

# The Charltons Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Parish Council Meeting  
held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell

## **Councillors Present:**

Tamzin Elliott (Chairman)

Susie Crang

Dennis Elliott

Bob Adams (Vice-Chairman)

Alan Crawley

Mike Parsons

**In Attendance:** C.Cllr Dean Ruddle, D.Cllrs Tony Capozzoli and Charlie Hull, the Clerk and two members of the public.

## **Public Session**

A trustee from the Reading Room was present to provide a brief report. The Reading Room Committee had to increase the heating rate due to the rise in the electricity prices, this would have a knock-on effect on the cost of PC meetings. An informal ‘Friends of The Reading Room’ group had been formed by volunteers to smarten up the building. They intend to hold a number of events over the next three to four months. Concerns had been expressed by outside sources that by serving refreshments, the Reading Room would be competing against the Community Centre, however, it was considered that these were different audiences. Monies raised from the Reading Room events supported local sources, including The Charltons Primary School.

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

C.Cllr Ruddle reported that the new Somerset Unitary Authority (UA) proposed savings of £18.5M, were actually forecast to be a £44M deficit, primarily due to the deficits brought forward from the Somerset District Councils. A Finance Group would be formed at County to try to achieve a £0 budget; the difficulties were that Children and Adult services were mandatory services and a large proportion of the budget. Some savings could be made from other Council services, including a cull of staff. It was unlikely that funds would be available for highway services, however, there was the possibility of match funding. Councillors confirmed that this was another major reason why the PC would need to increase its precept to provide such services when required.

D.Cllr Hull reported that South Somerset District Council’s (SSDC) Area East Committee had met to discuss Community Accessible Transport (CAT). The Council would continue providing grants, however, the CAT service should be of use and made available to all within the community including the elderly, vulnerable and youths.

Cllr Hull had made it clear that the proposed 120 house development in Keinton Mandeville would create issues for the infrastructure of both parishes. Cllr Adams expressed his concern that the additional 120 houses would exacerbate the issues with the lack of capacity at the pumping station located in Charlton Adam, through which all KM sewerage was treated in addition to The Charltons.

D.Cllr Capozzoli reported that there had been no progress at planning regarding the phosphate issue. Natural England were looking into projects such as new wetlands and reed bed systems to remove phosphates. ***(C.Cllr Ruddle left the meeting at 8.00pm)***

## **22/71. Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given**

**RESOLVED:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Blackledge.

## **22/72. 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) adopted May 2022. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

**RESOLVED:** None received.

## **22/73. Minutes.**

To approve the Minutes of the PC Meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

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

## **22/74. Planning.**

- a. To consider the following planning applications (PA): None received.
- b. South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Decisions: None determined.

## **22/75. 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 received and approved.

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

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

ElanCity Evolis Radar Speed Sign	£2,642.29
Tor signs extension post	£97.50
Tor Signs galvanised post	£90.72
Forsey and Son – refurbishment of lettering on War Memorial	£1,320.00
SALC Planning Training 16 Jun 22	£25.00

**RESOLVED:** Items of expenditure approved unanimously.

### **c. Grit Bin Peddles Lane.**

To consider purchase of grit bin for Peddles Lane to replace bin removed in Station Road at an approx. cost of £120 (incl VAT).

**RESOLVED:** Approved.

## **22/76. Bus Stop Options.**

To discuss the options for the bus stop in Charlton Adam for school collection/drop offs following the recent closure of the PO and Stores.

**RESOLVED:** D.Cllr D Elliott agreed to seek the advice of C.Cllr Ruddle/the Transport Officer at SCC to ascertain available options.

*(D.Cllrs Capozzoli and Hull left the meeting at 8.20pm)*

## **22/77. Welham Field Tenancy**

To discuss possible breach of agricultural tenancy.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk agreed to send a letter, recorded delivery, to the tenant requesting that the gate to Welham field is repaired and the field secured in accordance with the tenancy agreement to maintain the boundaries.

## **22/78. Items for Report and Future Business.**

- a. Cllr Crawley reported that the Speed Indicator Device had been installed on Kingweston Road and poles were ready to be installed on Broadway and an extension post awaited for the location on Ilchester Road to enable the SID to operate in each location.
- b. Following an email recently received from the Architect to Grove Properties, councillors discussed Grove's proposal to gift the land to the Parish, which was set aside as an orchard area within the development on the land to the rear of the Fox and Hounds Pub. Cllr Adams

agreed to compile questions from councillors to be submitted to Grove Properties prior to formally considering the offer.

c. Cllr Adams recently attended training on 'Refreshing the Community Plan'. Funding was available, however, applications would need to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> July and a 'team' in place by the end of August. It was considered that there was a lack of manpower and time to apply.

**Next meeting:** to be held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Hillway, Charlton Mackrell.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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

DRAFT