

MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7 APR 22

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL Held on Thursday 7 April 2022 at 7pm in Hankerton Church North Aisle

Present: Cllrs Anne Hodgkins (Chair), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Tom Blanden, Liz Garforth-Bles, Hannah Piet, Philip Thompson, Jenny Walker, Lord Andover; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies. None.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. None.
3. Declarations of Interest. None.
3. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. The Chair agreed that the PC should consider paying the £20 charge for the hire of the North Aisle for this meeting. The PC agreed the payment. Cheque number to be reported in the May PC meeting. **Action: RFO**
5. Enlargement of Charlton Parish. The aim was to consider the draft proposal of the Wiltshire Council Electoral Review Committee (ERC), in the case of the Community Governance Review (CGR) of Malmesbury Town, that Charlton Parish should expand to include Milbourne, Filands north of the B4014, and the area around and between those two places; and to decide the PC's response.
 - a. The Chair gave an update from today's on-line meeting with the ERC; nothing was fixed – we can recommend other solutions; the ERC in deciding between Charlton and Lea to take on the cut-off area had considered as factors the social links forged through the CSW equipment share and the cricket club. Decided on balance closer to Charlton. **[Afternote:** later in the meeting the Clerk reported that after the on-line meeting he had contacted the Cricket Club and had been told that it was thought that there was only one player from Milbourne; the main links were with Hankerton and with Malmesbury Cricket Club. And a later follow-up confirmed that this information was correct.] The Chair then reminded Cllrs about meeting procedure.
 - b. The Chair then, while acknowledging that Cllrs should approach the subject with open minds, asked Cllrs for their view on the subject at this point. Six Cllrs reported that they were minded to reject the draft proposal, 2 others were undecided and could go either way, while she herself was a 'don't know'.
 - c. Cllrs then debated the factors. The expounded views included:
 - It was a democratic deficit that residents of areas that were proposed to change their PC allegiance received letters from Wilts Council but residents in areas that were expected to receive these new areas did not get a letter.
 - Adds no value to our PC while adding greater workload.
 - Joined PC as wanted to support my home village Charlton, not a wider area.
 - 3 questions, (but which didn't answer the question that we had to answer):
 - Why doesn't the cut-off area form its own PC?
 - Don't Filands north-side see themselves as Malmesbury?
 - Would Milbourne people want to join us?

Chairman

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- Charlton Parish has a strong identity as a parish not just as a village – evidenced by the number of Cllrs (5/9) from the wider parish.
- We currently represent Charlton people – currently 30-40% of PC expenditure goes on Charlton-specific assets – in years to come a different PC make-up could drop this support – which is a danger to the people we represent now.

d. Cllrs then voted on a motion to reject the draft proposal. This was agreed by 6 votes to 3. The idea of varying the draft proposal was not voted on, given the clear opposition and because no Cllr had identified any parts of the area which they thought would fit more logically with Charlton parish.

e. Cllrs were encouraged to complete the on-line consultation as individuals, as fully as possible (ie giving reasons) because this would count with Wiltshire Council.

f. Cllrs then decided the extent to which advice on the issue should be offered to residents. It was decided that the PC response letter to Wilts Council should be placed on the website and attention should be drawn to it by all communication means – facebook page, noticeboards, website.

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

- The Chair asked for a CSW Update at the next meeting.

7. Dates of Next Meetings. 10 May, 5 Jul, 6 Sep, 1 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

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Chairman