

The Charltons Annual Parish Meeting

A meeting of the Parishioners

“Draft” Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held on: **Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7pm**

At: The Reading Room, Hillway, Charlton Mackrell, TA11 6AN

There were six members of the public present, eight members of the Parish Council (PC) and the Clerk.

1. **Welcome**

- a. The Chairman of the PC, Tamzin Elliott, opened the meeting by thanking those present.
- b. No apologies for absence were received.

- ### 2. **Minutes of The Charltons Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2022** were received, approved as a true record and signed by parish councillor Tamzin Elliott as Chairman of the meeting.

3. **Reports from the Parish Council**

- a. Chairman of the Parish Council wished to thank the parish councillors for their commitment and work over the last year. The PC purchased a Speed Indicator Device (SID) to help mitigate speeding within the parish. The mobile SID became operational in August 2022 and is used to monitor speeding on Kingweston Road, Charlton Mackrell and Broadway, Charlton Adam. The results show that the SID is helping to mitigate speeding. The PC is considering purchasing a second SID to enable a permanent device to be installed at both locations.

The PC was also successful in obtaining permission for the reduction in the speed limit through Lytes Cary to 30mph. Consultation was necessary to obtain the permissions from landowners regarding placement of signage, which were successfully completed, and it remains only for the Council to actually carry out the necessary works to install the scheme.

- b. Parish Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023 (unaudited). Copies of the draft Receipts and Payments Account were previously distributed for information and presented by the Clerk.

4. **Reports from Somerset Councillors**

Cllr Dean Ruddle submitted the following report after the meeting as he arrived at the end of the meeting:

“Once again it has been a difficult year. Somerset County Council has continued to make financial savings. Some extra funding has come from central government related to highways maintenance, however, over the foreseeable years more saving will have to happen.

This is becoming totally unsustainable and for this reason Somerset has become a Unitary Authority from 1st April 2023 with the District Councils coming to end.

The Initial estimates showed that saving could be made releasing more funds into front line services as well as providing the public with greater clarity with contact on public services. However, looking now at our financial position, I cannot see where any extra money will come from so it is important for parishes to maintain a reasonable budget .

Town and Parish councils will be able to play important role in the governance of the County to ensure local participation and consideration so to this end 18 local community network(LCN) will be set up across the county.

Climate emergency has become a major part of all our lives and to that end grants became available to all the areas for all sorts of projects from planting trees to cycle ways, solar panels etc. but due to the large take up many schemes did not get through, however, there will be more funding available into the future.

I believe working together with the community is the best way of working.

I will continue to work with local people to try and help them achieve what we would like to see within our area.”

5. Reports from Local Groups and Organisations

a. Charltons Youth Club. Kate O’Boyle, volunteer at the CYC, presented her report (attachment 1).

b. The Reading Room. Kevin Moore, Chairman of the RR, presented his report (attachment 2).

c. The Charltons Parochial Church Council. Liz Bale, Churchwarden for the PCC, presented her report (attachment 3).

d. The Charltons Memorial Community Trust. Ian Cornish, Treasurer of the CMCT presented his report (attachment 4).

e. The Historical Society. The Clerk read out the report on behalf of Celia Mycock. “The Society has not had any meetings in the past year, but we are continuing to maintain the old website as well as the Facebook page (where we recently shared information and pictures relating to previous coronation celebrations in the villages). I have continued to provide information in response to enquiries from within the parish and around the world. Any offers of help, particularly to catalogue our local archives, will be very welcome!

f. Charlton Mackrell School. The Clerk read out the report on behalf of Rebecca Cawley, Headteacher.

“Charlton Mackrell School continues to flourish. We have 85 pupils in the main school and a further 25 children in our preschool. The school had an Ofsted inspection in February and it was rated GOOD with many strengths. Comments included:

‘Pupils behave well. Leaders have high expectations and pupils live up to these.’

‘Leaders have designed an ambitious curriculum for all pupils.’

‘Teaching presents information clearly and builds on pupils’ prior knowledge.’

‘The curriculum is enriched with a wide variety of extra-curricular activities.’

Our four classes make maximum use of all the available space in school as well as making the most of our wonderful local environment. This year our highlights have been a trip to London for the children to sing at the 02, as part of the Young Voices concert, trips to the SS Great Britain in Bristol, a residential to Hooke Court in Dorset and a day trip to Stonehenge as part of the Stone Age topic. Our pupils have won the area swimming, area football tournament and went through to the netball finals against much bigger schools. Our young people have also performed in a music concert in church, the local schools Christmas concert and many have successfully taken exams over the last few months.

