

The Charltons Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 7.30pm
in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell

Councillors Present:

Nick Blackledge (Chairman)

Bob Adams

Dennis Elliott

Tamzin Elliott (Vice-Chairman)

Alan Crawley

Mike Parsons

In Attendance: D.Cllr Tony Capozzoli, D.Cllr Charlie Hull and one member of the public.

Public Session

No Comments.

Reports from County and District Councillors

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

D.Cllr Hull reported that there were no planning applications considered at the recent Area East Committee meeting due to the phosphates issue. [Many applications cannot be determined until the impact the development would have on phosphate levels has been addressed.]

Elections to the new unitary council in Somerset will take place in May 2022 [Parish and Town Council elections have been brought forward a year to be held at the same time]. How to encourage new councillors to come forward was discussed at South Somerset District Council's (SSDC) meeting held today. It was also considered that Somerset County Council (SCC) needed to do more to encourage applicants.

Dog fouling continues to be an issue in the parish, which he considered was most likely due to the increase in the dog population and he was doing what he could to help mitigate it.

D.Cllr Hull was trying to arrange a meeting with Mr Daniel Reed, developer of the 'The Paddocks', Charlton Adam, to discuss S106 payments, which had not been paid and other issues with the development. Mr Reed advised that the issues were being considered by his legal team.

D.Cllr Capozzoli reported on the recent article in 'The Leveller' regarding the appointment of Clare Pestell who is (was) Director of Commercial Services and Income Generation. 'Ms Pestell was appointed (from a list of just one candidate) as Chief Executive of SSDC. The fact there was just one candidate and that Ms Pestell was it, was at the behest of former CEO Alex Parmley. It has also been reported that Ms Pestell was using SSDC resources for her own benefit at her Dorset Vineyard. The investigation is ongoing, however, Ms Pestell, who vehemently denied the allegations, was summarily dismissed in October after the Appointments Committee of the council met to discuss the findings of independent external investigator Richard Penn. Ms Pestell, who had already resigned and was serving out her notice, appealed the decision but the decision was upheld by the council's appeals committee. She left SSDC in October.'

22/01. 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 Roger Tearall. C.Cllr Ruddle also tendered his apologies.

22/02. 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.

22/03. Minutes.

To approve the Minutes of the PC Meeting held on Tuesday 16th November 2021.

There were a couple of points from the minutes which required clarification at item 22/09.

RESOLVED: With the exception of the aforementioned item for clarification, the minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

22/04. Parish Council Vacancies.

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

RESOLVED: No applicants to date. The vacancies would continue to be advertised.

22/05. Planning.

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

i. **PA 21/03542/HOU.** Installation of air source heat pump in back garden at Sunny Cottage, West Charlton, Charlton Mackrell – **WITHDRAWN.**

ii. **PA 21/03605/FUL.** Alteration and improvement of the existing poultry house and the erection of 2 additional poultry houses on rearing farm land Os 7829, part Common Lane, Keinton Mandeville.

The PC has no objection to the application in principle and supports Keinton Mandeville's comments on the plans. The PC reiterates that the required standards for noise, dust and particularly ammonia (odour) need to be met and the traffic/highway safety issues addressed. In addition the PC would like to see a Construction Environmental Management Plan.

RESOLVED: The PC agreed unanimously to recommend that the application be **APPROVED** with the above caveats.

b. South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Decisions:

i. **PA 21/03338/HOU.** To erect a garage in advance of the front of the existing dwelling but behind the build line, finished in cement render to be in-keeping with neighbouring properties at Two Bridges, Station Road, Charlton Mackrell – **APPROVED.**

ii. **PA 21/02783/ADV.** The display of a non-illuminated free standing welcome & orientation sign for estate walks at Lytes Cary Manor, Lytes Cary, Kingsdon – **APPROVED.**

22/06. The Charltons Memorial Playing Field and Community Centre (CMPFCC)

a. To discuss request from CMPFCC Trust to re-register with land registry changes made in October 1982 to the original Trust deed dated Dec 1959.

RESOLVED: Following legal advice from Lancaster Parr Ltd. the PC agreed that if the managing trustees of the Trust charity wish to proceed with becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), at that stage they could direct the PC as custodian trustee to transfer the land direct to the new CIO. There would be no advantage in the PC amending the registered title prior to the new CIO being set up. Any additional costs involved should be covered by the Trust. If the Trust did not wish to proceed with becoming a CIO the PC would pay the necessary fees to re-register with the land registry. The Clerk would inform the Trust accordingly.

b. To consider request from CMPFCC Trust for £15,000 grant over 3 year period towards The Charltons Community Centre Improvement program.

Following a full discussion the PC agreed that it would be difficult to meet the Trust's aspiration for this high level of funding. However, the PC would consider a reduced level of grant in FY 22/23 following receipt of a Grant Application Form in accordance with the Charltons PC Grant Policy, both of which were on the agenda for consideration at items 22/08.c. and d.

22/07. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee (QPJ)

To consider the provision of QPJ mugs to all the children who attend Charlton Mackrell Primary School and all other children within the parish who are 17yrs old and under.

