

**MINUTES OF CHARLTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Held on Tuesday 20 July 2021 at 7.30 pm in Charlton Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Anne Hodgkins (Chair), M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; and 8 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Parish Cllrs Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles, Hannah Piet, Philip Thompson.

2. Charlton Recreation Centre. Helen Sunderland, Chair of the Recreation Centre Committee, gave a short report. Points:

- A new and active Secretary.
- Now re-opening in line with Govt advice.
- Focus on younger generation:
  - Football coaching (now 35 children)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> refurbishment of goalposts
  - Play and Fitness equipment:
    - Phase 1 – Zip wire.
    - Phase 2 – a climbing structure.
    - Phase 3 – a MUGA.
- Good financial state after claiming on covid funds – but not over-claiming.
- Still hoping to install air-source heating – but need to increase insulation.
- More refurbishment work on Village Hall and existing play equipment.
- Cricket Club continue to maintain Recreation Centre grass – new gang-mower.
- Active Facebook page especially during covid.
- Challenges now – re-opening.
- Finished by thanking her Committee members for their work and help.

3. Minutes of Last Annual Parish Meeting. The Minutes of the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting had been available at the back of the Village Hall for members of the public to read before the meeting started; they were proposed and seconded, approved and will be signed later.

4. Chair's Report. Cllr Anne Hodgkins reported on behalf of the Parish Council.

- Covid – many local people helped, but special mention thanks to Tanya Kelly for Charlton Collective and Anne Holland acting as a bridge between the older people and the covid help.
- Our covid response illustrates the role of the PC – that the PC doesn't have to do everything – it needs to ensure the right things are being done and encourage and support things being done by others where they can be.
- PC met in early March 2020 just before covid struck. Thereafter the PC continued to meet regularly, every 2 months, by Zoom until returning to physical meetings in May 2021, and then July.
- Local Elections in May – 10 candidates for 9 seats. There are currently 4 Cllrs from the wider Parish outside the village and 5 from the village.
- 9 planning applications in 2020, another 9 already in 2021 (9 also in 2019). These have included 2 50MW solar farms – Minety Solar Farm and Five Lanes Solar Farm, in addition to the 5 50MW Battery Storage Facilities that

have been permitted around the Upper Minety Electricity Sub-Station. More on this later.

- We objected to one application, to turn a barn at the far eastern extremity of the parish, just about opposite the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Ravensroost Wood nature reserve, into a business depot for a firm that builds agricultural buildings all across southern England. After a huge volume of objections they withdrew the application. They have now re-applied to convert the barn to a house – we had concerns but have not objected.
- Further on Planning Applications – the two 50MW Energy Storage Systems just south of the Upper Stonehill electricity sub-station which had been permitted in 2017 and 2018 are built and featured on Points West and BBC News website last week. Three others are approved, and there's a current application for a new site to replace one of the permitted sites – so still total 5. From these 2, and from a 3rd when it is built, we get a Community Benefit payment of £1000 a year, which should rise to £1800 when the 3rd is built. There are of course some local concerns about what is seen by some as the 'industrialisation' of the area. Hankerton and Minety PCs are vociferous in their opposition as are many Upper Minety residents who feel they will see the solar panels. Your PC has not objected – by a majority – with Cllrs saying typically they see 'the need to support this kind of application for the climate benefits but needing to be sensitive to keeping the site well camouflaged'.
- Precept for 2021/22: continuing the policy of building a substantial reserve, the PC reduced the precept this year to £9872, a figure which took account of the tax base reduction and left householder payments unchanged.
- All PC agendas, Minutes and end-of-year accounts are published on PC website - website address published in Chat bi-monthly.
- On communication more specifically, at the start of the covid period we decided, and with the permission of the Recreation Centre Committee, to use the Village Hall Facebook page as the main communications medium. This continues. We could set up a village/parish website, with photographs, histories, stories, news on events etc – but only if we find a volunteer 'web-master'. If this could be you – please make contact.
- Best Kept Village competition – no competition in 2020 and we are awaiting the result of the 2021 judging taking place this month in the county competition for the 6 villages which won their size categories in the previous 2 years. Thanks to Jane Tsabet who leads the project.
- The defibrillator remains ready for emergency use outside the Village Hall, now a little over 2 years old. PC sets aside funds each year for replacement.
- Traffic and Speeding – the SID has been in use now for a little over a year.
- WW1 commemorative tree planting – the young trees are looking very well. They have very recently gained their name plate.
- The BT phonebox was acquired by the PC this year and the first books have appeared – in its new role as a Book Exchange. Tom Blanden is leading the project for the PC. Angela Hodgson donated all the first books. There is work to be done on re-painting and repairs which the PC will need to take decisions on about spending money.
- Brickell Legacy – Jenny Walker planted the 3rd and final tranche of bulbs in autumn 2019 but the PC has approved a further tranche this autumn, using

Chairman – signature and date

BKV prizemoney. As before Jenny is doing all the work including the physical planting – unless anyone would like to offer to help.

- Climate Change – Wilts Council will very soon publish for public consultation their first draft Climate Strategy. The PC now has a lead Cllr – Philip Baffour.
- Queen’s Platinum Jubilee next year – 4-day public holiday 2-5 June. PC open to residents’ ideas.

5. Finances. Marion Adkins handed out and explained details on a detailed summary of the 2020/21 accounts. She forecast an end-of-year balance of unallocated reserves of £11,700.

6. Traffic in Charlton. Anne Hodgkins briefed.

- Community Speed Watch:
  - highest speed recorded 64mph in April, and a 62mph this afternoon.
  - Police had now appointed an Enforcement Officer.
  - the team was working well and works best with 3 members – one on the machine, one to record, one as spotter.
  - but there was room for more volunteers.
- SID
  - Data shows some motorists slow down to get into the green zone; but not all.
  - Tom Blanden now leading on managing the SID, including moving it when needed.

7. Short Report from Wiltshire Council. Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall gave a brief report from Wiltshire Council:

- Public consultation on Climate Strategy starting in September.
- Wilts Council made changes to the first draft Local Plan after the public consultation in the spring. So it is worth making comments on these things.
- Keep me in touch with anything you find contentious. Planning ‘call-ins’ need to be made within 3 weeks
- I hope your pub re-opens soon.
- Recycling Centres no longer need booked slots.
- Malmesbury Town Council has agreed that the suspended parking bays in the High Street can be restored - once the bollards and planters can be removed.

8. Any Other Business. One point was raised:

- Lorry traffic using Tetbury Lane. Carpenters of Crudwell have been identified twice recently, including causing damage to a tree; and unidentified tipper lorries. The PC was asked to do something about it.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman – signature and date