

**MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 22 JAN 26  
DRAFT**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL  
Held on Thursday 22 January 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; 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Jonathan Branton, Liz Garforth-Bles.
2. Public Questions/Points. A question was asked about additional music festivals apparently taking place in Charlton Park during July. In response it was stated that there would be a statement about these [planned events in Item 24 of the meeting. Additionally a member of the public thanked the Estate for the repairs to the wall alongside the B4040 through the bends in the dip west of the village.
3. Declarations of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
5. Last Minutes. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 2 Dec 25, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed.
6. Finance. The account stood at £20,369. Following agreement in Item 12 the following payment was approved:
  - 2026.1.1, £234.42, to the Clerk for Clerk's IT equipment (30% of the cost of a replacement computer and printer, and a flash drive that would belong to the PC.
  - 2026.1.2, £30, to the Chairman for the bus shelter noticeboard (Item 14 refers).
7. Planning Application – PL/2025/09912 – Minety Solar Farm. The PC decided to object to the attempt to change the delivery times from starting at 10am to starting at 8am. **Action: Clerk**
8. Planning Application – PL/2025/09895 – Land West of Bullocks Horn Lane. The PC decided to not object but to request Wiltshire Council to remove the remaining Permitted Development rights following permission being granted. **Action: Clerk**
9. Solar Farm Community Benefit. With the Solar Farm £60,000 Community Benefit payment being imminent, the PC considered the question of how to invest the money and decided on the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund. **Action: RFO**  
Regarding starting thinking about how to spend the money, the PC decided a) to discuss it more fully at the next meeting and b) to aim to get residents' first views at the APM.  
**Action: Clerk**
10. Gem Festival – Result and Reasons. Wilts Council had approved Gem Festival's premises licence application but changed the Fri/Sat end time for music and alcohol from 2am to 1am. The reasons had been published and had been circulated to all Cllrs. The PC decided not to appeal the decision, and to invite Gem Festival to present their plans to the APM. **Action: Clerk**
11. Precept Part 1 – Baseline. The Tax Base had increased marginally, by 0.42% to 244.61, so that an unchanged precept of £9888 would result in a 17p reduction in the Band D charge or an unchanged Band D charge would increase the precept by £40.72 to

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£9928.72. The forecast reserve at the end of the coming year 2026/27 was about £14,000. The PC decided that about £14,000 was acceptable as a reserve.

12. Clerk's Printer Replacement. The PC had agreed in the November meeting to pay 1/3rd of the cost of the Clerk's replacement computer and to buy a flash card so the PC files could be kept safely; since then the Clerk's printer had died. The PC now agreed to pay 1/3rd of the cost of the new printer too. (This is reflected in Item 6.)

13. Emergency Plan. The Chairman put forward an idea about the PC buying annual 1<sup>st</sup> Aid training for volunteer residents and asked Cllrs to be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.

14. Noticeboards. The Chairman led the item. He had bought the new noticeboard for the bus shelter, for £30. The PC agreed to reimburse him (from the £400 earmarked for Emergency Plan spending) though mention was made that all purchases should be cleared in advance in future. Philip Baffour was to obtain costs for repair of the main village noticeboard for the next meeting. In future PC minutes would be posted to the bus shelter noticeboard and not to the Park Street noticeboard. **Action: Philip Baffour**

15. Pub ACV Renewal. The Asset of Community Value designation of the pub was due to end on 10 Jun 26. The PC agreed to re-apply for a new registration.

**Action: Clerk**

16. Any Other Spending Plans. The PC agreed to continue cutting the verges as last year. There were no other spending ideas. **Action: Clerk**

17. Precept Part 2 – Decision. Taking account of all the other discussions and agreements, the PC decided that the precept for 2026/27 should be £11,000. This would result in a Band D charge of £44.97, an increase of £4.38 or 10.79%.

18. Moving the Main Bus-stop. This was a preliminary discussion about whether to take the idea further. The PC decided to open it to residents for their views at the APM.

19. Best Kept Village Competition. After discussion the PC decided to again enter the competition. The Chairman reported that Cllr Jonathan Branton had offered to run a clean-up which was accepted. **Action: Jonathan Branton**

20. Annual Parish Meeting. The PC decided to hold the APM on Sat 25 Apr in the morning, with tea/coffee and biscuits at the start. The following would all be covered:

- Solar Farm transport plan, by the developers, RWE.
- Gem Festival plans, by Gem Festival.
- Ideas for how to spend the Community Benefit funding.
- Moving the Bus-stop

21. WALC Environmental Network. A notice about this had been circulated by email to all Cllrs. Tgye PC decision was not to take part.

22. Planning. Report on Planning Applications:

- Current applications: Items 7 and 8.
- Considered by the PC since the last meeting:
  - Purlieus House, erection of polytunnel. No objection.
- Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:

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- Turnpike Cottage, 2-storey rear extension, space for 2 cars. **Refused.**
- Not yet decided at Wilts Council:
  - Land to East and South of Minety Substation (grid connection cable);
  - Lype Fields Farm rural workers dwelling.
  - Little Lype Farm, change of use, existing yard to B8 storage of caravans and existing agri building to commercial units B2/B8.
  - Little Lype Farm, change of use of 2 buildings to commercial storage (B2 and B8).
  - Charlton Park Estate – demolition of some existing barns, erection of 2nd car storage building.
  - Land off Pond Lane – variation of condition for BESS.
  - 7 and 10 Park St, retrospective LBC replacement of windows.

24. Councillors' observations and items for the next meeting.

- Pikefield Crescent sign – getting in the way?
- Lord Suffolk mentioned some additional music festivals in Charlton Park:
  - 24, 25, 26 Jul – 3 one-day festivals, music stopping at 10pm, about 2000 people.
  - 15 Aug, Zambesi Festival, to midnight, about 5000 people.
  - It was assumed that all these would need to apply for premises licences.

25. Dates of Next Meetings. 5 Mar, 7 May, 2 Jul, 3 Sep, 5 Nov.

The meeting closed at 9.23 pm.