D.Cllr Capozzoli advised that the PC could apply to the Community Grant for funds towards the purchase of mugs. Cllr Adams suggested that mugs could be given to only those children who attended the school and the Youth Club.

RESOLVED: The Clerk and Cllr T Elliott agreed to liaise with the Friends of the School. Following further discussion on the QPJ it was also agreed that if residents wish to hold a street party they could organise this themselves, however, if a street closure was required they would need to contact the PC. *(D.Cllrs Capozzoli and Hull left the meeting at 8.25pm)*

22/08. 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 subsequently approved.

b. Accounts for payment.

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

Charltons Community Centre Playing Field Maint Grant	£2,289.80
Overt Locke Christmas Trees	£270.75
Mr M Cecil-Denning Wayleaves	£173.32
Mrs D Simpson – flagpole fixings for Xmas tree at Rdg Rm	£91.76
Clerk's Expenses Nov 21 to Jan 22	£50.94

RESOLVED: All items of expenditure approved.

c. To consider Budget & Precept figures for 2022/2023.

To agree on a figure for the Precept. Proposal to increase precept from £16,000 to £17,000.

The Clerk previously distributed the draft precept for 2022/2023, with supporting notes (Attachments 2 and 3 available on the PC website).

RESOLVED: Following a review of the draft budget the proposed budget was adopted unanimously and the precept of £17,000 was agreed. This would give an increase in the PC's element of the council tax charge to each household of £2.74 for the year; a 7.28% increase.

d. Parish Council Grant Policy and Application Form.

To consider and approve the draft policy and application form as circulated by Cllr Adams.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed unanimously to adopt The Charltons Grant Policy, which will require all future applicants/organisations applying for a grant of £500 or above to complete the Grant Application Form for consideration by the PC.

22/09. Assets of Community Value (ACV)

Clarification is required to confirm which ACV the PC would like to re-nominate - Charlton Adam Post Office and Stores, Fox and Hounds Inn, Charlton Adam and The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell.

RESOLVED: Councillors confirmed that The Reading Room and Fox & Hounds Inn should be re-nominated as ACV, however, the PO should no longer be designated as an ACV.

22/10. Small Highway Improvement Scheme

To discuss revised plan showing proposed alterations to improve the operation of the existing roundabout the Ilchester Road/ Primrose Hill junction. The plan can be viewed on SCC website at

www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/small-improvement-schemes-directory (TI004344 – Charlton Mackrell in South Somerset District).

RESOLVED: SCC had published the revised plans on its website; there were no additional comments. Cllr D Elliott stood down as Highways Rep in place of Cllr Parsons.

22/11. Items for Report and Future Business.

Please notify items to the Clerk at least 24hrs before the meeting.

a. Lorry Watch. It was considered that, following the end of the six month trial, the PC had received no reports or evidence that to continue Lorry Watch would be of benefit to the parish. Therefore, funds earmarked for the purchase of upgraded Lorry Watch signage would be used towards the installation of a gateway signage in Charlton Adam.

b. Local Community Networks (LCNs). The Chairman and Cllr T Elliott attended a meeting on 30th November 2021 to discuss LCNs, which would be formed by mid-2023 as a consequence of the new Somerset Unitary Authority to express local priorities and to provide a forum/place for a “local voice”. LCNs would meet to provide and implement a plan for Local Action within and under a greater Authority. Geographically the LCN areas seek to define areas of genuine identity – in our case the area drawn roughly follows the school catchment for Huish Academy. LCNs must work within an overall Strategy – so far there seems to be no defined budget or responsibilities. Wiltshire and Cornwall already have LCNs. In Somerset, pilot schemes are running in Exmoor and Wincanton. Unitary Councillors will replace Local and District Councillors by April 2023. LCNs would be similar to the Area Committee; they would have four elected members, with perhaps fifteen or twenty for the entire County. The next meeting would be held at the end of February 2022.

c. Thermal Imaging Camera Lending Scheme 31 Jan to 7 Feb 22. The Parish Council will have on loan a thermal imaging camera available for use by the Parish on a free lending-basis. These easy to use camera units connect directly to a smartphone or tablet (either Android or Apple) and will provide a thermal image of your home or building. The image can then be used to interrogate and identify potential improvements, such as requirements for insulation and draught proofing within your home to improve your energy efficiency, as well as to reduce heat loss and fuel bills. The Scheme will be advertised on the Parish Website, notice boards and circulated on the village email list. The Clerk would compile a list of those who wish to participate in order to arrange suitable dates/times of collection.

d. Youth Club. Cllr Adams reported that the recent meeting of the ‘Friends of the Youth Club’ was poorly attended, however the good news was that twenty nine youths currently attend the Club and that there was sufficient funding for this FY. The Club required a minimum of £6,000 per annum to run towards which the PC provided an annual grant of £1,500.

Next meeting: Ordinary Meeting to be held on Tuesday 15th February 2022, 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Hillway, Charlton Mackrell.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed:

Dated: