

# The Charltons Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Parish Council Meeting  
held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
commencing at 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell

## **Councillors Present:**

Tamzin Elliott (Chairman)  
Alan Crawley

Bob Adams (Vice-Chairman)

**In Attendance:** Somerset Councillor Dean Ruddle, the Clerk and four members of the public.

## **Public Session.**

A resident from Primrose Hill Park was present to discuss the limited bus service available. Cllr Ruddle advised that a new pilot scheme would be rolled out in this area only in October as part of Somerset’s Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). Residents would be able to book a seat on one of two small buses, which will run into a Somerton bus Hub, from where residents could catch the 77 bus service (prior to Kingsdon) to Yeovil or Wells and also the 54 bus service, which runs to Taunton. Anticipated fees are £5 return or £2.50 for a pensioner.

## **Reports from Somerset Councillors.**

Cllr Ruddle reported further on the BSIP. He stressed that if the service was not used, it would be lost and asked for the scheme to be well advertised once published. In addition to the usual PC distribution, the Clerk would ask the Warden at Primrose Hill Park to advertise the scheme.

There was a £40m shortfall in Somerset Council’s (SC) budget as it was not receiving the level of support SC needed from central government, which was the same for all Local Authorities. He was concerned that a Section 114 (S114) could be issued as councils are required by law to have balanced budgets and if a council cannot find a way to finance their budget then the government could step in. The issuing of a S114 notice bans all new spending with the exception of protecting vulnerable people and statutory services and pre-existing commitments. SC did not want to be in this position but it does not have the right level of reserves and it could take twelve years to recover. Assets could be sold and there was the possibility of SC being allowed to raise the level of Council Tax. *(Cllr Ruddle left the meeting at 7.50pm)*

## **23/59. 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:** Cllrs Nick Blackledge, Susie Crang, Dennis Elliott, Mike Parsons and Adam Ware gave their apologies, which were received and approved.

## **23/60. 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.

## **23/61. Minutes.**

To approve the Minutes of the PC meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

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

### **23/62. Parish Council Vacancy.**

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

**RESOLVED:** No applications received. The Clerk would continue to advertise the vacancy.

### **23/63. Planning.**

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

i. **PA 23/01383/FUL.** Change of use and erection of a barn for stabling of broodmares and foals on land at Rag Lane, Cary Fitzpaine, BA22 8JB.

**RESOLVED:** Due to the late receipt of PA 23/01368/FUL for the erection of temporary accommodation for equestrian worker on the same land at Rag Lane, councillors agreed to defer the application and consider both at an on site planning meeting to be scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

ii. **PA 23/01480/HOU & PA 23/01481/LBC.** Insertion of 2 new windows in the ground floor of the west elevation at West Side Barn, Cary Fitzpaine Road, Charlton Mackrell BA22 8JB.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed unanimously that this is a sensible, uncontentious application and resolved to recommend **APPROVAL**.

iii. **PA 23/01541/HOU.** Demolition of existing rear UPVC porch and erection of replacement single storey rear extension with traditional roof. Conversion of existing garage into internal workspace and replacement of garage doors with infill wall, french windows and small windows on the south elevation of the dwelling. Removal of boundary wall to accommodate a parking area. Installation of new rooflights at Seafin, George Street, Charlton Mackrell, TA11 7AS.

Councillors considered this to be a sensible and uncontentious application. No concerns were raised regarding the removal of the 1950s/60s boundary wall as the older, more historic blue lias wall would be retained, creating much improved off-street parking for 2 cars (comfortably). There is no change to the footprint and the replacement extension would be an improvement on the existing visually and with materials used.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors resolved unanimously to recommend **APPROVAL**.

b. Somerset Council Decisions:

i. **PA 23/01273/HOU.** The erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling and conversion of garage to additional living accommodation at Fleet Cottage, Somerton Lane, Charlton Mackrell – **APPROVED**.

ii. **PA 22/02980/FUL & PA 22/02981/LBC.** Fitting of solar panels onto barn roof at Manor Farm, Mill Lane, Charlton Mackrell, TA11 7BQ – **WITHDRAWN**.

### **23/64. Section 106 Agreement at Land Rear of Public House, Broadway Road, Charlton Adam (21/03124/FUL)**

PC to consider proposal to adopt all of the green parts of the development, this would include in addition to the open space and spinney the existing hedgerows, landscaped areas, pond and green corridor.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed unanimously not to proceed due to the infinite maintenance costs and liabilities. Such responsibilities should be set out in the terms and conditions and approved by SC after agreement the developer. A resident management company/arrangement may be necessary.

### **23/65. 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): None.

**c. Bus Bay Signage Charlton Adam**

To consider quote for supply and installation of signage approx. £75-£100.

**RESOLVED: APPROVED.**

**d. Online Banking**

To consider and approve online banking mandate with Nat West Business Bank.

**RESOLVED: APPROVED.**

**23/66. Items for Report and Future Business**

a. Cllr Adams reported that the Charlton Mackrell Primary School charity walk, organised by the school council, raised £568, which would be donated 50% each to The Brymer Trust and the World Wildlife Fund. Eighty five children walked around the village to raise the funds and the pre-school held an organised treasure hunt at Primrose Hill Park. It was a successful and enjoyable day for all participants and those supporting.

**Next meeting:** to be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 7.30PM in The Reading Room, Hillway, Charlton Mackrell.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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

DRAFT