

MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 5 JAN 23

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL **Held on Thursday 5 January 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Tom Blanden (Chairman), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles (from Item 7), Christian Olejnik, Hannah Piet, Jenny Walker; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; one member of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Lord Suffolk, Philip Thompson.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. One member of the public attending referred to an email that he had recently sent (and which the Clerk confirmed he had sent on to all Cllrs) and made his view known that the PC now had enough money in the reserves and the precept should now be reduced.
3. Declarations of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the 3 Nov 22 PC meeting were approved.
6. Finance. The account stood at £19,973. The following payments were authorized:
 - Chq 553, £2160, South West Ambulance Service, defibrillator contract renewal.
 - 554, £735, Wall2Wall Decorating Ltd, 50% of cost of book exchange painting.
 - 555, £230.41, Charlton PCC, for 50% of the Parish Chat costs.
 - (Chq 552 spoiled)

With these payments made the balance would be £17,583.

7. Precept Part 1. The Tax Base had increased meaning that the same precept as last year would mean a 2.9% reduction in householder payments. The RFO was forecasting the year-end reserve figure as £14,000.
8. Spending Plans.
 - a. Book Exchange. The decision had been taken after the last meeting to accept a quote of £1225 + VAT for repainting the book exchange, from Wall2Wall Decorating Ltd.
 - b. Bus Shelter. The detailed plan of work for the bus shelter had not yet been received from the surveyors. The costs were still expected to be within the insurance value.
 - c. Highways Improvements. Impossible to estimate costs, while also subject to success at LHFIG.
 - d. Allotments. No responses had been received since the Chat article. The PC decided to drop the idea of allotments until possible greater interest being shown at some point in the future.

Chairman

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- e. Spending Ideas from 2022, Incomplete. Wildflower Area – nothing to report.
Repair to War Memorial Garden wall – £500 earmarked last year still available.
General maintenance – £500 earmarked, still available.
9. Warm Spaces. The Chairman discussed some of what he had seen in neighbouring towns but there were no implications for the budget.
10. Coronation. The Recreation Centre Committee were meeting next week and would be discussing any Coronation celebration event.
11. Precept Part 2 - Decision. After discussion with different views put forward, the PC agreed to set the precept at £9,500, which would mean a reduction in Band D of £2.73 or 6.63% (£38.46), while increasing the reserve to £14,889. **Action: Clerk**
12. APM. It was agreed that, in addition to the usual items, Footpaths should feature as an important item on the agenda for the APM. Also news about any Coronation celebration. **Action: Clerk, Liz Garforth-Bles**
13. CSW/SID Updates. Anne Hodgkins had circulated a CSW report. The Chairman said that he needed help to move the SID and exchange the batteries – the Clerk would help – and he would bring forward some ideas on SID deployment changes to the next meeting.
14. Planning. Report on Planning Applications:
- **Considered by the PC since the last meeting:**
 - 27 Park Street – resubmission of 22/04831 (approved) with slightly amended roofline. No objection.
 - Yew Tree Cottage – replacement conservatory, timber throughout. No objection.
 - **Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:**
 - Braydon Pond Lodge – demolition and replacement of existing. Approved.
 - **Not yet decided:** Five Lanes Solar Farm, Land off Pond Lane (BESS), Land at Somerford Farm (BESS), Land at Stonehill (BESS), Purlieus House (removal of agricultural occupancy restriction), Land at Braydon barn conversion.
 - **Current Planning Applications:**
 - Minety Substation – 4 more transformers plus associated works, by 2 Feb.
15. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting.
- WALC Membership meeting, 18 Jan 6.30 by Zoom, Christian Olejnik offered to attend.
 - Potholes on Tetbury Lane were reported (though maybe they were off the carriageway), including where 'passing places' joined the carriageway.
 - Potholes and broken surfaces on Park Street were reported.
16. Dates of Next Meetings. 5 Jan, 2 Mar, (1 Apr, APM, in the morning), 4 May, 6 Jul, 7 Sep, 2 Nov.

Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall reported: Wilts Council were tasking all Parish Stwds onto pothole-repairing tasks; she had attended the recent Charlton coffee morning and had asked Wilts Council to add it to the list of Warm Places; she was bringing the Principal Engineer Traffic and Network Management Wiltshire Council to view the double-bend area in Charlton.

The meeting closed at 8.42pm.

Chairman