Clerk, for 50% of a one-year Zoom subscription £143.88. In agreeing this payment the PC formally approved paying a subscription to Zoom. Hankerton PC had agreed to share the cost.
  - 503, £314.85, Charlton PCC for 50% of Parish Chat costs. Marion Adkins reported that this was a little more than budgeted due to advertising reductions due to covid.
7. Covid Response Update. The Charlton Collective and the Whatsapp group were still active if required.
8. Precept Part 1. The tax base had reduced by 1.27%, so for the same precept as last year householders would pay 1.27% more, or if householder payments remained the same the PC would receive 1.27% less. The PC had been aiming at a £10,000 reserve for a few years. It would rise to £8758 at the end of the current year. One Cllr argued against this level of reserve, saying that this level had never been explained in detail and that in some emergencies even that much wouldn't go far; not supported by other Cllrs.
9. Battery Community Fund. £200 had been spent on the bus shelter repairs, as previously agreed. The RCC now had a new committee member to help with the workload

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so it would be worth returning to the question of a grant for the Play Area now – Marion Adkins would do this.

**Action: Marion Adkins**

10. Zoom Subscription. This matter was decided during Item 6, with formal agreement to take out a subscription to Zoom.

11. Phone Box. The majority of responses to the question about potential uses of the phonebox posed in the Chat suggested a bookswap/library; 4 suggested a 2<sup>nd</sup> defibrillator. Most suggestions would need door repair and a re-paint. The PC suggested that this would be a good use of the Community Benefit funds. On insurance, a decision was not taken except to earmark £30 in the budget for this purpose.

12. Clerk's Salary. The Clerk left the meeting for this item. The PC decided, in recognition of the Clerk's many years of experience and of the work put in, to increase the pay scale to SCP10 and the paid hours to 5 per week, wef 1 Jan 21. **Action - RFO**

12a. Village Hall Grant. The Recreation Centre Committee had asked for help to raise the money needed to renew the Village Hall heating system with an Air Source Heat Pump. Of a total project cost of £9500+ they asked for £1000. The PC decided to offer £1200 as this was already effectively set aside for support to the Village Hall. This did not include or affect the £800 of the Community Fund earmarked for support to the play area.

13. Tree Plaques. The Clerk regretted that the tree plaques were still outstanding but requested that up to £400 be included in the budget for this purpose. The PC agreed.

14. Precept Part 2. Decisions taken this evening had reduced the expected end-of-year balance to £7545 and the end-of-21/22 forecast balance to £8868. The PC agreed to set the precept at £9872 so that householder payments would not increase over 20/21.

15. Minety Solar Farm Community Benefit. The Clerk had prepared a briefing note. Highlights were that 2 recent local proposed solar farms, both still in their public consultation pre-application stage, had proposed identical community benefit amounting to roughly £15000+ per year, or perhaps £5000+ per year for each of 3 PCs; the brief also noted that there was no legal compulsion for firms to pay anything. The PC agreed that the Chair should meet again with Minety and Hankerton PC s and that we should aim at a figure comparable with these 2 examples. **Action: Clerk, Chair**

16. Item taken after Item 5.

17. Charlton Park Solar Farm. The PC agreed to make contact with and sound out the other 2 involved PCs. **Action: Clerk, Chair**

18. Pub. Philip Baffour briefed on his draft of the Assets of Community Value nomination form. The PC agreed to spend £18 on obtaining the necessary Land Registry evidence; and agreed to contact the pub owners to inform them of this development and to reassure them of our best intentions. **Action: Clerk**

19. SID and CSW Updates. CSW was paused again by the Lockdown. The SID was in the western position, had covered both directions and was now on Spy Mode again. It had therefore completed the last phase of the original agreed trial. It remained for the results to be written up, which Anne Hodgkins would do when possible. **Action: Anne Hodgkins**

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20. 'Urgent Matters' Legality. The Clerk had issued a brief. The PC decided to retain this standing item on all agendas.
21. APM. It was agreed to delay a decision on whether and if so when to hold an APM until the next meeting.
22. Planning. Planning Applications considered since the last meeting: Charlton Business Park, hand car wash, retrospective – no objection. Planning Applications decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting: Homefields (new garage, ancillary accommodation, improved access, increased height of wall) – approved, but existing garage not to be rendered. Charlton Business Park, hand car wash, retrospective – permitted. Earlier Planning Applications not yet decided: Minety Solar Farm (no objection but with conditions). Report of current Planning Applications: Apartment 7 Charlton Park House, wood-burning stove, retrospective, LBC; Elmhill Farm, convert outbuilding to dwelling, PNCOU
22. Councillors' observations, items for next meeting. RFO proposes to move banking on-line. £300 BKV prizemoney still unallocated.
23. Dates of Next Meetings. 2 Mar, May date to be confirmed when local elections date is confirmed, 6 Jul, 7 Sep, 2 Nov.

The meeting closed at 9.11pm.

Chairman