

MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7 MAR 24

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Thursday 7 March 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Tom Blanden (Chairman), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles, Hannah Piet, David Rawlings, Philip Thompson, Jenny Walker; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllr Lord Suffolk.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. None.
3. Declarations of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Items at Chairman's Discretion. None.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 4 Jan 24, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed. No outstanding actions.
6. Finance. Currently £25,458 in the account. The following payments were authorized:

- cheque 574, Audio Visual Direct Ltd, 50% deposit for Village Hall hearing loop, £718.20.
- 575, Clerk, salary for the year 2023/24, £2071.68.
- 576, HMRC, Clerk's PAYE, £1381.12.
- 577, Audio Visual Direct Ltd, the outstanding 50% of the Village Hall hearing loop, £718.20 – but the RFO would not hand it over until satisfactory completion.

After these payments the balance, and the expected year-end balance, would be £21,287.

10. Footpaths. This item was taken early. Roy Evans gave a short brief on his Report. He had no expenses to reclaim. The future of the booklet was discussed. At 84 MB it was too large to go on the PC website. The copy cost wasn't available in the meeting. The PC decided to get 3 quotes for printing 100 copies, then to ask the APM for views about selling the copies and finally to bring it back to the May PC meeting.

Action: Roy Evans

7. Parish Chat. The PC agreed that the Parish Chat parish magazine should be stored on the PC website, starting with the current issue.

Action: Clerk

8. New Arrivals Letter. The idea was to issue new arrivals into the parish a welcoming document that told them a little about the parish. This was generally welcomed as a good idea, but there was a practical problem – how would we know about new arrivals? It was illegal to take that information from the electoral roll monthly updates; also non-EU foreign citizens don't get a vote in England so would not be identified in this way, and not all new arrivals are prompt with their registration to vote. After discussion the decision was to insert a permanent page into the Chat magazine with the welcome and other information included. But this needed to be negotiated with the Editor and with the PCC (as part-funder of the Chat). Marion Adkins offered to speak to both, and the issue should come back to the May PC meeting.

Action: Marion Adkins

9. Highways Matters.

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- a. Wilts Council Proposals. The signs had been replaced but the road markings had not yet been done – no doubt because of the generally wet weather. There was a questionmark over the positioning of the Cricklade directional sign on the half-moon of grass opposite the bus shelter; the Clerk proposed to raise it informally with the Wilts Council Principal Traffic Engineer on the Malmesbury LHFIFG when he next visited. **Action: Clerk**
- b. Additional Measures. The LHFIFG proposal had been noted and a site visit would follow.
- c. 2nd SID. The Clerk had still not yet placed the order for the 2nd SID, waiting until there was certainty about the socket and pole.
- d. Recent complaints - Update. Our Local Highways Engineer had visited recently and had been shown the problem areas of the broken road surface on Bullocks Horn Lane – Highways had visited to fill some of the holes, but it was still very broken, as described by a Bullocks Horn Lane resident attending the meeting – as was Pink Lane at Elm Hill. She (the Engineer) hoped that work could be programmed sometime in the future but it was all a question of priorities. She had told the householder that the large puddle outside Conigre House was not a Highways problem.
- e. Gulley Tanker Visit. There was a county-wide programme of gulley tanker visits, which would be in the Malmesbury area in early April. The Clerk had already submitted 2 areas for the programme, and if Cllrs knew of any blocked road gulleys he could add them also.
- f. SID Update. There had been problems through the winter due to the lack of daylight but it was thought that it was now working well again. The system for uploading the information to the police was also working well. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the CSW volunteers for their work.
10. (Item taken early, after Item 6.)
11. Great Western Community Forest. The Chairman mentioned this subject and, bearing in mind that the PC owns no land, he asked Cllrs to get in touch if they knew of any landowner who would join in, or if they had any other ideas. All tree saplings obtained under this scheme were free, with a minimum order of 25 trees.
12. D Day 80. It was understood (from the Recreation Centre Chairman) that the Horse and Groom intended to lead on some D Day 80 activities – notably a Lamp of Peace to be lit at 21.15 (alongside other villages and towns throughout the UK) and a fish and chip supper.
13. Best Kept Village. After a short discussion it was agreed that we would enter. Judging would be on a day in the period 15 May-13 Jun.
14. Village Clean-up. The Chairman agreed to again coordinate the Village Clean-up. The chosen date was Sat 27 Apr, 10am to 12pm. The Clerk would book into the system for obtaining litter-pickers and for the resulting rubbish bags to be collected. It was agreed that the clean-up would culminate with some refreshments for all participants, to

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be organised by the Chairman, with the PC prepared to contribute up to £75.

Action: Clerk, Chairman

15. Annual Parish Meeting (APM). The APM was to be on Sat 6 Apr at 1030 doors open for refreshments and a 11am start. Marion Adkins agreed to arrange the tea/coffee and biscuits. Subjects/speakers to be included: Footpaths, CSW, Recreation Centre, Dog Club and Gardening Club (latter 2 being Village Hall hirers), and possibly the new Rector – tbc – Marion Adkins agreed to investigate willingness and report back.

Action: Marion Adkins, Clerk

16, Defib Training. It was 2 years since the last defib training course, probably time another was offered. To be raised during APM and support/demand estimated.

(**Afternote:** possible mornings are 4 and 25 May and 8 Jun.)

17. Minutes to Noticeboard. At the last meeting Philip Baffour had agreed to print off copies of PC minutes and post them on the Park Street noticeboard for the foreseeable future. The Chairman would give him a key. This was not to happen until 2 weeks after any meeting, allowing time for minutes to be written and for Cllrs to check them for errors and omissions.

18. Planning. Report on Planning Applications:

- Considered by the PC since the last meeting:
 - Homefields – minor tweaks to 23/02850 permission, no objection.
 - Foxleigh, Stonehill – single-storey extension to front, side and rear, change of use to residential of small parcel of land, no objection.
 - 1 Perry Green, move fence 4 foot into garden, plant hedge outside, reduce height of solid part of fence to 1 metre, with 0.8 metre of trellis above. No objection if that is the correct proposal (not totally clear what proposal is).
- Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:
 - Old Well House – retrospective gate and fence over 1 metre height, refused.
 - Bluebells Barn – retrospective, gate, permitted.
 - Homefields – as above, permitted.
 - Land off Pond Lane – BESS, permitted on Appeal.
 - Land at Somerford Farm – BESS, refused.
 - Minety Solar Farm variation of conditions – approved with further noise reduction on equipment containers.
 - New House Farm – PNCOU Prior Approval not required, approved.
- Not yet decided: Land at Stonehill (BESS), Purlieus House (removal of Agricultural Occupancy restriction), Land North of Queen Street, Land to East and South of Minety Substation (grid connection cable), Minety Sub-station extension.
- Appeal: Land West of Bullocks Horn Lane – convert storage building to residence.

19. Councillors' observations and items for the next meeting. The Chairman suggested we should have a Community Emergency Plan – for the next meeting.

20. Dates of Next Meetings. 9 May, 4 Jul, 5 Sep, 7 Nov. APM am Sat 6 Apr.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.

Chairman