

MINUTES OF CHARLTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 18 MAY 21

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Anne Hodgkins (Chair), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Tom Blanden, Liz Garforth-Bles, Philip Thompson, Viscount Andover, Jenny Walker; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall for part of the meeting; no members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllr Hannah Piet.
2. Election of Chair. Other Cllrs swiftly nominated Anne Hodgkins, she indicated her willingness to stand again; there were no other nominations and she was elected unanimously.
3. Election of Deputy Chair. Marion Adkins was nominated, indicated her willingness to stand again; there were no other nominations and she was elected unanimously.
4. Declarations of Interest. None.
5. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
6. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. None.
7. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 2 Mar 21, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed. The Clerk gave a brief update on some actions completed: pub – Asset of Community Value (ACV) documentation sent to Wilts Council; Best Kept Village – Jane Tsabet had again agreed to lead the effort and had submitted a note about a prep morning (26 Jun) to the Chat; Charlton Bridge – issue submitted to CATG; Annual Parish Meeting – date of 13 Jul will be published in the Chat. There were no outstanding actions.
8. Exemption from External Audit. In accordance with Sect 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, the PC declared that the PC was exempt external audit, since both gross annual income and expenditure are below £25,000.
9. Approval of 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement had been sent out in advance. The PC now decided that all points had been covered and that the Chairman should sign it (which she did).
10. Approval of 2020/21 Accounts. Marion Adkins as RFO had sent out the 2020/21 accounts and the Accounting Statements in advance of the meeting, urging Cllrs to note the contents. Robert Garforth Bles had conducted the Internal Audit. 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 £11609.79 in the account at the end of the year. The following payments were authorized:
 - cheque number 509, £185.80, WALC membership.
 - 510, £264.71 to Community First – insurance.
 - 511, £8.32, to the Clerk for the Duke of Edinburgh photographs and black card.
 - 512, £16.79, to the Clerk for Land Registry costs associated with the pub ACV.

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12. Portfolios.

- RFO – Marion Adkins
- Recreation Centre – Jenny Walker
- Rights of Way – Liz Garforth-Bles
- Community Speedwatch – Anne Hodgkins
- Patients Group/PCT – Jenny Walker
- Area Board – Hannah Piet
- Parish magazine – Marion Adkins
- Neighbourhood Watch – Marion Adkins
- Traffic and Highways – Clerk
- Noticeboards – Philip Baffour
- Uploading PC messages to the Village Hall Facebook page – Hannah Piet
- Covid 19 (PC aspects only) – Hannah Piet

Also from later items in the agenda:

- SID – Tom Blanden
- Telephone box – Tom Blanden
- Climate Strategy – Philip Baffour

Items 13 and 14 recorded below were actually taken in reverse order.

13. Five Lanes Solar. As at the start of the meeting, 4 Cllrs had expressed their views by email – 2 with no objection but some comments and suggestions for conditions, and 2 with objections and their reasons. After discussion, Cllrs voted by a majority for ‘no objection’ with conditions. In discussion on Community Benefit, Cllrs agreed that we should reject the applicants’ apparent notion that the funding be handed out to projects identified now, but rather that the funding should be able to be used throughout the life of the project; and if the applicants insisted on paying the funds as a one-off, that we should ask for our share in advance, and then invest it for use as and when suitable projects needed support.

14. Minety Solar Farm. There was a very brief update on the ‘Open Letter’ (nothing significant to report) and agreement, on Community Benefit, that we should continue to leave it with the Hankerton Cllr currently running with the combined approach to the applicants.

15. Battery Storage Facility Complaint. Cllrs noted with disappointment that no response to the PC’s letter (sent on 22 Jan 21) had yet been received from Wiltshire Council. Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall said that she had talked to someone in Planning who was still working on it. The PC tasked the Clerk with writing a follow-up letter to Wilts Council.

Action: Clerk

16. New Battery Storage Facility Application. There was brief discussion. Cllrs would consider their own views and respond by email in the normal way.

Action: All Cllrs

17. Phone Box. Tom Blanden agreed too be the lead Cllr on converting the phone box to a book exchange. The PC asked him to produce a costed proposal at the next meeting.

Action: Tom Blanden

18. SID. The Chair had produced a report on the SID trial and a proposed operating Policy. After discussion Cllrs agreed that the rotation should be ‘3 weeks on, swivel and 3

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weeks on, move and 3 weeks on, swivel and 3 weeks on, then move and start again'. Tom Blanden volunteered to be the lead Cllr. The Clerk would liaise with him.

19. CSW. The Chair gave a brief update.

20. Wilts Council Climate Strategy. Philip Baffour volunteered to be lead Cllr for Climate. The Clerk would attend Wilts Council's Engagement Meeting and report back.

21. Planning. Applications considered since the last meeting: Shortlands 47 Moor Lane double car-port and garden shed; Village Hall air-source heat pump; Littledean demolish and replace existing 2-storey rear extension also new single-storey lean-to side extension; Charlton Park 'Christmas Tree Shed' 3rd powerline; all no objection. (Littledean – comment about solar panels on flat roof, householder said that was an error in the application papers.) Applications decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting: Littledean; approved. Withdrawn: Land at Braydon change of use agricultural to commercial. Earlier Planning Applications not yet decided: Minety Solar Farm; 3 Suffolk Close. Report of current Planning Applications: Five Lanes Solar Farm, Battery Storage Facility Purlieus Farm

22. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting. The Clerk mentioned a few subjects that were coming up:

- Local Authority remote meetings – call for evidence. He would send an email.
- Local Government Association Model Cllr Code of Conduct 2020 – next meeting.
- Review of FORTH BRIDGE – next meeting.
- Neighbourhood Planning Participation Survey. He would send an email.
- 'Queen's Green Canopy' – tree-planting for the Platinum Jubilee 2022.

For the next meeting – Brickell bulbs, any replacement after Gigaclear work?

23. Dates of Next Meetings. 6 Jul, 7 Sep, 2 Nov.

The meeting closed at about 9.30pm.