

# The Charltons Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Parish Council Meeting  
held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell

## **Councillors Present:**

Tamzin Elliott (Acting Chairman)

Alan Crawley

Jemma Lawson

Bob Adams

Dennis Elliott

Peter Moulding

In Attendance: C.Cllr Ruddle, D.Cllr Tony Capozzoli and the Clerk.

## **Public Session**

None present.

## **Reports from County and District Councillors**

District and County Councillors may give short verbal reports on matters affecting the Parish.

D.Cllr Capozzoli reported that the phosphate issue was ongoing, which mainly affected planning applications submitted for the development of one or more dwellings and shouldn't affect applications for permitted development such as conservatories.

There continued to be issues with the collection of waste and recycling; he advised residents to contact D.Cllr Hull at [charlie.hull@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:charlie.hull@southsomerset.gov.uk) to report such issues.

On 6 July 2021 South Somerset District Council (SSDC) received the appeal decision on planning application 19/03416/OUT for a proposed residential development at Manor Farm, Combe Hill, Templecombe: Ref: APP/R3325/W/20/326555. The appeal was dismissed, however, in presenting her findings on the five-year housing land supply (5YHLS), the Inspector concluded that using the standard method with a 5% buffer SSDC is able to demonstrate a 5YHLS of between 3.97 and 3.66 years. This conclusion primarily stemmed from her concerns over the impact of the uncertainty around phosphate mitigation solutions across the district on housing delivery. The Inspector did however accept that SSDC's calculations were consistent with the NPPF/PPG methodology. As a consequence of this decision SSDC currently accepts that it cannot currently evidence a 5YHLS. Cllrs expressed their concern that this may lead to an increase of speculative development. SSDC officers have begun the process of reviewing the published Five-Year Housing Land Supply 2020 to 2025. A revised report is expected to be published in early autumn 2021, this will cover the period 2021 to 2026.

C.Cllr Ruddle reported that the decision was expected tomorrow from the Secretary of State for Local Government on the future structure for local government in Somerset. The two options were Somerset County Council's (SCC) proposal for a single unitary authority 'One Somerset' or the District Council's proposal for a twin authority 'Stronger Somerset'.

SCC elections may not be held in 2022 in order to align with district elections in 2023 to tie in with the newly formed local government structure.

Cllr Ruddle confirmed that the Memorial Playing Field and Community Hall Trust could purchase and install their own signs on existing highways furniture. Signs would need to conform to SCC regulations using black type on a white reflective background and could be purchased through ParSigns, Somerton; proofs could be sent for approval if necessary.

Cllr Ruddle advised that Gary Warren, SCC Senior Traffic Engineer, was looking into options available for 20mph on different routes in the Parish, which could be implemented under a separate Small Highways Improvement Scheme (SIS). ***(Cllr Ruddle left the meeting at 7.55pm)***

**21/70. Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given**

Council to receive apologies for absence and, if appropriate, to resolve to approve the reasons given.

**RESOLVED:** Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Nick Blackledge (Chairman). D.Cllr Charlie Hull also tendered his apologies.

**21/71. Declarations of Interest**

Members to declare any interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Local Authority (NALC Model Code of Conduct 2012) adopted July 2012. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

**RESOLVED:** None received.

**21/72. Minutes.**

To approve the Minutes of the PC Meeting held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

**RESOLVED:** The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**21/73. Parish Council Vacancies.**

To consider applications received and conduct vote to fill two casual vacancies on the Parish Council by co-option.

The Clerk reported that no applications had been received.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk would revise and publish the notice for vacancies in September 2021.

**21/74. Planning.**

a. To consider the following planning applications (PA):

i. PA 21/02041/HOU & 21/02042/LBC. The replacement of 4 doors and 19 windows at Cedar Lodge, High Street, Charlton Mackrell.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors considered that replacing the rotten wooden frames with wooden double-glazed windows was in keeping with the listed building and agreed unanimously to recommend **APPROVAL**.

b. South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Decisions:

i. **PA 21/01548/HOU.** Proposed extensions and alterations at The Willows, Cary Fitzpaine – **APPROVED**.

ii. **PA 21/01378/HOU.** Proposed single storey extension with roof terrace to replace existing conservatory (Revised application of 20/02212/HOU) at The Garden House, Sandpit Lane, Charlton Mackrell – **APPROVED**.

iii. **PA 21/00785/FUL.** Change of use of land to residential and siting of a mobile home/home office at Footsteps, High Street, Charlton Mackrell – **APPROVED**.

**21/75. The Charltons Memorial Playing Field and Community Hall (MPFCH).**

a. Signage. Update and clarification on the provision of signage for the MPFCH.

