

## MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7 JAN 20

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL** **Held on Tuesday 7 January 2020 at 7pm in Charlton Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Anne Hodgkins (Chair), Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles, Hannah Piet, Philip Thompson, Jenny Walker, Robert Whitworth, Viscount Andover; M R Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wiltshire Cllr Toby Sturgis (Items 1-6 only); 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllr Marion Adkins.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. None.
3. Declarations of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None. But the Chair informed Cllrs of an approach by a Malmesbury resident offering Woodland Trust trees for planting; since we own no land the PC were unable to take up the offer; and the Recreation Centre had been approached separately and it was known that they were not interested either.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 5 Nov 19, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed. There were no outstanding actions. There was no news on the telephone box as the Wiltshire Council consultation had not yet ended. The Recreation Centre was happy to display the 2019 Best Kept Village plaque.
6. Wiltshire Council Update. Cllr Toby Sturgis gave a brief update.
7. Finance. In the RFO's absence it was understood that the PC was headed for an end-of-year balance of uncommitted funds of £3370 although this assumed that the SID would be bought and the Upper Stonehill ESS £1000 would be received in this financial year. There were no payments to be made.
8. Precept 2020/21 Part 1 – Background Decisions. It was confirmed that the Upper Stonehill ESS sites would pay the PC £1000 per year of the project (expected to be in the order of 30 years), uprated annually for inflation; the first payment was due now though it was not known when it would arrive. The figures in the RFO's draft budget for the year ahead were agreed including setting aside an increased figure of £800 for churchyard maintenance (though the PCC had not yet requested this). There was much discussion about the level of reserve to be held, the decision to be taken in Part 2.
9. Speed Indicator Device (SID). One volunteer had already been trained and a 2nd course vacancy was awaited. Highways had suggested that the western site for the SID should be on the north side of the road not the south and the Chair and Clerk had agreed the change. Highways were still working on utilities searches and plans. The Clerk had checked the SID prices and there had been a small reduction.
10. WW1 Trees – Replacement. The trees had not yet been replanted and needed to be before the next meeting.
11. Broadband Fibre. The Clerk reported. It was clear that provision of BT fibre direct to houses (known as Fibre to the Premises – FTTP) to the western (B4040/Park St/Tetbury Lane) and eastern (Vicarage Lane) ends of the village was good but that the centre of the village had nothing. He would try to speak to BT about this but was not optimistic that it would be possible to do so. He had met the Gigaclear Customer Engagement executive

Chairman

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for Wiltshire and confirmed that they held plans to provide fibre to all the village with a current completion date of 4<sup>th</sup> qtr 2020 (but having recently changed their sub-contractor for this area a delay was possible).

12. Councillors' Names Record Book. The current historical record book of Councillors' Declarations of Acceptance of Office, and thus the record of their names, (which covered 1907 to now although with a gap 1925-1961), would not cover the next PC election (due in 2021). Alternatives were to buy a new hard-backed, bound book at a cost of £134 plus VAT, which at the current council size and at the current replacement rate would last about 60 years, or to use a simple lined notebook. Cllrs voted to buy a bound book.

**Action: Clerk**

13. VE Day 75. The pub was keen to do something to recognise VE Day 75 (8-10 May 20) and to work with us on it. Cllrs Philip Thompson and Robert Whitworth volunteered to represent the PC and talk to the pub. **Afternote:** ideally we would need to know the details in time for the APM on 3 Mar. **Action: Philip Thompson, Robert Whitworth**

14. Precept 2020/21 Part 2 – Decision. The planned expenditure for the year would be covered by repeating the 2019/20 precept of £8500 plus the expected £1000 ESS community benefit funding. The PC then decided to increase the precept by £1500 to £10000 expressly to increase the reserves, in the knowledge that it would add £5.58 or 15.6% to the Band D charge of £35.76 (to be £41.34).

**Action: Clerk**

15. CSW Update. The November results had been typical for Charlton. Notable events had been a car recorded at 62mph and another recorded speeding 3 times on the same day. Anne Hodgkins had expressed interest in the Malmesbury Area Auto-Speedwatch trial and would attend the late-Jan Area Board to cover the subject – she would not commit Charlton resources, neither financial nor CSW team members, before reporting back to the PC. More CSW team volunteers were needed and she would raise this at the APM.

16. Defibrillator. The date for defib training had changed at the trainer's request from 8 Feb to Sat 10 Feb, 10am-12pm at the Village Hall.

17. APM. Items in addition to the standards: telephone box, CSW, VE Day 75, Recreation Centre report. The PC authorised the usual refreshments. **Action: Clerk**

18. Emergency Plan. Anne Hodgkins said that we should try again to find someone to write an Emergency Plan. This could be but wasn't confined to a Councillor. There is a Hankerton plan which would prove a help to anyone taking this on. Question left open.

19. Parish Steward Tasks. The Clerk asked for ideas for Parish Steward tasks, including in the wider parish outside the village.

20. Planning. Planning Applications considered since the last meeting: land adjacent to Upper Stonehill electricity sub-station, an electricity storage system, the 3<sup>rd</sup> at that site and 5<sup>th</sup> at the sub-station – no objection.

21. Cllrs' Observations and Items for the Next Meeting. Nil.

22. Next Meetings. 7 Jan, 3 Mar (APM and short PC), 5 May, 7 Jul, 10 Sep, 3 Nov.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Chairman