

## MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7 NOV 24

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL Held on Thursday 7 November 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Tom Blanden (Chairman), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles, Hannah Piet, David Rawlings, Lord Suffolk, Jenny Walker; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; no members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllr Philip Thompson.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. None.
3. Declarations of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Items at Chairman's Discretion. WOMAD – notice that WOMAD was to leave Charlton had arrived 2 days ago. To be taken at Item 7a. Additionally the Chairman would report on the Community Hub under Cllrs' Observations.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 5 Sep 24, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed.
6. Finance. The following payments were authorized:
  - 2024/4, £135, Countrywide Grounds Maintenance, for verge cutting 17 Oct 24.
  - 2024/5, £80, to replace chq payment 585 which would be destroyed.
  - 2024/6, £1408.44 to the Recreation Centre for insurance.
  - 2024/7, £1000, Charlton PCC, churchyard maintenance.
  - 2024/8, £14.39, to Clerk for 2-year domain renewal (paid on personal credit card).
  - 2024/9, £175, to RBL for Remembrance donation (following Item 16).

After these payments the balance would be £21,216.50.

The RFO also reported that the new on-line banking system was making payments on a single authorization; she would try to get this corrected (to 2 authorizations needed) before the next meeting; the PC accepted this. **Action: RFO**

7a. WOMAD. News had just been received that WOMAD were to leave Charlton. Lord Suffolk briefed the PC on a couple of points. The PC decided not to make any public statement.

7b. Remote Attendance – Govt Consultation. The Clerk briefed the PC on some points, including the potential need for some equipment, and therefore some cost, to enable mixed in-person and remote attendance, and the danger that proxy voting meant Predetermination. The PC decided not to submit a PC response to the consultation and acknowledged that Cllrs could respond as individuals if they wished.

8. Emergency Contact Hubs. Update on Emergency Contact Hubs. PC agreed to cost of up to £400 for the equipment without going through the list in detail. Mentioned need to store the equipment securely, also to keep such as 1<sup>st</sup> Aid kits in-date and batteries charged. Clerk suggested he would introduce the initiative in the next Chat and we would need a presentation on it at the APM 2025. **Action: Clerk**

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9. Emergency Plan. The Chairman volunteered to draft the Emergency Plan, using the Wilts Council format. First draft in time for the January meeting. **Action: Chairman**

10. .gov.uk Website/email Addresses. There is strong encouragement, though no legal requirement, for PCs to adopt a .gov.uk website address, for Clerks to operate off .gov.uk email addresses, and for Cllrs to do the same, for reasons centred on apparent professionalism and security. The PC decided that the PC website and Clerk should conform, and that it would be voluntary for Cllrs; and therefore the PC would purchase the 10-address pack from HugoFox. Cost: continuing £10 + VAT per month cost for the HugoFox website, £18 + VAT per month for the email addresses, but a £100 Govt grant in the first year. **Action: Clerk**

11. EV Charging Infrastructure. Wilts Council had received £3.88M Govt funding for on-street public charging of EVs. No-one presumed that this funding would stretch as far as Charlton in the first instance but there may be later tranches so the Clerk had responded to the survey. The survey was asking for the streets where householders were unable to charge vehicles on their own land: He had listed Pikefield Crescent (part) and Park Street (part). There was also Pike View.

12. Minor Repairs to War Memorial Wall. A resident, Sam Shelford, had made contact offering to repair the holes in the outer side of the war memorial wall for £120. The PC agreed to this. **Action: Clerk**

13. SID.

a. Repair. The PC accepted the quote of £494.82 for the repair, and also agreed to claim on the insurance. **Action: Clerk**

b. New SID. The new socket and pole on the west approach into the village were now fitted. The PC agreed the purchase of the new SID at £2700. **Action: Clerk**

14. Verge Cutting 2025. The proposal was to cut the verges for 100 metres before the white gates and 5 metres after to improve their visibility, and the south side (only) of the B4040 between the 30mph speed limit and the Noahs Ark lane, and in the months of late Apr/early May, June and late July/August (ie a bit earlier than this year). A quote had been received from Countrywide Grounds Maintenance and one had been requested from Durnford Landscapes (the latter would cut it with a tractor). A decision was deferred until January in order to see the 2<sup>nd</sup> quote. **Action: Clerk**

15. Signage at Stonehill. The PC considered whether to resurrect a proposal from some years ago from a Stonehill resident for 'village nameboards' for the Stonehill area on the B4040, in case they could reduce the speed of traffic there. The Chairman reported that an informal survey of residents had not been supportive. The PC agreed not to take action.

16. Remembrance. The PC confirmed that the Chairman should lay a wreath at the War Memorial and decided to make a donation to RBL of £175. **Action: Chairman, RFO**

17. New Arrivals Letter. Marion Adkins had not yet been able to talk to the Chat printers for their ideas, but would do so. She had delivered one letter so far. Cllrs were encouraged to report any new arrivals they knew of and even better to deliver a letter themselves. **Action: Marion Adkins, All Cllrs**

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18. Precept 2025/26 – 1<sup>st</sup> Look. The new Tax Base was not yet available. The RFO produced a summary of known costs this year to inform Cllrs thinking. Precept to be decided at the Jan 25 meeting.

19. Highways Update. The 2 LHFIG issues had been looked at in their first LHFIG: the Bridlepath CHAR 7 would be referred by LHFIG to Wilts Council Rights of Way; and locations for the horse-and-rider warning signs would be looked at. It was also mentioned that currently Charlton had sole use of the CSW equipment as Milbourne had closed their CSW, and the team were planning to operate once a week.

20. Perry Green Postbox. Following the disappearance of the post box, a new one was already in position, although still covered in black wrap so not in use yet.

21. Planning. Report on Planning Applications:

- Considered by PC since last meeting:
  - 20 Park St, single-storey rear extension. No objection.
  - Bisley House, replacement garage. No objection.
- Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:
  - Land West of Bullocks Horn Lane, permitted development, convert barn to residence. Prior approval not required.
  - Purlieus House, extensions on 3 sides. Approved.
  - Pond Lane BESS cable route Part 2 (BESS to and along B4040). Approved.
  - Minety Solar Farm variation of conditions – noise limiters. Approved.
  - 20 Park St as above. Approved.
  - Village Farmhouse, extensive external and internal work, Listed Building Consent. Approved.
- Current applications:
  - South Lodges Charlton Park, gas tanks and wall extensions (LBC).
  - Charlton Park House, 6 gas tanks.
- Not yet decided: Land North of Queen Street (new objection by WWT), Land to East and South of Minety Substation (grid connection cable). 60 Bisley, shepherd's hut (more information required by Conservation Officer). Minety Solar Farm, variation of conditions, move new SE access 7 metres and new Arboricultural Impact Statement. Pond Lane BESS cable route Part 1 (B4040 to substation)(Ecology objection, further information required).
- Appeal: Somerford Farm BESS – appeal granted (but no costs).

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

- Chairman – a PC Facebook page?
- 80th Anniversary of VE Day – VE80 – 6 May 25. Perhaps the pub would excel again.
- The Chairman outlined his Community Hub Facebook review of advertisements.
- Philip Baffour mentioned 'Passing Place' signs missing on Tetbury Lane.

23. Dates of Next Meetings. 7 Nov. 2025 – 9 Jan, 6 Mar, [8 May], 3 Jul, 4 Sep, 6 Nov.  
**Afternote:** 8 May will have to change, probably to 15 May, due to Local Govt elections on 1 May 25.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

Chairman