

The Charltons Parish Council

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

Councillors Present:

Tamzin Elliott (Chairman)
Nick Blackledge
Dennis Elliott
Kim Williams

Bob Adams (Vice-Chairman)
Susie Crang
Adam Ware

In Attendance: Somerset Councillor Tim Kerley, the Clerk and seventeen members of the public.

Public Session.

Residents present expressed their concerns and wished to comment on the outline application for the erection of five dwellings on land Os 2560 part George Street, Charlton Adam, which was on the agenda for consideration at item 23/91a.iv.

Report from The Charltons Memorial Community Trust CIO.

Andrea de Berker presented the report on behalf of the Trust on progress made towards upgrading the Hall, which can be found at attachment 1.

Reports from Somerset Councillors.

Somerset Councillor Tim Kerley gave the following updates:

Somerset Council (SC) Finance Emergency. Latest budget figures show SC is facing a funding gap of £100m for 2024/25 due in large part to an expected increase of £70m in the cost of adult social care for 2024/25. Without immediate action this could lead to Somerset being forced to issue a S114 notice, which is the equivalent of bankruptcy.

Planning. Due to the ‘phosphate crisis’ there was no longer a five year supply of housing land in South Somerset; the current level was 3.29 years. This meant Policy SS2 of the South Somerset Local Plan, which sets out the approach to development in rural settlements, is considered out of date and the balance is tilted towards development, unless any identified harm significantly and demonstrably outweighs the benefits of a scheme. Cllr Kerley, who sits on Area South’s Planning Committee, strongly advised that applications for development would be difficult to refuse and Parish and Town Council’s would need to demonstrate material planning considerations to support any recommendation for refusal.

23/87. 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 Alan Crawley and Mike Parsons gave their apologies, which were received and approved. Somerset Councillor Dean Ruddle also tendered his apologies.

23/88. 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 declared.

23/89. Minutes.

To approve the Minutes of the PC meeting held on Tuesday 17th October 2023.

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

23/90. Somerset Council Devolution of assets & services

To consider letter received from SC sent to all city, town, and, parish councils requesting that they consider which assets and services they might be willing to have devolved to them in the real possibility that the unitary council could no longer support them.

RESOLVED: Following a lengthy discussion and advice from Cllr Kerley, councillors were resigned to the fact that the precept would need to be increased as much as would be tolerable by the community in order to maintain services should SC be served a Section 114 notice. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman agreed to draft a response to the letter for approval by full council prior to submission.

The Clerk asked Cllr Kerley to ascertain whether parish and town councils would be granted an extension to the date by which the precept figures need to be submitted to SC, which this year was 20th January. [This would not be possible; figures were required by the end of January 2024].

23/91. Planning.

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

- i. **PA 23/01755/HOU.** Proposed two and single storey extension to rear of 3 Neville Close, Charlton Adam, TA11 7AZ.

Councillors were pleased to note that the PC's comments had been taken into consideration and the plans amended from a flat to hip roof, which is more in keeping with the dwellings/extensions in Neville Close.

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

- ii. **PA 23/02565/LBC.** Proposed re-roofing of outbuilding at Charlton House, Ilchester Road, Charlton Mackrell, TA11 6AD.

RESOLVED: Councillors noted that the conservation officer is happy to support the proposals, therefore, the Council agreed unanimously to recommend **APPROVAL**.

- iii. **PA 23/02580/HOU.** Works to increase the height of the annex to accommodate first-floor living accommodation, incorporating works granted through application 22/02714/HOU, installation of timber cladding to the first floor at Little Orchard, George Street, Charlton Adam, TA11 7AS.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed by a majority vote to recommend **APPROVAL**.

- iv. **PA 23/02768/OUT.** Outline application for all matters reserved except access for the erection of 5 dwellings on land Os 2560 part George Street, Charlton Adam, TA11 7AS.

RESOLVED: Following a full discussion and taking into consideration comments from the public session, councillors agreed unanimously to recommend **REFUSAL**, the material considerations for which can be found at attachment 2.

b. **Somerset Council (SC) Decisions:**

- i. **PA 23/01848/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 – **APPROVED**.

23/92. 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. National Association of Local Councils (NALC) E01-23 | 2023-24 Local Government Services Pay Agreement.

To approve Clerk's Salary in accordance with The National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services new pay scales for 2023-24 to be implemented from 1 Apr 2023 and backdated.

RESOLVED: Clerk's new pay scale agreed at SCP 27 and backdated.

c. Accounts for payment.

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

- | | |
|---|---------|
| i. Cary Traders – hedge cutting village car park and visibilities Millenium pillars | £211.20 |
| ii. Clerk's back pay 1 Apr 23 to 31 Oct 23 | £182.00 |
| iii. Clerk's Expenses & Allowances | £35.50 |
| iv. Society of Local Council Clerks Membership renewal | £112.00 |
| v. SC - Charlton Adam Bus Bay markings | £64.89 |
| vi. Charlton Mackrell Reading Room hire Sep & Oct 23 | £36.00 |

RESOLVED: Items of expenditure approved unanimously.

d. To consider replacement of grit bin opposite the Old Post Office, Charlton Adam est. cost £138.

RESOLVED: Clerk to order new bin for delivery to Cllr Crawley.

23/93. Village Car Park Improvements

To consider quote received to improve drainage and resurface entrance to car park £720 incl. VAT.

RESOLVED: APPROVED unanimously.

23/94. Grounds Maintenance – War Memorial

To receive quotes for landscaping.

RESOLVED: Cllr Crawley to arrange an onsite meeting with Cllr Williams and the contractor to discuss what is required.

23/95. Dates of PC Meetings for 2024

To agree the following dates for PC meetings to be held in 2024:

16th January, (Wednesday) 14th February, 19th March, 16th April, (Monday) 20th May, 18th June, 16th July, 17th September, 15th October and 19th November.

RESOLVED: Dates agreed. Extraordinary meetings would be held as necessary to consider urgent business and planning applications in the months with no ordinary meeting scheduled.

23/96. Items for Report and Future Business.

a. Remembrance Day. Councillors thanked Cllr Williams for representing the Parish Council on Remembrance Day at the Charltons War Memorial and carrying out the duties involved.

b. Fireworks. Councillors received complaints from residents following the firework display at Charltons House on Bonfire Night, which they considered to be effectively the same as a public display; residents would have appreciated prior warning. Cllr Adams agreed to ask Charltons House to notify residents of any future large/loud firework display.

c. Fox and Hounds. The landlord of the Fox and Hounds asked for residents to support their local pub during the winter months when footfall was low.

Next meeting: to be held on Tuesday 16th January 2024, 7.30PM in The Reading Room, Hillway, Charlton Mackrell.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed:

Dated: