

MINUTES OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 23 MAY 24

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Thursday 23 May 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Tom Blanden (Chairman), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Liz Garforth-Bles, David Rawlings, Jenny Walker; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Lord Suffolk, Philip Thompson.
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 9 May 24, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed.
6. Finance. The following payments were authorized:
 - cheque 582, £45, to the Chairman, for paying the refreshment bill at the pub after the village clean-up.
 - 583, £5700, to Dan Bailey Building Ltd, for the (eastern) bus shelter repair.

After these payments the balance would be £25,760.

7. Planning Application – PL/2024/03276 – Land South of Minety Substation. First the Clerk reported that Pelagic had told him in a phone call that they had changed their plan and instead of felling trees for a cable trench at the very northern part of the planned cable route, they would drill under the trees ('horizontal directional drilling'); they would be sending in an amendment to their application. After much discussion including input by residents attending the meeting, the PC's decision was as shown in this draft response:
 - Charlton PC objects to this planning application.
 - First, it should be noted that Charlton PC have been informed by the applicants that they have changed their plan and that instead of felling trees for a cable trench at the very northern part of the planned cable route, they would drill under the trees ('horizontal directional drilling'); they would be sending in an amendment to their application. Charlton PC have included this point in their consideration of the application. If the amendment does not appear Charlton PC request that they be allowed to reconsider their response.
 - Charlton PC objects on the grounds that they do not trust that drilling below the trees will not kill or damage those trees whose roots are drilled through.
 - And the problem with that is that it would risk exposing the sub-station to view from the houses along the B4040. Those trees were planted when the sub-station was built specifically to shield it from view.
 - Charlton PC has the following comments, posed as questions:
 - Why does the cable not follow the same route as the cable from the existing and operating BESSs (which were 17/05526, 18/04718), which runs east along the southern side of the tree belt until turning north up the existing track?

Chairman

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- And why, even better, doesn't the cable trench run alongside the National Grid access road?
8. Planning Report. Only significant matters since 9 May:
- Appeal – Land West of Bullocks Horn Lane – convert storage building to residence
 - Appeal dismissed.
9. Councillors' observations and items for the next meeting. None.
10. Dates of Next Meetings. 11 Jul (replaces 4 Jul due to the General Election), 5 Sep, 7 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.