

MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 5 SEP 24

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL **Held on Thursday 5 September 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Tom Blanden (Chairman), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Hannah Piet, David Rawlings, Lord Suffolk, Philip Thompson, Jenny Walker; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllr Liz Garforth-Bles.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. None.
3. Declarations of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Items at Chairman's Discretion. Planning Application PL/2024/07679 at 60 Bisley, only recently received, needed discussion. The Clerk had made telephone contact with the 2 neighbours most affected by the applications (the only 2 that had been consulted by Wilts Council), in one case speaking personally, in the other leaving a message, to tell them that this would be added to the agenda. To be taken at Item 8a.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 11 Jul 24, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed.
6. Finance. The following payments were authorized:
 - 2024/1, £135, Countrywide Grounds Maintenance, for verge cutting.
 - 2024/2, £1230 to Wilts Council for LHFIG 30% contribution.
 - 2024/3, £80, Samuel Shelford, war memorial grass cutting.

With one £80 cheque unpresented, after these payments the balance would be £23,973.31.

7. On-Line Banking. Action was still progressing. The Chairman and Clerk would be on-line signatories.
- 8a. Planning Application – PL/2024/07679 – 60 Bisley. Change of use of a small area of grassed land to house a shepherd's hut for holiday lets. PC decision: No Objection.
Action: Clerk
- 8b. Planning Application – pl/2024/07438 – Minety Solar Farm. Variation of conditions. Request to move the new south-east access off the B4040 by 7 metres to avoid a road drain; and changes to reflect a new Arboricultural Impact Assessment. PC decision: No Objection.
Action: Clerk
9. Planning Application – PL/2024/007194 and PL/2024/07195 – Little Lype Farm. Applications in connection with the proposed 'Stay and Play Down On The Farm' project. PC decision: No Objection.
Action: Clerk
10. Planning – Somerford Farm BESS - Appeal. The hearing was due on 9 Oct. The question was whether any Cllrs wanted to attend, also to confirm the decision at the last meeting not to take a speaking role. Decision: No and Confirmed.
11. Planning – Purlieus House, Height of New Fence. The PC had received a neighbour's complaint that at Purlieus House a new fence and a mobile home had appeared without planning permission, also that the question of the agricultural tie had

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not yet been decided. On investigation these complaints were groundless (the over-1 metre fence was not against a highway, the mobile home was temporary during building work in the house, and the new owner worked in horticulture so was qualified under the agricultural tie). However when investigating the Clerk had discovered that the new fence was over 2 metres high (2.25 m) so did need planning permission. He had advised the neighbour of this fact and had suggested that the neighbour could complain to Wilts Council if they chose. The question now was whether the PC wished to get involved (ie to call in Wilts Council Enforcement), given that the new fence was in open country and against a concrete farm track not between 2 houses or 2 gardens. The PC decided no.

12. Charlton Park Events. The PC discussed the notification or otherwise of Charlton Park events to residents following the reaction on the Hub of some residents when music started to be heard from the recent David's Tent event, which had taken all by surprise. Lord Suffolk mentioned a newsletter on the Estate website which could be signed up to. A Cllr warned against the PC taking on the responsibility to inform residents about all events; and suggested that the Estate could inform residents about the newsletter with a 2-line notice in the Chat. The item concluded with no decisions but an expectation that the newsletter might be the answer. **Afternote:** newsletter not found.

13. Bridlepath CHAR 7 Repair. This bridlepath becomes unusable for walkers (and difficult for horses) in the winter wet. This has not mattered in the past with the alternative route provided by the landowner but matters now with the closure of that route. An indication of the cost of making it usable in winter was £4,500-£6,500 (30% being £1350-£1950). The PC agreed to submit it to LHFIG. **Action: Clerk**

14. Horse and Rider Warning Signs B4040. Recently a rider newly keeping horses in the village had experienced a dangerous incident on the B4040 at the eastern exit of the village, and had appealed to the PC for help, suggesting warning signs. The Clerk suggested to the PC that if they agreed it would make sense to sign to the Bullocks Horn junction, incorporating the Moor Lane junction, as the B4040 is commonly used along this stretch as it connects the lanes and bridlepaths north and south of the B4040. With roadsigns costing probably £300 each (from Wiltshire Council website) a 30% cost to the PC could be perhaps £450. The PC agreed to submit it to LHFIG. **Action: Clerk**

15. War Memorial Wall Repair. An estimate had been obtained for masonry repairs to the War Memorial Garden wall where there are some superficial cracks to the concrete capping but also on the western wall where the stonemasonry has been impacted at some point and pushed back/away from the road. The estimate was £3964 (+ VAT). The Clerk said he was only introducing the subject and it might be something the PC might consider doing once the solar farm Community Benefit money had been received.

16. War Memorial Grass Cutting. The PC decided to continue the current 3-month contract with Sam Shelford for the rest of this year and for next year, on a basis of 2 cuts/month in Apr-Sep and one cut/month in some winter months (probably no cut in Jan/Feb), at £20 per cut, or an expected total of about £300 per year. **Action: Clerk**

17. New Arrivals Letter. Ideas were discussed to make the letter stand out to catch the eye. Marion Adkins would talk to the Chat printers for their ideas. **Action: Marion Adkins**

18. SID. The SID was still not working 100%. The height of the hedge and trees behind it was probably to blame. It would be moved to the alternative site soon to test whether exposure to full sunlight proved the point. **Action: David Rawlings.**

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19. Highways Update. The Clerk raised one point only – verge cutting in 2025, including the problem about not knowing whether Highways might cut them and when. The PC agreed that a tractor and slasher would be the best way to cut the verges and that he could approach a local business about it. **Action: Clerk**

20. Planning. Report on planning applications:

- Considered by PC since last meeting:
 - Land West of Bullocks Horn Lane, permitted development, convert barn to residence. No objection.
 - 11 Park St, timber-framed detached garage. No objection.
 - Bisley House, swimming pool and small garden shed. No objection.
 - Long Barn, conservatory replacement roof and frames. No objection.
 - Purlieus House, extensions on 3 sides. No objection.
- Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:
 - 20 Park St, loft conversion, internal renovation, approved.
 - Long Barn, conservatory replacement roof and frames, approval.
 - Minety Substation expansion.
- Current applications: Items 8a, 8b and 9, also 20 Park St (single-storey rear extension).
- Not yet decided:
 - Purlieus House (removal of Agricultural Occupancy restriction), Land North of Queen Street (new objection by WWT), Land to East and South of Minety Substation (grid connection cable). Village Farmhouse (extensive external and internal work – Listed Building Consent), Minety Solar Farm (variation of conditions, noise limiters on inverters), Pond Lane BESS cable route Parts 1 and 2.

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

- Marion Adkins – signage at Stonehill.

22. Dates of Next Meetings. 7 Nov. 2025 – 9 Jan, 6 Mar, 8 May, 3 Jul, 4 Sep, 6 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.28pm.

Chairman