**RESOLVED:** As a MPFCH trustee, Cllr Lawson agreed to report back to the MPFCH with the advice given earlier in the meeting by C.Cllr Ruddle.

b. Improvement Program. Request for £1,000 grant from the PC towards a consultation and the preparation and drafting of the initial plans (est. total £1,650) for the replacement of Community Hall roof, possible restructuring of the interior and resurfacing the car park.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed unanimously to approve a grant of £550 towards the initial phase of the program by paying in advance the funds earmarked for the MPFCH routine maintenance grant (£250) and Village Day (£300). In order for the PC to make a more substantial grant towards the Improvement program, sight of a detailed scope for work, quotations and plans for fundraising would be required.

## **21/76. Finance.**

### **a. Balance of the Council's Bank Account and Bank Reconciliation.**

To report on the Council's Bank Account.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk previously circulated the PC Accounts which were presented and subsequently approved.

### **b. Accounts for payment.**

To review and approve a schedule of items of expenditure (incl. VAT):

Grant - Final instalment Project Charltons	£3,000.00
Grant – Charltons Youth Club (incl. £250 to be reimbursed from PlayDay)	£1,750.00
Somerset Forge Ltd – replacement of cast iron finger	£844.00
SALC Affiliation Fees Apr 21 to Mar 22	£296.18
Clerk's Expenses Jul 21	£37.26
Cllr Adams – Stationery and printer ink	£26.32
Cllr Elliott – Fixings for Lorry Watch boards	£18.91

**RESOLVED:** All items of expenditure approved.

### **c. Parish Website.**

To consider additional options for the website build:

#### **i. Planning applications page (cost £75 + VAT)**

**RESOLVED:** Approved.

#### **ii. Mailchimp subscription form (cost £15 + VAT if added as part of the website build).**

**RESOLVED:** Approved.

**iii. A password protected area to allow dissemination of documents to Councillors can be provided as per our quote (£90 + VAT).**

**RESOLVED:** Cllrs agreed that this would not be required.

## **21/77. Churchyard Maintenance Grants.**

To consider the future provision of Churchyard Maintenance Grants following observations received and noted within the internal audit that such payments are unlawful and following discussions with the Treasurer of The Charltons Parochial Church Council.

**RESOLVED:** Cllrs agreed unanimously that the grant could no longer be provided if considered unlawful. The grant for FY 21/22 would be paid as it was considered reasonable to provide 12 months notice; the Clerk would inform the PCC Treasurer accordingly.

## **21/78. Provision of Dog Waste Bin.**

To consider the provision of an additional dog waste bin, west of the stables at Welham and add signage to the existing bins asking residents to use dog waste bags only.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed by a majority vote for the Clerk to ask SSDC Streetscene whether a bin in the proposed location could be emptied in the first instance.

## **21/79. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons (QPJB) – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**

To consider organising a community event and the provision/purchase of a beacon.

Cllr Lawson reported that the MPFCH committee were considering holding a 'Party in the Park' community event over the Bank Holiday weekend in place of Village Day in 2022.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed to liaise with the various organisations in the parish and await further guidance. To include the QPJB event as a standing item on the agenda.

## **21/80. Items for Report and Future Business.**

a. Village Car Park. Cllr Adams reported that he had found two drains at the entrance to the car park, which once cleared, drained slowly over 24 hours. He reported that the Village Car Park was in need of maintenance and asked that the work required be considered when setting the precept.

b. Lorry Watch. Cllrs commented that the number of lorries driving through the parish had significantly reduced since the erection of the PCs blue signage with an HGV crossed out at

strategic points of entrance to the parish. Cllrs Crawley and Elliott agreed to erect Lorry Watch boards on highways furniture at suitable locations in the parish.

c. Community Speedwatch (CSW). Cllr Crawley reported that the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Mark Shelford, was present at a recent area meeting of CSW volunteers and was supportive of the scheme. More CSW volunteers were needed for the parish as at present as there were only two volunteers.

d. Planning Applications. Cllr D Elliott asked for an update on site visits for planning applications. Following the easing of Covid restrictions, Cllrs agreed that site visits could now be resumed. It was suggested that a minimum of two councillors should carry out an informal site visit and report back to the PC with their findings for full council consideration at the next meeting.

e. Residential Development to the rear of the Fox and Hounds. Following recent correspondence with Chris Ricot, Associate Director for begg, the Clerk agreed to inform Chris Ricot that they would be welcome to attend the next PC meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to present their 'final masterplan' with the parish. Councillors asked to see the plans prior to the meeting.

**Next meeting:** Ordinary Meeting to be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021, 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Hillway, Charlton Mackrell.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed: ..... Dated: .....