

## MINUTES OF CHARLTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 10 MAY 22

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Held on Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Marion Adkins (Chair, Item 1), Tom Blanden (Chairman, from Item 2), Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles, Hannah Piet, 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. Election of Chair. Cllr Tom Blanden was nominated and seconded, and indicated his willingness to stand; there were no other nominations and he was elected unanimously. He signed his Acceptance of Office, after which his first action was to pay tribute to his predecessor, Anne Hodgkins, who had stood down as a Cllr as well as being the outgoing Chair, for her contribution to the community both on the Parish Council and in other spheres, such as on the Recreation Centre Committee.
2. Apologies. None
3. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. None.
4. Declarations of Interest. None.
5. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
6. Election of Deputy Chair. Marion Adkins was nominated and indicated her willingness to stand again; there were no other nominations; she was elected unanimously.
7. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meetings of 1 Mar 22 and of 7 Apr 22, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed. 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 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement. Marion Adkins as RFO 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 2021/22 Accounts. The RFO took the PC through the accounts. 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 currently £23,765 in the account, the Precept having been received. The following payments were authorized:
  - cheque number 533, £38.55, Tom Blanden for the APM advertising banner.
  - 534, £191.40, to WALC for annual membership.
12. Portfolios.
  - RFO – Marion Adkins
  - Recreation Centre – Jenny Walker
  - Rights of Way – Liz Garforth-Bles

Chairman

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- Patients Group/PCT – Jenny Walker
- Area Board – Hannah Piet
- Parish magazine link – Marion Adkins
- Neighbourhood Watch – Marion Adkins
- Traffic and Highways – Clerk
- SID – Tom Blanden
- Community Speedwatch – Anne Hodgkins had offered to continue to lead the CSW team; she would report to the PC whenever she or the PC deemed it necessary.
- Book Exchange – Tom Blanden
- Noticeboards – Philip Baffour
- Covid 19 (PC aspects only) – Hannah Piet
- Climate Strategy – Philip Baffour

13. Community Governance Review. This item had been included in case there was any news to report. There was none, apart from a short update on the public meeting in Malmesbury Town Hall in which there had been more opposition than support expressed.

14. Minety Solar Farm Community Benefit. A brief update was given: the applicants had, shortly before the application was approved, offered £180K, final offer, no uprating for inflation. They had acknowledged that it was less than was being offered by some solar farm applicants but around the country there were plenty offering less, or none. They intended to hold the money and release funds on request for specific projects; they would not be difficult but just wanted to ensure that it would be used for genuine community benefit projects. It was currently assumed by the 3 PCs that the money would be shared equally. The applicants had given ground on holding all the money centrally and said they could consider paying a lump sum for a PC to hold and invest to maintain value over time.

15. Battery Storage Facility Planning Applications. The Clerk gave an update on the on-line meeting with Pelagic/Axis. After discussion on the planning application PL/2022/02824 Somerford Farm, the PC agreed to object on the same grounds as had been expressed for the Pond Lane application by the same applicants. **Action: Clerk**

16. Footpaths – East from Pub and West from the Village. This item had been prompted by an appeal by a resident with a wheelchair-bound relative for widening of the footpath from the pub to Vicarage Lane. In discussion the following points were made

- At the recent coffee morning support had been expressed for this idea, by 3 ladies who enjoyed the northern walking circuit including this stretch.
- Improving the circular walk would be a clear benefit to the village.
- Could a reduced scale of work, such as kerbing only, be successful?
- A reduced scale of work could also help on the west-of-village verge where there was no footpath.

The decisions were:

- The priority for action was the pub-to-Vicarage Lane footpath.
- We should attempt self-help first – asking the pub to cut the hedge back, and tasking the Parish Steward to dig back the grassed bank between the footpath and the road to investigate and expose the full width of tarmac.
- Report back to the July meeting.
- Also start self-help grass-cutting on verge from Pikefield Crescent to Bisley.

**Action: Clerk, Chairman, Philip Thompson**

Chairman

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17. Improving Community Communications. Discussion was based on a summary paper by Anne Hodgkins. Decisions were:

- Chat – continue as now, but consider moving PC Notes to page 1 – to be discussed with Editor and PCC. Perhaps just as a trial during the incumbent vacancy. **Action: Marion Adkins**
- Facebook (f/b) – cease uploading PC information to the Village Hall f/b page, use Charlton Hub f/b page to the full for PC information. No to a PC f/b page – that would risk too many different f/b pages.
- Website – no change to current PC-only website.
- Email list – there had only ever been 9 names on the list, and after a post-APM check only 4 had confirmed continuing interest. The PC agreed it could be ended.

18. Book Exchange. Tom Blanden reported. The carpenter whose quote the PC had accepted last meeting had been impossible to contact, not returning calls. He would now seek up to 3 more quotes. Repainting should wait until after the door repair.

**Action: Tom Blanden**

19. Platinum Jubilee. Hannah Piet gave an update – the tea would now be buffet-style so the capacity had increased to 120. The organizers had confirmed their request for a £500 contribution from the PC (the Recreation Centre would contribute £100). The £75 grant expected from Wilts Council would be offered to the organizers specifically for some ‘fizz’ which apparently was no longer included in the plans.

**Action: Hannah Piet**

20. Replacement Tree on The Street. Permission had been received from Highways to plant a replacement tree on the verge on The Street. Of course it was now the wrong time to plant it, so it should be planted in the coming autumn and would still qualify under the Platinum Jubilee/Queen’s Green Canopy. The Clerk had the tree. **Action: Clerk**

21. CSW. Anne Hodgkins had sent an email update which was summarised. The team have the device this month and plan 8 one-hour sessions.

22. BKV. Judging was due in the period 16 May – 17 June. Tom Blanden said he would run a clean-up on Sat 14 May, for all who could be encouraged to turn up (RV on the Pikefield grass at 10am). Clerk would obtain litterpickers.

23. Planning. Applications considered since the last meeting: Land off Pond Lane – Battery Storage Facility – objection. Oakley Farm – new garage and re-defined domestic curtilage; Arzuaga Stonehill – 2-storey and single-storey rear extension and double garage; Mayday Cottage Garsdon – single-storey rear/side extension; Braydon Pond Lodge – demolish existing and rebuild; last 4 all no objection. Applications decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting: Beechwood House agricultural access, Arzuaga Stonehill, Minety Solar Farm; all approved. Land at Braydon convert barn to dwelling – refused. Earlier Planning Applications not yet decided: Five Lanes Solar Farm, Charlton Park Greenhouses, Land South of B4040, Land on Bullocks Horn Lane, Village Farmhouse. Current Planning Applications: Battery Storage Facility Somerford Farm.

22. Councillors’ Observations/Points for the Next Meeting. The Clerk mentioned 2 subjects:

- He had shown the War Memorial garden gate and the B4040/Moor Lane junction wooden road sign (destroyed by the fallen tree) to a local craftsman and awaited a quote.
- The lower bus shelter had a serious crack in the wall – he would ask a builder for advice and obtain repair quotes.

Chairman

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23. Dates of Next Meetings. 5 Jul, 6 Sep, 1 Nov.

The meeting closed at 9.22pm.

Chairman