

# The Charltons Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Parish Council (PC) Meeting  
held on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell

## **Councillors Present:**

Tamzin Elliott (Chairman)

Nick Blackledge

Dennis Elliott

Adam Ware

Bob Adams (Vice-Chairman)

Susie Crang

Mike Parsons

**In Attendance:** D.Cllr Tony Capozzoli, D.Cllr Charlie Hull, the Clerk and five members of the public.

## **Public Session.**

A resident was present to discuss the recently implemented ‘bus waiting area’. Councillors confirmed that the matter had been discussed and minuted at PC meetings since June 2022 in response to residents’ concerns over children’s safety whilst waiting for the school buses. The PC sought advice and approval from Somerset County Council (SCC) Highways who carried out a site visit, however, the PC was not aware of the precise location until the advisory lines were painted. As the area was to be used only as a waiting bay for school transport, the Clerk agreed to ask SCC if it would agree to installing signage clarifying the times during which the area should be kept clear of cars.

A resident asked D.Cllr Capozzoli if the application for thirty five houses on land to the rear of the Fox and Hounds would be considered by the Area East (AE) Committee. Cllr Capozzoli advised that he had submitted his Ward Member recommendations to the planning officer (PO) for approval, which meant that the application would be approved in accordance with the PO’s proposal and would not go before either the AE or Regulation Committees. Following a full and robust discussion, Cllr Capozzoli agreed that the Clerk should put the PC’s request in writing for him to rescind his Ward Member recommendation and that the application be put before AE for consideration to ensure that any decision made by the Authority is seen to be clear and transparent and also provide residents with the opportunity to speak.

A member of The Charltons Memorial Community Trust was present and asked D.Cllr Capozzoli for an update of the payment of S106 monies owed from the development of eight houses opposite the Fox and Hounds. Following a brief discussion, Cllr Capozzoli asked the Clerk to email him requesting an update.

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

**D.Cllr Capozzoli** reported as follows:

Yeovil Refresh was discussed at Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Total budget of £24m, including a grant of £9.75m from Future High Street Developer contributions and S106 funds from the Health and Wellbeing budget. To date the Council had spent £5m and he doubted if the Refresh would be completed next year.

Planning. The New Somerset Council proposed a new rule to limit all public objections in planning decision meetings to a total of three minutes for all objections. [CPRE had submitted an excellent document outlining why this would be undemocratic, inappropriate and a bad decision for local people. At the Constitution and Governance Committee meeting on 14th February the proposal was rejected. A new, slightly improved proposal is to allow for a total of 15 minutes, which would provide five members of the public time to speak for three minutes each. This would be put before Full Council on 28th February 2023.]

Cllr Capozzoli gave his apologies for the next PC meeting as he would be standing down when the new Somerset Council becomes operational on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, having served the Council for thirty six years. D.Cllr Hull and the PC expressed their thanks to D.Cllr Capozzoli for his thirty six years' service.

**D.Cllr Hull** reported as follows:

Local Community Networks (LCNs). He stated that it was important for villages to ensure they have a voice and encouraged councillors and residents to stay involved.

**23/08. 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:** Cllr Crawley gave his apologies which were received and approved.

**23/09. 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.

**23/10. Minutes.**

To approve the Minutes of the PC Meeting held on Tuesday 17th January 2023.

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

**23/11. Planning.**

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

i. **PA 22/02980/FUL & 22/02981/LBC.** Fitting of solar panels onto barn roof at Manor Farm, Mill Lane, Charlton Mackrell.

The barn is 19th century with a modern, galvanised corrugated steel roof. Councillors considered that the solar panels would be less obtrusive than the galvanised roof and it was an ecologically responsible option. It was noted that Natural England had no objections.

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

ii. **PA 22/00350/COL.** Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of land as residential garden; existing use of a residential outbuilding; and existing stationing of a static caravan to provide ancillary accommodation at Fields End Farm, Chessels Lane, Charlton Adam, TA11 7BJ.

Councillors stated that the land had been used as a residential garden and garage for a considerable period of time and previously recommended approval of PA 22/02784/COL, when the application came before the Council in November 2022.

**RESOLVED:** The PC agreed unanimously to continue to recommend that the application be **APPROVED**.

b. South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Decisions:

i. **PA 22/03124/FUL.** Demolition of kennels and change of use of land to extend domestic garden and erection of outbuilding at The Old Waterworks, Ilchester Road, Charlton Mackrell, TA11 7BH – **APPROVED**.

ii. **PA 20/03300/FUL.** Demolition of a barn with prior approval consent to convert to three dwellings, and replace with three new detached dwellings at Thistledown Farm, Common Lane, Keinton Mandeville, TA11 7DS – **APPROVED**.

**(Cllrs Capozzoli and Hull left the meeting at 8.10pm)**

**23/12. 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. Accounts for payment.**

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

Charltons Village News 2022	£300.00
Parish Council printer	£49.99
Reading Room Hire Nov 22 & Jan 23	£36.00

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

**c. To discuss the level of PC contribution to the Charltons Village News.**

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed unanimously to maintain the level of contribution at £300 and replace the precis of PC minutes with the PC contact list and an 'article of interest'.

**d. Request for S137 Grant – St Johns Ambulance.**

Councillors did not consider the application to meet the criteria of "providing a direct benefit to the area or any part of it for some or all the inhabitants".

**RESOLVED: REFUSED** unanimously.

**23/13. Grant application from the Trustees of the Charltons Memorial Community Trust (CMCT).**

To consider an application for a grant of £1,000 from the CMCT towards the cost of detailed plans at a cost of £8,100 to redevelop the Community Centre.

Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Adams proposed that the PC provides a grant of 25% of the costs, up to a maximum of £1,000, towards producing the detailed plans and supporting information for a planning application to upgrade the Charltons Community Hall.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Adams's proposal was seconded and approved by a majority vote for payment of the grant to be made on submission of final invoice for the above work.

**23/14. Somerset Councils Consultation on a new Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).**

To discuss PC response on the draft SCI, which will set out how Somerset Council will involve our communities, organisations and other interested parties in the planning process. Consultation runs from 1st February to 16th March 2023. To view and comment on the document please visit:

<https://somerset.inconsult.uk/sci/consultationHome>

**RESOLVED:** No response required.

**23/15. Items for Report and Future Business.**

a. Mobile Post Office. The Chairman reported that she had received an update from the proposed operator of the Mobile Post Office. There had been a lack of support from Hambridge, who were initially very positive, so the Filed Operations Manager was currently looking for a suitable location to supplement The Charltons. Cllrs agreed that no response was necessary and would await any further contact.

b. 22/03342/FUL - Land at OS 4300, Cary Fitzpaine. Following recent communications between the Applicants' solicitor and the PO, the Clerk agreed to write to the PO to clarify that that the PC had not considered the application on its merits and would not be able to do so until the previous conditions are implemented. It should not be assumed that the PC would recommend approval once the engineering works are implemented. At this point the application should, and the PC requests that, the application is re-submitted for consultation.

**Next meeting:** to be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023, 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Hillway, Charlton Mackrell.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....