

## MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 6 OCT 22

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL** **Held on Thursday 6 October 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Tom Blanden (Chair), Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles, Christian Olejnik, Philip Thompson, Jenny Walker; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); 3 members of the public.

The Chairman recalled the recent deaths of Queen Elizabeth, Lord Suffolk and Angela Hodgson a recent past Cllr, and Cllrs stood for a moment's silence to remember them.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Marion Adkins, Hannah Piet, Lord Suffolk. Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall.
  2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. A member of the public complained about the state of the road surface of the B4040 between the village and Cricklade. The Clerk would email to our local Highways Engineer about it. **Action: Clerk**
  3. Declarations of Interest. None.
  4. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
  5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the 5 Jul 22 PC meeting were approved.
  6. Finance. The account stood at £22,941.99. The Community Benefit payment from China Huaneng HK Ltd had arrived, at £518. The following payments were authorized:
    - Direct Debit, £35, Information Commissioner's Office, compulsory payment.
    - Chq 542, £250, Mark Hardiman, repairs to Book Exchange door.
    - 543, £70, Charlton Recreation Centre, Platinum Jubilee photograph.
    - 544, £420, BTA Structural Design Ltd, survey of the damaged bus shelter.
    - 545, £28.50, Robert Free, excavation of hole for inspection of bus shelter foundations.
    - 546, £28.78, Clerk, reimbursement of fee for 2-yearly renewal of website domain name (card payment required).
    - 547, £1276.16, Charlton Recreation Centre, 2022/23 insurance premium.
- With all payments made the balance would be £21,118.55.
7. Solar Farm Community Benefit Deed of Gift. The PC agreed that the Clerk could seek minor amendments to the draft Deed of Gift received from JBM Solar and then sign the document. **Action: Clerk**
  8. Footpaths and Walking Routes.
    - a. Footpath Pub to Vicarage Lane. The work was virtually complete (the Estate would cut back their hedge during the winter) and the path was very much wider than it had been. A note of thanks had been received from the resident who had originally raised the problem.
    - b. Walking Route West of Village. The PC would continue with self-help (and with Parish Steward assistance) in the coming year to keep the verge walkable. The PC would also submit a LHFID bid for piping of the ditch where the walkable part of the verge gets narrow alongside the ditch.

Chairman

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- c. Speed Limit on B4040 West of Village. An appeal had been received by the PC from a Lea resident whose daughter regularly used the Noah's Ark/B4040 junction for the PC to consider the unsafe nature of the junction. Additionally there was a clear link to improving the walkability of that stretch of the B4040. The PC decided to attempt to get the 30mph speed limit extended at least to cover the junction (if not further around the bends). This would need an LHFIG bid, with this one having priority over the ditch-piping. **Action: Clerk**
9. Allotments and Community Composting. Philip Baffour was leading on this. He said he and 2 others wanted an allotment. The Clerk explained the legal position: the PC had a duty to provide allotments if they judged that there was a demand – so this translated as a power to provide them if the PC wanted to do so; but in defining the term 'demand', it appeared that 6 residents requesting them was necessary to make a strong case (Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908). But even then nothing could be done unless the land could be found. The PC wanted a notice about it in the next Chat. It remained with Philip Baffour to lead on the subject. On Community Composting, the Chairman said that the Recreation Centre did not want their grass-cuttings pile to become a community compost heap. **Action: Philip Baffour**
10. Planning – PL/2022/05504 – Land at Stonehill, BESS Site. Cllrs discussed this planning application. The majority decision was to object on the linked grounds of proliferation and safety. Additionally the PC decided, for the next battery storage or solar farm application, to ask the applicants or agents to come to a PC meeting to explain their application and answer questions about it. **Action: Clerk**
11. Warm Spaces in the Community. The Chairman lead a discussion. The main themes were Food, Clothing (a Community Wardrobe, mainly for children and mainly for school clothes), a Community Lunch Club, and the possibility of working with other PCs. The difficulty posed by the Village Hall bookings was acknowledged. He would continue to research it and asked Cllrs to give it some thought for the next meeting. **Action: Chairman**
12. Road Safety in the Village. This item was driven by the recent (Sat 1 Oct) latest incident of a speeding car going straight ahead into the garden wall of Numbers 28, 29 and 30 Park Street at night (in this case it was 30 Park Street that was hit). One of the residents of those houses had written appealing to the PC to consider action; he had also highlighted other cases of bad driving in the centre of the village. The Clerk summarised the themes as: 1) cars going straight ahead at high speed into the garden walls of 28-30 Park Street, which seemed to happen about every 2 years and was always at night; 2) simple bad daytime driving (and excessive speed) at the junction B4040/Park Street/Tetbury Lane, manifesting in various ways; and 3) the danger of children crossing the B4040 at the end of the footpath immediately opposite the bus-stop to catch or leave the school bus. On the first 2, the PC wanted an LHFIG bid for Wilts Highways to task a formal review by their contractors of the whole issue at the junction including the design; but first, a public meeting with Wilts Council highways policy representation to hear the problems and answer questions. And on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the PC approved that an LHFIG bid to Wiltshire Council be submitted to remove the dropped kerb and the last few metres of the paved footpath on the north side; but also that the PC should take instant action to fence off the crossing at that point – but subject to consulting parents of those children first. **Action: Clerk**

