

The Charltons Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on Tuesday 16th July 2024 at 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell

Councillors Present:

Tamzin Elliott (Chairman)
Susie Crang
Mike Parsons

Bob Adams (Vice Chairman)
Alan Crawley
Kim Williams

In Attendance: The Clerk and three members of the public.

❖ **Public Question and Comments:**

Residents were present to ask what can be done to help mitigate speeding on Primrose Hill from the junction of Chessels Lane onwards to Tuckers Batch.

Cllr Crawley would meet with the Neighbourhood Watch Team at Somerton Police station on 17th July and agreed to bring this matter to their attention.

Cllr Adams would meet Andy Barron, Somerset Council (SC) Highways Traffic Engineer on 23rd July and would ask if SC could look into the viability of including this part of the parish in the Community Speed Watch programme. This matter would be discussed further at agenda item 24/63.

❖ **Reports from Somerset Council:**

To receive any verbal report from Somerset Councillors Stephen Page or Tim Kerley.

The Clerk previously circulated Cllr Page’s report: “The key news is the recent SC meeting to confirm the go ahead for £4 billion investment by the owners of Jaguar Land Rover in a new battery factory [Agratas] on the edge of Bridgwater (former MOD site). This will eventually lead to c. 4000 well paid jobs in the region. So good news for Somerset!”

Agenda:

24/58. Apologies for absence:

To receive any apologies for absence.

RESOLVED: Apologies received from Cllr D Elliott.

24/59. Declarations of Interests:

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any Pecuniary or Other interests they may have under the Localism Act 2011 and NALC Model Code of Conduct adopted May 2022. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

RESOLVED: None declared.

24/60. Minutes:

To approve the Minutes of the PC meeting held on Wednesday 18th June 2024.

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

24/61. Planning.

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

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

i. **PA 24/01234/HOU** - Erection of a rear extension to bungalow and change of fenestration to the front to allow formation of a garage at Cooks Cary Farm, Kingsdon, TA11 7HU – **WITHDRAWN.**

24/62. Parish Council Accounts:

a. **Balance of the Council's Bank Account and Bank Reconciliation:**

To receive the full council accounts and bank reconciliation.

RESOLVED: The Clerk previously circulated the PC Accounts which were received and approved and bank balances at 5th July 2024 of Nat West Current Account £9,958.87 and Nat West Business Reserve Account £47,358.59, which were reconciled, approved and signed.

b. **Accounts for payment:**

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

- | | |
|---|---------|
| i. Cary Traders – Cutting footways and visibility splays on Ilchester Road & Bonfire Lane | £206.40 |
| ii. Reading Room Hire May & June 24 | £36.00 |

RESOLVED: Items of expenditure approved unanimously. The Clerk agreed to write to the owners whose land adjoined Ilchester Road and Bonfire Lane, including a copy of the Cary Traders invoice and remind them of their responsibilities to maintain their boundaries as they create a public safety issue when overgrown along a highway or public rights of way

c. **Grant Policy** – to consider the updated Charltons PC Grant Policy.

RESOLVED: Deferred to next meeting.

d. **Charltons War Memorial Update.** No additional quotes/estimates received. To approve quote from Dominic Blackledge - £3,972 for repairs to the stonework and landscaping.

RESOLVED: The Clerk confirmed that two companies were unable to carry out the work, including the stonemason who refurbished the Memorial ten years ago. No additional quotes/estimates received, therefore, the PC agreed to proceed with the quote from Dominic Blackledge to carry out the repairs to the stonework and landscaping.

e. **Internal Auditor** – To appoint an auditor for FY 24/25.

RESOLVED: Quote received from Parish and Towns Audit Services for £165. The Clerk would send out for two more quotes.

24/63. Speeding in The Charltons:

To consider the purchase of a second Speed Indicator Device (SID) with solar panel and to agree appropriate locations.

Following public session and the public session at the June meeting, councillors discussed the request for an additional SID to be used on Broadway Road, Charlton Adam more frequently and to operate on Primrose Hill from the junction of Chessels Lane onwards to Tuckers Batch.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed unanimously to purchase a second solar panel and fixing kit with key, up to the value of £700, for positioning on Primrose Hill once approval had been sought from SC with regards to installation on Highways furniture. This would provide data for Primrose Hill and increase the frequency of operation on Broadway, Charlton Adam. The PC would consider the purchase of a second SID once data from the trial on Primrose Hill was uploaded and interrogated.

24/64. Community Flood Action Group (CFAG) and Emergency Planning:

Update.

Cllrs Adams and Crawley recently attended the Somerset Prepared Roadshow, which they found useful to network with the representatives from the Flood Resilience Team at the Environment Agency (EA), Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA). Cllr Adams brought to their attention that, following the severe flooding on Primrose Hill

Residential Park in December 2023, when thirty homes were affected by flooding, it was assumed that SC would conduct a Section 19 investigation. Unfortunately, the PC was informed by SCllr Stephen Page that as the flooding was "not reported" an investigation would not now take place. Cllr Adams confirmed that the PC did report the flood events in the villages, as well as the various emergency services who were in attendance and SC themselves; it was the anomalies of SC own reporting system which meant that those reports were insufficient to trigger the investigation (minimum of 10 properties reported by the Homeowners). SRA, the EA and SC informed Cllr Adams that it was not too late to report the flooding to instigate an investigation and that it would be more appropriate if that report came from the residents.

RESOLVED: Cllr Adams asked the owners of Primrose Hill Residential Park, who have since agreed to report the flooding in retrospect to flooding@somerset.gov.uk, detailing specifically the numbers of dwellings affected and the level of damage incurred.

Councillors also discussed what steps the PC should take to support the CFAG to mitigate flooding in the villages. They concluded that the first step would be to produce a map of the watercourses in the villages starting with flows into "Bull Brook". Paul Elliston, Community Engagement Officer (SRA) would be available to assist.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Crawley and Parsons agreed to look into using Parish Online to create the map of the watercourses. The Clerk agreed to ask Martin Lilley, Chairman and Village Coordinator of Queen Camel's Flood Committee if he would be able to offer any advice and assistance with The Charltons Emergency Flood Plan.

24/65. Items for Report and Future Business.

- a. Signage. Cllr Adams reported that he would meet with Andy Barron, SC Traffic Engineer to discuss signage and other highways issues. Charlton Mackrell School, The Reading Room and Hallr Wood had submitted their requirements for signage to the PC which he would discuss with Andy Barron. The Charltons Churches Parochial Council were currently discussing needs and costs for signage and would feedback to the PC when they were clearer about a way forward.
- b. Millenium Plinths. The ten stone plinths were dirty, tired and needed cleaning. Cllr Adams agreed to start with cleaning the stone plinths on Kingweston and Ilchester Road once Cllr Parsons had strimmed the undergrowth, which would allow Anne Adams to paint the lettering.
- c. Grant Policy. To consider the updated Charltons PC Grant Policy at next meeting.

Next meeting: to be held on Tuesday 17th September 2024, 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Hillway, Charlton Mackrell.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed:

Dated: