

MINUTES OF CHARLTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7 MAY 26

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL Held on Thursday 7 May 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Tom Blanden (Chairman), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Hannah Piet, David Rawlings, Lord Suffolk, Philip Thompson; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; 9 members of the public.

1. Election of Chair. Cllr Tom Blanden was willing to stand; there were no other nominations and he was elected.
2. Apologies. Cllrs Liz Garforth-Bles, Jonathan Branton.
3. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. Festivals in Charlton Park are seeming to get closer to the village over time. The PC would ask the Farm Manager about this.
Action: Clerk
4. Declarations of Interest. Cllr Lord Suffolk – Items 15 and 18.
5. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
6. Election of Deputy Chair. David Rawlings was nominated and elected.
7. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 16 Apr 26, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed. No outstanding actions.
8. IT Policy. The draft IT policy had been circulated in advance. It was adopted.
9. Approval of 2025/26 Annual Governance Statement. The Clerk took the PC through the Annual Governance Statement, after which the PC decided that all points had been covered and that the Chairman should sign it (which he did).
10. Approval of 2025/26 Accounts. The RFO took the PC through the accounts. The Internal Audit had been successfully completed. Cllrs had no questions on the details of the accounts and the PC approved the accounts. The Accounting Statement was signed.
11. Finance. There was currently £21,781 in the account, the Precept having been received and the Community Benefit £60,000 having been invested in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund; also the Kilmorey half of the Community Fund £689.36 had arrived. The following payments were authorized, after which the balance would be £21,230:

- Payment reference 2026.5.1, £323.53, to Community First Trading Ltd for annual insurance.
- 2026.5.2, £206.34, to WALC, annual subscriptions to WALC and NALC.

The PC, being the first meeting of a new PC year, also approved the following monthly Direct Debit charges:

- Hugo Fox Ltd, monthly website hosting fee £11.99.
- Hugo Fox Ltd, monthly charge for 10 gov.uk email addresses, £20.99
- Lloyds Bank Ltd, monthly bank charges £4.25.

12. Portfolios. Allocation of portfolios for 2026/27:

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- RFO – Marion Adkins
- Rights of Way – Liz Garforth-Bles, vice Philip Thompson (with Roy Evans as the non-Cllr leader of the Footpaths Group).
- Patients Group/PCT – Janet Thompson (non-Cllr).
- Area Board – Tom Blanden
- Parish magazine link – Marion Adkins
- Traffic and Highways – Clerk
- SID – David Rawlings
- Community Speedwatch – Anne Hodgkins (non-Cllr).
- Book Exchange – Hannah Piet – confirmation decision deferred to next meeting
- Noticeboards – Philip Baffour
- Climate Strategy – Philip Baffour
- Community Emergency Contacts – Chairman, Clerk, Philip Thompson
- Emergency Plan – Tom Blanden

13. Planning Applications.

- a. PL/2026/01835 Mulberry Cottage. Change of use, double garage to ancillary residential and holiday let. No objection.
- b. PL/2026/02113 Little Lype Farm. Change of use, agricultural to campsite. No objection.
- c. PL2026/02275 Turnpike Cottage. 2-storey rear extension. No objection.
- d. PL/2023/07269 Land to East and South of Substation. Grid connection cable route. Objection. Full detail of objection recorded on the application webpage.
- e. PL/2026/02231 Land Adjacent to Coombe Cottage. Deferred, application not yet validated.

14. Parking Outside Turnpike Cottage. At the last meeting the question was raised of the danger posed when walkers on Tetbury Lane are forced off the verge and onto the road by Turnpike Cottage cars being parked on the verge. Predecessors in the house had parked cars on Park Street. Some Cllrs agreed there was danger involved. The decision was for Highways to be consulted. **Action: Clerk**

15. Application for Premises Licence – iZambesi Festival. A southern Africa culture, music and food festival, one day only with no overnight camping, music 1200-2300, alcohol 1100-2230, seeking a 4-year licence this year 15 Aug and immediately south of Charlton Park house thus the closest any festival has yet been to the village. By a narrow majority vote No Objection. **Action: Clerk**

16. APM Readout. The Clerk's APM readout was as follows:

- Attendance was disappointing, raising the question whether a Sat morning was still the right time to have it. For consideration nearer the time of next year's APM, but Cllrs could engage residents about this question if/whenever opportunity arose.
- Spending Community Benefit Funds – points from the floor:

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- Footpath improvements
 - The verge from Bisley to Noah's Ark lane – could it be levelled?
 - Footpath through the village along The Street – could it be widened?
 - Tetbury Lane (from Cllr David Rawlings) – pavement with edging on the east side as far as the stile into the Playing Field.
 - Street lighting along The Street.
 - Benches – not raised in the meeting but had been raised recently on the Hub – one (or more) between the villager centre and the pub. Noted that this could be afforded through the Needham payments.
 - 1st Aid Training (incl mental health training).
- Moving the Bus Stop – despite recent conversation on the Hub this attracted very little comment in the meeting.

No decisions needed now. Some advice to be sought from Highways. **Action: Clerk**

17. Moving the Bus-stop. The Clerk produced 2 example possibilities of where a bus-stop might be sited – not as suggestions, merely as illustrations that there were possibilities. Discussions were inconclusive except that Cllrs wanted Highways advice on those possibilities. **Action: Clerk**

18. Shindig Licence Review - Update. Brief update on 18 May Shindig Licence hearing ('Bob Vylan'). Chairman and David Rawlings would attend.

19. Planning Report. Report on Planning Applications:

- Current applications: Item 13.
- Considered by the PC since the last meeting:
 - Lype Fields Farm, variation of condition (internal layout) – No objection.
- Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting (all approved):
 - Purlieus House – erection of polytunnel.
 - Great Elm Farm, demolish existing barn, build replacement (with office etc).
 - Lype Fields Farm, rural worker's dwelling.
- Not yet decided at Wilts Council (no objection by CPC except where stated):
 - Charlton Park Estate, demolition of some existing barns, erection of 2nd car storage building.
 - Land off Pond Lane, variation of condition for BESS (layout, updated equipment). No objection but recommendation to condition the colour.
 - 7 and 10 Park Street, retrospective LBC replacement of windows.
 - Land to west of Bullocks Horn Lane, residential curtilage. No objection but recommend Permitted Development Rights now be removed.
 - Minety Solar Farm, variation of conditions. Objection to change of timings.
 - Oakley Farm, new agricultural field gate.

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

- Bow in the Cloud, application to vary existing premises licence, 6 no objections by email.

24. Dates of Next Meetings. 2 Jul, 3 Sep, 5 Nov.

The meeting closed at 9.18 pm.

Chairman