On Friday 26th May the school council are organising a sponsored walk, so you may see the children as they walk through The Charltons. If you would like to marshal, help supervise the children or even donate please contact the school office. “

g. Hallr Wood & Wild Roots Project. The Clerk read out the report on behalf of Deb Millar (attachment 5).

h. Charltons Horticultural Society. The Clerk read out the report on behalf of Dee Powell.

“CHS has around 40 members. Its members not only benefit from discounts at many nurseries but also have the opportunity of joining organised visits to interesting gardens often at a greatly reduced cost. The society also arranges talks and presentations.

The year began with a quiz at the Community Centre and in May we had a trip to the famous Abbotsbury Sub-tropical Gardens in Dorset. June saw the CHS Village Café and plant sale which always attracts much attention from within the village and further afield. It is a well attended event and a good fund raiser. We use the opportunity to financially support local groups. Last year we made a donation to the Youth Club and this year we have chosen Project Charltons.

In August the members come together for an annual BBQ. This is a wonderful social gathering kindly hosted by two committee members (Vic & Gill) and a great opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow villagers in a beautiful, very well cared for garden, with the added bonus of excellent food and plenty of drink! Always a jolly affair.

In October, Maria from “Just Maria’s” in Ilchester gave a glorious demonstration of flower arrangement which was very much enjoyed by the 30 or so members who attended.

Last November we were very fortunate in welcoming the much celebrated Garden Designer Chris Beardshaw to The Charltons Community Centre to deliver a presentation.

This was a very memorable evening attended by over 100 guests some travelling considerable distances on a dark wet November evening to see him. Chris’ two hour presentation and talk was very well received, so much so that the Q&A session lasted a further two hours!”

i. Project Charltons. The Clerk read out the report on behalf of Dee Powell:

“We are now in our fourth year of fund raising to achieve our vision of a fully inclusive outdoor activity area that meets the needs of everyone in our community.

We are extremely pleased with our progress and indeed see the end in sight. We have managed to provide an exciting and challenging play area for children aged 3- 12yrs old with the zip-wire being installed this year to complete that phase. We just need that last £5000.00 to complete an area for our young people and we will be done!

The sensory garden is really beginning to bloom as the plants, flowers and bushes begin to mature. With the cherry blossom tree in full flower it really is a welcoming and peaceful area to rest. Our thanks go to the group of volunteers who regularly help out here weeding, planting, spreading chippings and in the drier summer months, watering.

We are proud to look back on our achievements so far, not just because of the funds we have raised and the improvements this has enabled us to bring to the outdoor area, but through our fund raising we believe we have enriched the lives of the community by providing a variety of events. Last summer we put on a formal wear, cruise themed Murder Mystery Evening at Charlton House (Thank you Richard & Melissa Grafton for very kindly opening up your home to host this); in the autumn we arranged a magnificent Planetarium experience in the community hall to which the primary school children attended free of charge during the day and then a further showing in the evening for adults and young people. We have had celebrities delivering Love Poetry readings, again kindly hosted, once by Lord & Lady Zouche at Abbey House (2020) and this year by Jo Littman at Manor Farm providing beautiful romantic atmospheres with roaring log fires to brighten up the soul in the dismal dark February days.

We had a Fun Run last January (2022), a sponsored swim at Millfield Olympic pool this April, and a family Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday.

We hope to complete our Project by the end of 2023 and thank the PC for their support in our mission.”

j. The Giraffe House Pickleball Club. The Clerk read out the report on behalf of Rick Harrison, Chairman of the GHPC.

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6. **Open Public Parish Forum**

a. Dog Waste Bin. A resident asked if the PC would consider installing a dog waste bin at West Charlton/Welham. The Clerk advised that a request had been submitted to Locality, South Somerset District Council in July 2021 and this request had been hastened on numerous occasions. The Clerk agreed to request an update from Locality.

b. Reading Room and The Charltons Memorial Community Hall. Due to the diminishing number of volunteers willing to sit on community committees and to help out with parish events, it was suggested that the organisations could share resources and manpower; were two venues actually needed? A resident responded to say that when he sat on the Memorial Playing Field Trust in 1982 that the building of a second Community Venue would invariably lead to an excess of facilities in the Parish.

There being no further representation, the meeting closed at 8.00pm and was followed by the Annual Parish Council and ordinary meetings of the PC.

Signed: Dated:Chairman