

MINUTES OF CHARLTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 9 MAY 24

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL **Held on Thursday 9 May 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Tom Blanden (Chairman), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, David Rawlings, Lord Suffolk, Philip Thompson, Jenny Walker; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; 4 members of the public.

1. Election of Chair. Cllr Tom Blanden was nominated and seconded and indicated his willingness to stand; there were no other nominations and he was elected unanimously.
2. Apologies. Cllrs Liz Garforth-Bles.
3. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. One member of the public asked about speeding in the village and others added some views. The gist was:
 - Can we have a permanent warning sign like Corston.
 - Answer – we have one, the SID currently opposite the pub. And we are getting a 2nd SID for the western approach to the double-bend.
 - A few lorries have been speeding on Park Street.
 - When building work meant vehicles were parked on the roadside speeds seemed to be reduced.
 - Answer – the law allows you to park your car on the roadside if you want.
4. Declarations of Interest. None.
5. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
6. Election of Deputy Chair. Marion Adkins made clear after 11 years as Chair and Deputy Chair she would not stand again. David Rawlings offered himself and was elected unanimously.
7. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 7 Mar 24, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed. There were some outstanding actions which had been left off the agenda due to the length of this agenda and their lack of urgency: Footpaths booklet, New Arrivals letter, Great Western Community Forest, Defib training.
8. Exemption from External Audit. In accordance with Sect 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, the PC declared that the PC was exempt external audit, since both gross annual income and gross annual expenditure were below £25,000.
9. Approval of 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement. Marion Adkins as RFO took the PC through the Annual Governance Statement, after which the PC decided that all points had been covered and that the Chairman should sign it (which he did).
10. Approval of 2023/24 Accounts. The RFO took the PC through the accounts. The Internal Audit had been successfully completed. Cllrs had no questions on the details of the accounts and the PC approved the accounts. The Accounting Statement was signed.
11. Finance. There was currently £31,262 (+) in the account, the Precept having been received. The following payments were authorized, after which the balance would be £30,535 (+):

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- cheque number 578, £252, Durnford Landscapes, for clearance behind the eastern bus shelter.
- 579, £268.69, to Community First Trading Ltd for annual insurance.
- 580, £196.15, to WALC for annual membership.
- 581, £111.30, to Marion Adkins for APM refreshments expenses.

12. Portfolios.

- RFO – Marion Adkins
- Recreation Centre – Jenny Walker
- Rights of Way – Liz Garforth-Bles (with Roy Evans as the non-Cllr leader of the Footpaths Group).
- Patients Group/PCT – to be advertised in the Chat for a volunteer; and Marion Adkins had a non-Cllr in mind for this and will ask.
- Area Board – Tom Blanden
- Parish magazine link – Marion Adkins
- Neighbourhood Watch – Marion Adkins
- Traffic and Highways – Clerk
- SID – David Rawlings
- Community Speedwatch – Anne Hodgkins will continue to lead the CSW team; she will report to the PC whenever she or the PC deemed it necessary.
- Book Exchange – Hannah Piet
- Noticeboards – Philip Baffour
- Climate Strategy – Philip Baffour
- Community Emergency Contacts – Chairman, Clerk, Philip Thompson

13. Planning Application – Old Well House. PL/2024/03389 – to retain the new 1.8m gates and gate pillars after they had been disallowed along with the 1.8 metre fence. After discussion the PC had no objection. **Action: Clerk**

14. WOMAD Noise. It had become clear during the Existence Festival discussions at the APM that there was more disquiet about WOMAD noise than the PC had previously been aware of. It was understood that the problem was a late-night bar that was allowed by the WOMAD license (recorded music and alcohol sales to 4am) but which had its speakers facing the village. It was decided that Lord Suffolk would speak to WOMAD about this on behalf of the PC. **Action: Lord Suffolk**

15. War Memorial Grass-Cutting. Neil Medland was standing down from cutting the grass after 9+ years as he no longer had the right equipment. He had cut the grass weekly in April, twice a week in May and June, once a week thereafter (and a cut a few days before Remembrance Sunday). The contractor who cut the church grass had quoted – his cuts were only every 3 weeks. Philip Baffour said he would do it if the PC bought a mower. Lord Suffolk said the Estate might be able to do it once they had re-recruited a full complement. A new resident was a landscaper and had quoted to do the work weekly or fortnightly. The PC accepted his quote, on the basis of a cut every 2 weeks to see if that was OK, for 3 months. **Action: Chairman, Clerk**

16. Bus Shelter. The intention had been to discuss the possibility of making an alternative plan because the contracted builder was having trouble finding the time to do the work, however just before the meeting he had said he would be starting next week. The PC decision was for this work to proceed.

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17. Highways Update. The Clerk gave an update:
- 2nd SID – still not ordered as still no action on the socket by Highways' contractor, but Highways had now agreed to increase the priority on the work.
 - western white gates and yellow backing for 30mph sign – had been discussed with the LHFIG – next action was for the LHFIG main advisor to see it on-site.
 - Gulley tanker had visited as planned – but had found that Suffolk Close was not 'adopted highway' so it could not work there.
18. Planning. Report on Planning Applications:
- Considered by the PC since the last meeting:
 - The Old Barn, conversion of existing garage, single-storey rear extension, minor internal alterations, new garage – no objection.
 - Summerhouse Lodge, single-storey extension – no objection.
 - Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:
 - Foxleigh, Stonehill – single-storey extension to front, side and rear, change of use to residential of small parcel of land, approved.
 - Land at Somerford Farm – BESS, refused.
 - Minety Solar Farm variation of conditions – approved.
 - 1 Perry Green, move fence into garden, plant hedge outside, reduce height of solid part of fence to 1 metre, with 0.8 metre of trellis above. Approved.
 - Current applications:
 - Land South of Sub-Station, grid connection cable Part 1, B4040 northwards.
 - Old Well House, retention of gate and pillars.
 - Village Farmhouse, extensive external and internal work, Listed Building Consent.
 - Not yet decided: Land at Stonehill (BESS), Purlieus House (removal of Agricultural Occupancy restriction), Land North of Queen Street, Land to East and South of Minety Substation (grid connection cable), Minety Sub-station expansion.
19. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting.
- Marion Adkins said that she had drafted a new arrivals letter, a full A4 page, which she would circulate for comment. Much of the information was already in the Chat somewhere. She thought there was a question hanging over devoting a page of every Chat to this. She would be away for the July meeting.
 - Internet banking.
20. Dates of Next Meetings. 4 Jul, 5 Sep, 7 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.

Chairman