MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 10 SEP 26

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Thursday 10 September 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Tom Blanden (Chairman), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles, Hannah Piet, David Rawlings, Lord Suffolk; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threfall; and 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Jonathan Branton and Philip Thompson.

2. Public Questions/Points. None.

3. Declarations of Interest. Lord Suffolk for Items 6 and 12. David Rawlings for Item 6. Both would still participate fully.

4. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. Finance had been accidentally left of the agenda. It would be added – and taken now. Items 15-17 would slip to after Item 20.

4a. Finance. One payment as follows, after which the balance would be £21,392.73.
- 2026.9.1, Countrywide Grounds Maintenance, £150, for verge cutting on 10 Aug.
- Two Community Benefit payments each of £321 received from the Needham BESS.

5. Last Minutes. The Minutes of the PC meeting of 6 Aug 26, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed. No outstanding actions.

6. Gem Festival.

a. The Chairman reported that so far only one neighbouring PC Chairman had said his PC would support a request for a licence review – St Paul Malmesbury Without, whose parish area contained Milbourne. No reply yet from Crudwell and Oaksey, the latter meeting tonight.
b. Gem Festival had very recently sent information about improvements being considered for next year. This had been circulated to the Chairman and David Rawlings and hard copies were handed out to Cllrs. These could be summarized as:
    - Main stage reduced hours and finishing at 11pm.
    - Site redesign – main stage to 'fire' westwards ie away from Charlton.
    - Programming some Charlton-friendly music.
    - Ability to reactively reduce and close stages – to react quickly to feedback.
    - Introducing low-impact entertainment which is not just bass music.
    - Technical improvements – no detail.
    - Improved traffic management including possible use of an entrance off the A429.
    - Possible move to the old WOMAD site.
c. Resident trying through FOI to get information relating to the noise nuisance of this year's festival – information understood to have just arrived, 100s of pages so it will take time to work through it all.
d. Formation of the Charlton Action Group (CAG), a grouping of local residents, not just from Charlton, to collate issues raised about events held at Charlton Park Estate.
e. Where Now? No decision possible today, issue deferred to the Nov PC meeting.

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7. B4040 Speed Limit Review. The Review had recommended a 40mph speed limit for the stretch of B4040 from the western end of the village 30mph limit through the bends and out to the 'Unleashed' gate area, in place of the current 50mph. The PC accepted this recommendation, in the knowledge that the cost could be £2700 (ie 30% of £9000). The Review had recommended no change in the Stonehill area. There was discussion about Minety PC's dislike of the Review; the PC accepted it could not respond on this point without knowing a lot more; deferred to Nov. **Action: Clerk**

8. Bench for The Street. Philip Baffour suggested 2 locations for a bench: in the area of the Village Hall entrance noticeboard and just beyond the 'lay-by' outside Village Farmhouse. A decision was deferred until Nov so Cllrs could view the locations. Philip Baffour was asked to ensure that before the next meeting he had discussed his ideas with the resident who made the original request and with the resident who had supported the request on the Hub. **Action: Philip Baffour**

9. Defibrillator. The contract with South West Ambulance (SWASFT) for the village defib ends on 17 Feb 27. SWASFT are no longer providing defibs and will donate ours to us on that date. It will be 8 years old and out of warranty, but likely to be still in excellent working order. From then on if we keep running it we would need to pay for replacement pads (when time-expired or after any use) and battery (life of 4-5 years). An alternative would be to contract with another provider, such as CHT for example who provide the Elm Hill defib. Questions to be answered before the PC decides what to do in the November PC meeting: **Action: Clerk**

- Liability if we continue to use the old one?
- Ask MLOF if they would consider another grant.
- Has our defib ever been used?

10. Planning Enforcement Case ENF/2026/00839. A brief update was given, that we had heard from Enforcement that they acknowledged the case and hoped to look at it in a few weeks – which would be round about now.

11. .gov.uk Email Addresses. .gov email addresses are currently held and used by:

- Chairman – had had some difficulty but now using
- David Rawlings
- Lord Suffolk
- Hannah Piet – has just started using it
- Clerk
- Jonathan Branton – one had been issued but never managed to get it to work

We had enough addresses for every Cllr to have one.

12. iZambesi Festival Licence Review. Provisionally on 21 Sep but unlikely to be on that date. Reason for review – requested by police, for lack of a Security Plan, Alcohol Policy and Drugs Policy. The PC confirmed it did not need to be at the hearing.

13. Various Wiltshire Council Matters.

- New Local Plan Scoping consultation. Open for anyone to take part.
- End of Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme. Possibility that from now on we might have to pay to have our grit/salt bins refilled. Money saved to go towards …

Chairman

- Wider investment in community resilience. Unclear at the moment what this would mean in practice, but it had been said that this was where money saved from PEAS would go.

14. Completion of Audit. The external audit of the PC account had not yet reported. The audit had been required because the 5-figure Community Benefit payment had pushed the income to over the £25K limit; and not into the base bracket either. As a result the audit fee was £378 (of which £63 was VAT and reclaimable). It would be chargeable again next year as the investment counted as an expenditure in AGAR terms.

18. Planning. Report on planning applications:

- Considered by the PC since the 2 Jul meeting:
  - Journeys End – amend description to reflect decision on PL/2026/03376. PC no objection.

- Decided by Wilts Council since the 2 Jul meeting (all granted/approved):
  - Journeys End, Certificate of Lawfulness, unrestricted occupation.
  - Milou (Pond Farm) BESS, revision of grid connection cable route.
  - 42 Perry Green, Mulberry Cottage – change of use double garage to ancillary residential.
  - 7 and 10 Park St, retrospective LBC replacement of windows.

- Not yet decided at Wilts Council:
  - Charlton Park Estate – demolition of some existing barns, erection of 2nd car storage building.
  - Land to west of Bullocks Horn Lane, residential curtilage. PC No Objection but recommend Permitted Development rights no removed.
  - Minety Solar Farm, variation of conditions. PC objection to change of timings.
  - Land Adjacent Coombe Cottage. Withdrawn.
- Appeal against refusal:
  - Turnpike Cottage, for 2 storey rear extension.

19. Councillors' observations and items for the next meeting.

- Welcome to Charlton letter. Was it going well? Inconclusive answer. Next agenda.
- Rowan tree at east end of Park St reported dead – report to Highways. **Action: Clerk**

20. Dates of Next Meetings. 5 Nov. For 2027: 7 Jan, 4 Mar, 6 May, 1 Jul, 2 Sep, 4 Nov.

15. Excluding the Press and Public. PC agreed to exclude the press and public from the next agenda item, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

16. Confidential Item. The full PC was briefed on the formal complaint raised by a member of the public and the outcome.

17. Re-admitting the Press and Public. Not needed.

The meeting closed at 8.53 pm.

Chairman