

The Charltons Parish Council

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Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

held on Tuesday 18th March 2025

commencing at 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell

Councillors Present:

Tamzin Elliott (Chairman)

Susie Crang

Joe Wooltorton

Mike Parsons (Vice Chairman)

Kim Williams

In attendance: Somerset Councillors Tim Kerley and Stephen Page and the Clerk.

❖ **Public Question and Comments:** None present.

❖ Reports from Somerset Council:

Somerset Councillors Stephen Page and Tim Kerley reported as follows:

Budget. Somerset Council (SC) has increased the Council tax by 7.5% (nearly 70% of this goes on Adult Social Care and Children's Services) The system of local government funding is broken as widely reported in the media.

Boundary Review. SC has submitted its views on the Local Government Boundary Commission's (LGBC) review of boundaries for the election in 2027. The Charltons will probably be part of the Ilchester Division from 2027. Residents were encouraged to comment on the first draft and submit them in writing to the LGBC.

Flooding. Stephen Page will be attending the Flooding Meeting organised by Sarah Dyke, MP on 20th March 2025, venue TBC.

25/19. Apologies for absence:

To receive any apologies for absence.

RESOLVED: Apologies for absence were received and approved from Cllrs Alan Crawley and Adam Ware.

25/20. 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.

25/21. Minutes:

To approve the Minutes of the PC meeting held on Tuesday 18th February 2025.

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

25/22. Parish Council Vacancies.

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

RESOLVED: There was one eligible candidate for one of the vacancies, Joe Wooltorton. The PC voted unanimously in favour of Joe who was co-opted onto the PC and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The final vacancy would continue to be advertised. The Clerk's vacancy, effective 1st May 2025, was advertised locally and with Somerset Association for Local Councils (SALC). The PC approved to advertise internally at SC through Dillington Press for £78.

25/23. Planning.

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

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

i. **PA 24/02957/HOU.** Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement garage at Matford Farm, Broadway, Charlton Adam TA11 7BD – **APPROVED.**

ii. **PA 24/02978/HOU.** Modification (including two storey extension) of existing workshop building to convert into bat roost, in addition to the installation of a staircase and door and rooflights to the east side of the building and 4 no. rooflights to the north roof slope (part-retrospective) at The Court, West Charlton, Charlton Mackrell, TA11 7AL – **APPROVED.**

25/24. 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's Accounts, which were agreed and bank balance at 8th March 2025 of Nat West Current Account £601.53 and Nat West Business Reserve Account £45,795.15, which were reconciled, approved and signed.

b. **Accounts for payment:**

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

i. Grant - The Charltons Memorial Playing Field Maint	£2,738.12
ii. Malcolm Reeves – Grounds Maintenance	£700.00
iii. Reading Room Routine Maintenance Grant	£300.00
iv. Grant – Somerton Library	£300.00
v. Grant – Citizens Advice Somerset	£200.00
vi. Clerk's Allowances & Expenses	£53.50
vii. Mr J Legge – materials for footpath sign repairs	£43.39
viii. Reading Room hire Jan & Feb 25	£36.00
ix. The Old Post House Defibrillator Hosting	£20.00

RESOLVED: All items of expenditure were approved unanimously. The Chairman wished to thank Mr Legge on behalf of the PC for his help and work on repairing the signposts in Wellham.

25/25. Parish Noticeboards:

To consider the need and options for refurbishment and/or replacement of the three parish notice boards.

RESOLVED: Cllr Williams reported that she had received a quote for £300 from a local tradesman to carry out the necessary repairs to the three notice boards, which was approved unanimously.

25/26. Annual Parish Meeting:

To discuss options/venue/format.

RESOLVED: Due to Cllr Armstrong's absence this item would be deferred to the next meeting.

25/27. Items for Report and Future Business.

a. Chairman Resignation. Cllr Tamzin Elliott wished to give her resignation from the PC with immediate effect as she could no longer attend the next meeting in April; she had previously advised that she would not continue on the PC from May 2025. Councillors and the Clerk thanked Tamzin, who had been on the PC since 2019 and Chairman since 2022, for her hard work, commitment and time on the PC, especially as Chairman. The first item on the agenda for the next meeting would be to elect a new Chairman.

b. Damaged Wall. Cllr Woollorton agreed to take photos of the damaged wall on Mill Lane so that it could be reported to SC as a hazard on the highway.

Next meeting: to be held on Tuesday 15th April 2025, 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Hillway, Charlton Mackrell.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:

Dated: