

MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 5 JUL 22

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL Held on Tuesday 5 July 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Tom Blanden (Chair), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Hannah Piet, Philip Thompson, Jenny Walker; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllr Liz Garforth-Bles, Lord Andover.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. A brief factual question about Minety Solar Farm.
3. Declarations of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. A late question had arrived about the Ravensroost Road Battery Site; this would be taken under Item 14.
5. Cllr Vacancy. Christian Olejnik was co-opted unanimously onto the PC; he signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place at the table directly.
6. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the 10 May 22 PC meeting were approved. The action to consult with the Editor of the Parish Chat was outstanding.
7. Finance. The account stood at £23,610.45. The following payments were authorized:
 - Chq 533, £38.55, Tom Blanden, replacement batteries for SID.
 - 534, £191.40, WALC, annual subscription 2022/23.
 - 535 – £281.50, Community First Trading Ltd, insurance. This was after a decision by the PC to adopt the 3-year Long Term Plan for the insurance payments.
 - 536 –£56, Clerk, 50% of the SLCC subscription.
 - 537 – £20, Hankerton PCC, hire of North Aisle on 7 Apr 22.
 - 538, £11.75, Marion Adkins, APM 2022 refreshments.
 - 539, £75, Charlton Recreation Centre, Area Board grant to Jubilee Teaparty.
 - 540, £457.21, Charlton Recreation Centre, Jubilee Teaparty costs.

With all payments made the balance would be £22,708.99

The China Huaneng Ltd payment had not yet arrived (had been received in July last year).

8. Solar Farm Community Benefit Deed of Gift. The draft Deed of Gift had been received from JBM Solar and the question for the PC was whether legal advice was needed. A resident with a legal background had been asked for his advice, and initially this had been that legal advice should be sought, likely costing £1000 plus VAT. After the Clerk had explained the situation fully this advice had softened. Hankerton PC, who had received the same draft document, would seek unofficial and free legal advice from a Cllr's friend, after which it had already been arranged that the Clerk would compare notes and report back to their September PC meeting. The PC agreed this course of action would apply to Charlton also.

Action: Clerk

Chairman

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9. Risk Register Review. The Risk Register was reviewed. One change made during the past year had been the addition of the telephone box. No other needed changes were identified and the Register was approved.

10. Bus Shelter Damage. A Loss Adjuster sent by the insurers had recommended to us to get a Structural Engineer 'to confirm the cause of the cracking, and to determine the best course of action to remedy the situation', in a written report. The Clerk had contacted 5 Structural Engineers for quotes; these varied between £600 and £340 (both plus VAT, which was reclaimable). There was a risk we would turn out to be under-insured. It seemed likely, from preliminary comments, that advice might well be to demolish the shelter before rebuilding it, and it might be that the PC would need to decide, in a future meeting, whether it was worth rebuilding the shelter, given the amount of use it gets. The PC decided to go with the £600 quote (BTA Structural Design Ltd), based on confidence in the expected quality of the work, and by a local firm. **Action: Clerk**

11. Footpath Pub to Vicarage Lane. The Chairman updated the PC on work that had been carried out so far. An email was awaited from Highways who had visited to be briefed on the project and had been asked whether they could offer any help. In discussion on progressing the work later in the year when the hedge was fully cut back (the pub and the Estate have agreed to do so), the need to treat any soil removed correctly was stressed.

12. Walking Route West of Village. The Chairman updated the PC on work carried out so far. He proposed a survey (limited to village residents, not the wider parish residents who would not be expected to walk this way) asking questions about whether people would walk that way if it was made walkable; he had already cleared with the Chat distribution coordinator about including a leaflet. The PC approved the idea of a survey including costs in principle although there was no decision on the form of words nor on the level of any cost. The survey should be mentioned in the Chat so that wider parish residents, who would not receive the survey, could take part if they wished. There was also discussion, without conclusion, about speed limits on the road in that area. **Action: Chairman**

13. Community Governance Review. The Chairman had attended a Wilts Council meeting today. He had been told that Charlton would not be affected by the revised Malmesbury Town proposals, and the issue could now be considered to be closed.

14. Battery Storage Planning Applications. There was little to update on – there were no 'killers' among the Wilts Council internal consultee responses so far, and the answer to the question of the Agricultural Land Classification had not yet been recorded on the webpages. On a separate subject, the applicant developers of a battery site off Ravensroost Road, one km outside the parish boundary, had written offering full consultation. The PC decided not to take up this offer.

15. Book Exchange. The Chairman presented details of 3 quotes that had been received for the door repair. The PC decided to go with the Hardiman quote (£250). Additionally the PC agreed to pay for materials (up to £220) for the Chairman to repaint the Book Exchange completely, himself, once the door repair was complete.

16. Best Kept Village – Next Stage. The village had won the North Wilts Small Village category (by one point from the only other entrant, Hankerton) and was now in the County round (the final). Cllrs thanked the Chairman for all the work he had put into further tidying-up of the village in preparation. In his turn the Chairman thanked those residents who had

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also helped. Judging was due in the period 1-31 July and it was vital that everyone was alert to picking up any litter seen.

17. Platinum Jubilee. Hannah Piet reported – the Jubilee had been well attended and a great success. Credit was due to Jane Tsabet, the Recreation Centre organiser.

18. CSW and SID. The Chairman reported briefly, including from Anne Hodgkins' written CSW report.

19. PC Meeting Regular Day. The PC agreed to change the regular day to a Thursday.

20. Planning. Report on Planning Applications:

- **Considered by the PC since the last meeting:**
 - Land at Somerford Farm, Battery Storage. Objection.
- **Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:**
 - Oakley Farm (now called Pig Tale Barn), new garage/re-defined curtilage, permitted.
 - Land on Bullocks Horn Lane, beef cattle building, refused.
 - Land South of B4040, beef cattle barns, refused.
- **Not yet decided:** Five Lanes Solar Farm, Charlton Park Greenhouses, Village Farmhouse, Land off Pond Lane, Braydon Pond Lodge.
- **Current Planning Applications:**
 - The Gables, Tetbury Lane – single-storey porch extension, outbuilding to form garage and summerhouse. Deadline 12 July.
 - 27 Park Street (just arrived, not yet circulated) - single storey extension, new gable roof extension to the rear, to also include new and replacement windows, and new rooflights. Deadline 2 Aug.

The Clerk also reported that the Planning button on the website was now only available to paid-for websites by our provider (ours is a free website) so he had removed the button and would replace it with a table of current planning applications, soon.

21. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting. None.

18. Dates of Next Meetings. 8 Sep, 3 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.53pm.

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Chairman