

# The Charltons Parish Council

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

## **Councillors Present:**

Tamzin Elliott (Chairman)

Susie Crang

Dennis Elliott

Adam Ware

Bob Adams (Vice-Chairman)

Alan Crawley

Mike Parsons

**In Attendance:** C.Cllr Ruddle, the Clerk and three members of the public.

## **Public Session.**

The Chairman of The Reading Room (RR) was present to inform the PC that he would investigate the feasibility of the RR becoming a ‘Warm Space’, before applying for a grant from the Somerset Community Foundation (SCF), if the PC gave its support, which was on the agenda for discussion at item 22/97.

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

C.Cllr Ruddle gave an update on phosphates. A proposal for developers of small developments of up to fifteen houses to pay a levy of approx. £5K to £10K per dwelling as an offset for phosphates would be put before the Executive Committee for approval, which could be passed before January 2023.

Somerset County Council (SCC) was going through the transition to the new Unitary Authority, which was causing a few issues. The budget would be very tight for the next two years, with limited grants available. He reiterated his advice for the PC to increase its level of precept to help provide the services that SCC would no longer be able to provide, such as grants. There would also be no funding available for Local Community Networks (LCNs).

The PC asked for Cllr Ruddle’s assistance with assessing the bus stop in Charlton Adam and looking at other viable options, which was on the agenda for discussion at item 22/101. Cllr Ruddle agreed to help arrange a site visit with Andy Barron, SCC Highways Officer. ***(C.Cllr Ruddle left the meeting at 8.05pm)***

## **22/92. 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:** None received.

## **22/93. 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.

## **22/94. Minutes.**

To approve the Minutes of the PC Meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

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

## **22/95. Parish Council Vacancies.**

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

**RESOLVED:** There was one eligible candidate for the vacancy, Mr Adam Ware. The PC voted unanimously in favour of Mr Ware who was co-opted onto the PC and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Clerk would continue to advertise the remaining vacancy.

## **22/96. Planning.**

a. To consider the following planning applications (PA): None received.

b. South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Decisions: None received.

c. Appeal Ref: **APP/R3325/W/22/3295950 21/02741/DOC1** Land opposite Fox and Hounds Broadway Road Charlton Adam.

**RESOLVED:** The PC agreed to submit comments in addition to observations previously submitted. Councillors note that the drives are not built in accordance with site drawing S5738/100C. The construction of low walls bordering the entrances at right angles to the road could be a road safety issue.

d. **PA 21/03124/FUL.** Erection of 35 dwellings on land to the south of the Fox & Hounds. To discuss Grove's offer to gift the designated public open space along northern boundary of proposed development to the PC.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed in principle, by a majority vote, to accept, subject to planning approval being given and the finalisation of satisfactory terms and conditions to the offer by Grove Properties, to transfer the land in question to the PC on completion of the development.

## **22/97. Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) Warm Somerset Spaces Fund.**

Applications to be received by 31 Oct 22 from those who work or volunteer for a group that run a venue like a village hall, community centre, or religious building to cover extra energy costs, some staff time or volunteer expenses and tea and biscuits.

**RESOLVED:** The PC agreed unanimously to support the RR if they submitted an application for a grant from the SCF to be a 'Warm Space' following their feasibility study.

## **22/98. Mobile Post Office (PO).**

Update on possible mobile Post Office session being set up in The Charltons.

**RESOLVED:** The Chairman agreed to meet with the PO rep and the Chairman of the RR, to discuss the possibility of the PO providing an outreach service for two hours, once a week, on a Wednesday morning.

## **22/99. Finance.**

a. **Balance of the Council's Bank Account.**

To report on the Council's Bank Account.

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

b. **To initiate discussions on Precept 2023/24.**

Review of grants and Flood Mitigation Reserve.

**RESOLVED:** Following a full discussion, the Clerk agreed to aim to reduce the level of grant funding in the precept for 2023/24 from 37% of total precept to no more than 20-25%. The PC agreed to reduce the level of funds in the Flood Mitigation Reserve from £5,150 to £3,150 by transferring £2,000 into the General Reserve.

c. **Accounts for payment.**

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

Somerset Association of Local Councils Affiliation Fee	£291.25
Society of Local Council Clerks Membership Renewal	£112.00
Clerk's Expenses	£54.27
Royal British Legion Donation	£30.00

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

**22/100. Charlton Adam Community Public Access Defibrillator (CPAD).**

To discuss the accessibility of the CPAD in Charlton Adam in light of the recent closure of the shop and Post Office (PO).

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk agreed to ask for feedback on their experience from the users of the PO CPAD who recently used it in an emergency situation.

**22/101. Bus Stop Options.**

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

Following on from the earlier discussion with Cllr Ruddle, it was considered that the children of the parish had met at the bus stop outside the PO for over 45 years, which should be reinstated if a safe alternative could not be provided.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk agreed to email SCC requesting a site visit with Andy Barron to look at the possibility of marking out a designated area opposite the PO or reinstating the current stop.

**22/102. Welham Field Tenancy.**

Cllrs D Elliott and Parsons to report on condition and security of the field following site visit.

**RESOLVED:** To defer until the next meeting.

**22/103. Ultrafast/Full Fibre Broadband.**

BT Openreach hope to deliver ultrafast/full fibre broadband to residents in Charlton Mackrell with the aid of the gigabit voucher scheme <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/> in return for agreeing to a 12 month fibre contract once completed.

**RESOLVED:** The clerk agreed to circulate to raise awareness.

**22/104. Items for Report and Future Business.**

- a. Cllr Crawley advised that it was National Speed Awareness Week.
- b. Welham Field tenancy to be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

**Next meeting:** to be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Hillway, Charlton Mackrell.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....