

MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 3 NOVEMBER 2020

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 3 November 2020 at 7pm by Zoom

Present by Zoom: Cllrs Anne Hodgkins (Chair), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles, Hannah Piet, Philip Thompson, Robert Whitworth, Viscount Andover; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllr Jenny Walker.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. None.
3. Declarations of Interest. Marion Adkins, for the element of Item 6 on churchyard grass-cutting – she would introduce the case but take no part in the decision.
4. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 1 Sep 20, having been circulated in advance, were approved and would be signed at some time in the future. Before that, the Clerk informed the meeting that the new website name had gone wrong and more work was needed; and Marion Adkins briefed the meeting on the changed (due to the latest covid situation) Remembrance service plan.
6. Finance. There was £15868 in the account. Authorisation of payments:
 - 497, £1210.66, Village Hall insurance.
 - 498, £25, Neil Medland for grass-cutting in the war memorial garden.
 - 499, £1000, for churchyard grass-cutting. This agreed payment was preceded by a discussion about increasing the annual payment. It had been unchanged at £750 since 2005. The PC agreed to increase the payment to £1000.
 - **Afternote:** 2 cheques had been issued between meetings, the payments having been authorized at the last meeting:
 - 495, £36 (£30 + reclaimable VAT), to WALC for Cllr training.
 - 496, £100, Royal British Legion.
7. Battery Community Fund. No quotes had yet been received for the bus-shelter roof repair, and it was stated that the Recreation Centre Committee was not yet ready to consider the possibility of a grant for the play area. The Clerk would keep trying for the bus-shelter quotes. **Action: Clerk**
8. BT Phone Box. Following the decision not to oppose BT's intent to close the phone box, the PC considered whether to 'adopt' it for £1. Discussion included about which decision should come first, to adopt it or what its use would be if adopted, also hearing costs of replacement parts presented by the Clerk. The PC voted to adopt it. The Chair will use the Chat to invite ideas on how the phone box will be used. **Action: Clerk, Chair**
9. Covid Response Update. Hannah Piet reported that the Whatsapp group was still in place ready to pick up again now that it might be needed. She was asked to write something for the Chat, also to invite HEALS to submit something for publication. **Action: Hannah Piet**

Chairman

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10. Minety Solar Farm Community Benefit. Responses to the questions posed at the last meeting were:

- How much Crudwell have spent on their recent new playground – c£30,000.
- Ditto for Lea – approximately the same.
- Current total estimated cost of Village Hall heating replacement – £10-£15K.
- Estimate how much footpaths improvement work is required – £3,000-£5,000.

Noting that a decision on the planning application seemed still a long way off after the Ecology Officer's response requesting a very large amount of additional work by the applicants, the PC would await developments.

11. Pub. The pub owners had stated their intention to re-open 'in late November' (clearly there would now be at least a short delay due to Lockdown 2), and what looked like internal refurbishment work was now taking place. There was discussion about whether to apply to register the pub as an 'Asset of Community Value', noting that if successful it would lead to the Community Right to Bid – that we would be informed about any intent to sell the pub, and that we (or another community group) would then have 6 months in which to raise funds, but that that didn't mean our bid had to be accepted. The PC decided to do so. Philip Baffour volunteered to write the first draft of the application form, to be sent to Chair and Clerk when done.

Action: Philip Baffour

12. Precept 2021/22 – 1st Look. Marion Adkins had circulated a first draft budget, having calculated RPI increases to various usual payments, which she then talked through. It showed the expected end-of-year 2020/21 available balance (ie not including committed funds) of £9200. The PC would decide the precept 2021/22 at the January meeting.

13. SID and CSW Updates. The SID had been moved to the western position and was currently in spy mode. The Chair would tell the Clerk when it was ready to be swivelled. The CSW was showing that traffic volumes were back to normal at about 250 vehicles per hour with 10% speeding. CSW would now be closed down again for Lockdown 2.

14. Planning. A very disappointing response to the enforcement complaint about the colour of the containers at the Battery ESS site at Upper Stonehill had just arrived, saying that the colour had not been included in the conditions attached to the permission and that consequently the case was closed. The PC agreed that we should write to find out how this had happened and to help Wilts Council not make the same mistake again.

Action: Clerk

Planning Applications considered since the last meeting: Homefields (new garage, ancillary accommodation, improved access, increased height of wall) – PC objected to the proposal to render the new building (also the existing out-building) walls (also recommended that Highways closely check the proposed perimeter wall height). Planning Applications decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting: Old Park Farm and Bluebells Barn, both approved. Earlier Planning Applications not yet decided: Minety Solar Farm (no objection but with conditions).

22. Councillors' observations, items for next meeting. Review of Clerk's salary.

23. Dates of Next Meetings. 5 Jan, 2 Mar, 4 May, 6 Jul, 7 Sep, 2 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.46pm.

Chairman