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13. Defibrillator Renewal of Contract. The 4-yearly defibrillator 'hire' contract was due for renewal in February 2023. The cost was unchanged from 4 years ago (at £1800 plus VAT). The PC agreed to renew the contract. **Action: Clerk**

14. Bus Shelter Damage. The surveyor had inspected the damage and suggested 4 options, with all options needing considerable cutting back of the vegetation at the back of the shelter and maintaining in that condition: 1) simple masonry repairs, unlikely to be a long-term solution; 2) traditional underpinning to 2 metres depth, likely to be more expensive than re-building; 3) rebuilding on a new foundation; and 4) an additional reinforced concrete slab above the existing with pockets cut through the wall to support the wall – a cheaper long-term solution though it will reduce the internal height by 6-7 inches. Insurers believed this would be fully covered by the insurance. Insurers recommended Option 4 and have requested a cost estimate. The PC agreed this course. **Action: Clerk**

15. Book Exchange. The Chairman said that he would resume work on the bus shelter soon.

16. Remembrance. The PC agreed that the Chairman should lay a wreath at the war memorial as usual on Remembrance Sunday, and to contribute £150 to the Poppy Fund.

17. CSW and SID. The Chairman summarised a written report by Anne Hodgkins on CSW and reported on SID.

18. Planning. Report on Planning Applications:

- **Considered by the PC since the last meeting:**
  - The Gables Tetbury Lane, single-storey porch extension, garage/summerhouse. No objection.
  - 27 Park Street, single-storey rear extension, gable roof extension. No objection.
  - 27 Park Street, revised reduced plans. No objection.
  - Yew Tree Cottage, replacement conservatory roof. No objection.
- **Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:**
  - Braydon Pond Lodge, demolish existing and rebuild. Refused.
  - Village Farmhouse. Approved.
  - The Gables Tetbury Lane. Approved.
  - Charlton Park Greenhouses, demolition (and re-use elsewhere)(LBC). Approved.
  - 27 Park Street. Approved.
  - Yew Tree Cottage. Refused. Inappropriate material (UPVC).
- **Not yet decided:** Five Lanes Solar Farm, Land off Pond Lane, Land at Somerford Farm.
- **Current Planning Applications:**
  - Land at Stonehill, BESS (Item 10).
  - Braydon Pond Lodge, demolish existing and rebuild, resubmission.
  - Land at Braydon, conversion of a barn to a dwelling, resubmission.

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

20. Dates of Next Meetings. 3 Nov. Agreed for 2023: 5 Jan, 2 Mar, 1 Apr (APM, in the morning), 4 May, 6 Jul, 7 Sep, 2 Nov.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chairman