

# MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 1 SEPTEMBER 2020

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Held on Tuesday 1 September 2020 at 7pm by Zoom**

Present by Zoom: Cllrs Anne Hodgkins (Chair), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles, Philip Thompson; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); one member of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Jenny Walker, Hannah Piet, Robert Whitworth, Viscount Andover. Wilts Cllr Toby Sturgis.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. None.
3. Declarations of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 7 Jul 20, having been circulated in advance, were approved (with one correction – at paragraph 6 the cheque number should read 494 not 493) and would be signed at some time in the future.
6. Finance. There was £16024 in the account with an expected out-turn of £8585. The following payments were authorized:
  - cheque number 493, £22, to the Clerk for the APM refreshments (average amount).
  - Cllr Training for Philip Thompson costing £30 from WALC had been booked but no invoice received yet – the payment was authorized.
7. Absence from Meetings. Cllrs approved the reasons for Jenny Walker's absence from meetings since 4 Mar 20.
8. Battery Community Fund. This was a follow-up after the last meeting when 2 proposals had been produced. The play area £800 had been put on hold due to the Recreation Centre Committee's personnel situation. No quotes had yet been received for the up to £200 bus shelter repairs. This item was rolled forward to the next meeting.

**Action: Marion Adkins, Clerk**
9. Covid Response Update. Hannah Piet was unable to attend the meeting due to internet problems, but had reported that the Covid response was quiet, the Whatsapp group was still in place ready to pick up again if needed.
10. Minety Solar Farm Community Benefit. Anne Hodgkins had circulated a compilation of Cllrs' ideas for a possible significant community benefit to be gained from the Minety solar farm if it were permitted, prioritized by Cllrs' responses. After discussion the following actions were agreed:
  - Find out how much Crudwell have spent on their recent new playground – LGB
  - Ditto for Lea – MA
  - Find out the current total estimated cost of Village Hall heating replacement – MA
  - Estimate how much footpaths improvement work is required – LGB and PT

Timescale for actions – to report back by email within 4 weeks ie by 30 Sep.

**Action: Liz Garforth Bles, Marion Adkins, Philip Thompson**

Chairman

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11. Charlton Park 5 Lanes Solar Farm. The aim of this item was to elicit any questions that Cllrs wanted answering at the online briefing by Savills on 3 Sep. It would be attended by Anne Hodgkins, Marion Adkins and the Clerk. The questions were:

- How much experience of installing and operating this sort of site in the UK does the intended or expected eventual operator of this site have?
- How will the equipment be disposed of at the end of the operational life of the site?
- How will the site be hidden from sight of local residents and of the passing public?
- What approach will the operator adopt with regard to environmental management and improvements to biodiversity.
- There has been a lot of criticism from local people about the lack of community engagement regarding the current proposed Solar Farm at Minety. What steps will you take to engage more actively with residents given the restrictions around public meetings?

12. Defibrillator. Anne Hodgkins had circulated a discussion paper. The PC agreed:

- to publish a regular, every other issue, reminder in the Chat to cover the steps to follow in event of an incident and highlight the restrictions which influence whether the 999 call handler will advise use of the defibrillator. **Action: Clerk**
- Not to pursue an additional defibrillator.

13. BT Telephone Box. BT were again trying to close the box, which had had no calls made in the past 2 years and probably for longer than that. The PC agreed not to oppose this, and to decide at the next meeting whether to 'adopt' the box for £1 with consequent repair and maintenance responsibilities or to allow BT to remove it. **Action: Clerk**

14. New PC Website. The Clerk had issued a briefing paper on the new PC website that he had arranged and written in order to solve the accessibility problem with the old site. The PC agreed to adopt it and close the old site; also to purchase a domain name on the open market for up to £25 pa (rather than a .gov.uk name). The Clerk and Chair would discuss how to choose a name that would distinguish us from the many other Charltons in the country. **Action: Clerk, Chair**

15. Pub. The situation with the pub being shut with an unknown opening plan was discussed. A report that the pub was for sale had been heard but not verified. A resident had asked about the possibility that the pub 'can be formally designated as an asset of the village and this ensures that it can't be turned into anything else'. The Clerk gave a very brief outline of the Community Right to Bid. The Clerk was tasked to find out whether a group of private individuals may bid under this Right. Given the report that the pub may already be for sale it was agreed that this must be pursued without delay. **Afternote:** no, they may not.

**Action: Clerk**

16. Gigaclear Update. The Clerk reported that he had seen a map showing that every property in the Parish was destined to get a Gigaclear fibre connection to the premises. Timescales weren't yet clear but it will happen, perhaps over the course of the next year.

17. SID Update. The PC agreed to reactivate the SID trial and the Clerk was to get the device moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> socket. **Action: Clerk**

18. CSW Update. CSW re-started in August. Traffic volumes appeared to have returned nearly to pre-covid levels, but speeders had increased.

Chairman

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19. BKV Lawrence Kitching Award 'Standard'. CPRE wanted to present the trophy on Wed 16 Sep at 11am in the War Memorial garden. There would probably be just 2 of them. Anne Hodgkins and the Clerk would attend, Jenny Walker was to be invited, and Philip Thompson was available if needed to increase numbers. The PC did not feel it was necessary to offer coffee. The Clerk would get the post dug in in advance.

20. Remembrance. The PC agreed that Anne Hodgkins should lay a wreath and that a donation of £100 be made to Royal British Legion. After short discussion about re-using an old wreath to save on single-use plastic, the PC agreed to use a new one.

21. Planning. The colour of the containers at the Battery ESS site at Upper Stonehill was not as described in their plans; Wilts Council Planning Enforcement were engaged, had allocated an enforcement reference number and would investigate. They had not yet reported back. The recent Government proposed planning reforms would clearly need our attention but now was still too early as we knew very little about it. Planning Applications considered since the last meeting: none. Planning Applications decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting: Sagamore, new rear 2-floor extension to replace existing conservatory – no objection. Earlier Planning Applications not yet decided: Minety Solar Farm (no objection but with conditions). Report of current Planning Applications: Homefields – new garage, ancillary accommodation, improved access, increased height of wall (we have queried the proposed wall height); Old Park Farm – single-storey oak mansard; Bluebells Barn Bullocks Horn Lane – garage and re-aligned garden area (we have pointed out that there was no proposed site plan with the documents – the agents had been told by Wilts Council to produce one).

22. Councillors' observations and items for the next meeting. One Cllr expressed the hope that we might be able to meet physically next time. The Chair reminded Cllrs of the need to respond to emails, and in a timely fashion.

23. Dates of Next Meetings. 3 Nov. Proposals for 2021 were agreed as: 5 Jan, 2 Mar, 4 May, 6 Jul, 7 Sep, 2 Nov.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Chairman