

MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4 SEP 25

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL **Held on Thursday 4 September 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Tom Blanden (Chairman), Marion Adkins, Jonathan Branton, Liz Garforth-Bles, David Rawlings, Lord Suffolk, Philip Thompson; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Philip Baffour, Hannah Piet.
2. Public Questions/Points. None.
3. Declarations of Interest. Lord Suffolk declared his interest in Item 10.
4. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
5. Last Minutes. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 3 Jul 25, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed. Outstanding actions:
 - 'Not suitable for HGVs' sign – the Clerk recommended to the PC that the sign didn't restrict a driver's view northward because a) the nettles stuck out beyond the sign and b) because the road bent slightly left so the wall restricted the view more significantly. The PC accepted this and he would try to tell the initiator of this comment. **Action: Clerk**
 - Broken-down walls in 'The Dip': the Chairman commented that some of the stones appeared to have been cleared out of the way and Lord Suffolk said that repairs had been booked-in.
6. Finance. Balance: £25,865. The following payment was approved:
 - 2025.9.1, £144, Countrywide Grounds Maintenance, verge cut on 18 Aug.

Following the payment the balance would be £25,721. Other regular payments had been made.

7. Planning Application – PL/2025/06717 – Land Off Pond Lane. Revised equipment and layout. Additional points: the original permission (PL/2022/00664) included no condition on the colour of the structures built on the site; nor was any life stated; and the applicants' mention that if allowed this application they may drop another permitted application was noted, and the question was how could they be held to this? Decision: no objection; but to strongly request that this opportunity be taken to condition the colour of the structures. **Action: Clerk**

8. Planning Matter – 41 Perry Green – Gate. The PC considered the 41 Perry Green gate which was inside the Conservation Area and over one metre in height. On investigation it had become clear that the earlier wrought iron gate, which had been there in 2009 (evidenced by Google Streetview) and probably much earlier, had itself been at about the same height, thus the current gate did not need planning permission. That left the Conservation question, and the question of how the Wilts Council Conservation Officer might view the 'degree of harm'. The PC decided to take no further action.

9. Planning Application – PL/2025/06314 – 3 Vicarage Lane. The PC decided to object to the height of the proposed new gate as being not appropriate for the Conservation Area. **Action: Clerk**

Chairman

MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4 SEP 25

10. Review of All 3 Festivals – Report. David Rawlins reported back (in line with an email he had issued) on the PC's discussions with the festivals: the PC had met Shindig and Gem but had not been able to get Existence to come to meet us. On the key problem areas of the loudness of the music (both) and the late closing times (Shindig only; Gem had closed at midnight but wanted to go later next year), neither festival had indicated a willingness to reduce or to move to 'the Womad field'. In discussion pedestrian safety was mentioned as another key point. The PC decided to request a review of Shindig's licence (Gem was on annual licences so we could respond when their new licence application was made); and to list the key points as volume of noise, late closing times and pedestrian safety. **Action: Clerk**

11. Asking Residents What They Want. The proposal was to ask residents what they wanted the PC to do for them over this 4-year PC term. The questions for the PC now were: how to phrase the question/s; how to distribute the message; and how to receive the responses. Decisions:

- One question only. 'What would you like Charlton Parish Council to do for you over the next 4 years?'
- Through the Chat and the Facebook page. Make it stand out – use colour, reduce the rest of the PC note.
- Through email responses and a form on the website (Chairman needed to produce the latter), must include name, address and postcode.

Action: Clerk, Chairman

12. B4040 Speed Limit Review. Areas to highlight to the Review:

- Noah's Ark junction – lack of visibility to the east when 2 saloon cars involved.
- The whole length of the 50mph limited area west from the village, ie approaching Noah's Ark junction and through the bends to the de-limit sign beyond.
- Stonehill.

Action: Clerk

13. War Memorial Wall Repair. Only one quote had been received. This was for £422. The PC accepted this quote. **Action: Clerk**

14. 'Assertion 10'. The Clerk briefed on what was known about the new 'assertion' in the AGAR Annual Governance Statement – Assertion 10. Some parts we were already covered for, with the gov.uk website and Clerk's email address. We would need an IT policy, which the Clerk was working on. But perhaps the most contentious point was the drive for Cllrs not to use private email addresses for PC business.

15. Insurance – Book Exchange Kiosk. The question had been deferred from the previous meeting, for more information. The delivery charge for a replacement kiosk (current cost £3500) was £550. There would probably be additional costs for labour and for an electrician. The insurance rate was .86%. The PC decided to increase the insurance cover to -£4200. **Action: Clerk**

16. Standing Orders (SOs). The Clerk proposed that the subject of what SOs should consist of needed should be looked at by a working party, to recommend the answer to the PC. The PC agreed. The Working Party would consist of the Chairman, David Rawlins and Marion Adkins. **Action: Clerk**

Chairman

MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4 SEP 25

17. Policies. Exactly the same as for SOs, a working party to look at it and make recommendations to the PC, with the same members. **Action: Clerk**

18. Lower Bus Stop. The question of whether the lower Bus Shelter was actually a bus stop or not had arisen and been settled between the last meeting and this one. It remains as a bus stop although many bus timetables didn't show it as such – unless one interrogated the on-line timetable more deeply. Also the Wilts Council policy was not to put timetables in subsidiary bus-stops in the same village. But that didn't mean the PC couldn't pin up a timetable there – and the Chairman would put up a noticeboard in or on the shelter. **Action: Chairman**

19. Best Kept Village Competition – Report. It had been discovered that CPRE Wiltshire had lost our entry into the BKV. They had since found it – it had arrived in good time – and had apologised. Meanwhile Charlton had been judged the winner of the Merit Award, prize value £150. Decision on what to spend it on – for the next meeting.

20. Planning. Report on Planning Applications:

- Current applications: Items 7 and 9.
- Considered by the PC since the last meeting (approved):
 - Charlton Park Estate – demolition of some existing barns, erection of 2nd car storage building.
- Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting: (all approved)
 - Bisley House, extension to permitted replacement garage to form viewing room.
 - Purlieus House – variation of conditions – alteration to balcony.
 - Land at Stonehill.
- Not yet decided at Wilts Council:
 - Land to East and South of Minety Substation (grid connection cable).
 - Lype Fields Farm rural workers dwelling.
 - Little Lype Farm, change of use, existing yard to B8 storage of caravans and existing agricultural building to commercial units B2/B8.
 - Little Lype Farm, change of use, 2 buildings, to commercial storage (B2/B8).
 - Turnpike Cottage, 2-storey rear extension, space for 2 cars.
 - Upper Stonehill Cottage, change of use of parcel of land, agricultural to residential.
 - 6 Park St – retrospective, single-storey rear extension.

21. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting.

- Amount of HGVs driving through the village.
- The RFO reported that she would investigate opening an interest-bearing bank account.
- Clerk's pay.

22. Dates of Next Meetings. 6 Nov.

The meeting closed at 9.02 pm.

Chairman