

# The Charltons Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 commencing at 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell.

Councillors Present: Adam Ware (Chairman), Mike Parsons (Vice Chairman), Susie Crang, Karen Rowland (from agenda item 25/75), Anneke Stockhausen and Joe Wooltorton.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

In attendance: Somerset Councillors Tim Kerley, Stephen Page and ten members of the public.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a parishioner explained the work that she does, along with the other volunteers in providing the Christmas Tree and lights in the village. The parishioner asked to more volunteers to assist this year. Councillors Stockhausen and Wooltorton agreed to help.

A parishioner spoke on behalf of the Community Centre. They are very close to securing a grant for the replacement of the roof. The Parish Council has already committed to donate £3,000 to the Community Centre in the current financial year, and there is now an urgent need to the funds to be transferred in order for the grant to be secured. The Clerk explained that expenditure such as this would normally have to be agreed in a meeting agenda item, but in the circumstances the councillors could agree to transfer the funds now, as the expenditure had been already committed.

Councillor Ware declared an interest in this matter and excused himself from the meeting.

It was resolved to make the donation of £3,000 to the Community Centre immediately.

Public Questions and Comments.

Residents of West Charlton spoke about speeding problems in Bonfire Lane and West Charlton. A long conversation took place about potential solutions to the problem. Councillor Tim Kerley and the Clerk gave advice about may be achievable. Councillor Stockhausen will liaise with Councillor Crawley about the possibility of one of the speed indicator devices being used to monitor traffic movement and speeds.

Somerset Councillor report.

This is a summary of the report Councillor Kerley gave to the meeting.

1. The Somerset Council financial situation is looking much better, however Somerset Council is still in the unsatisfactory position of needing to dispose of some of its valuable assets which it would like to retain.
2. The Somerset Council land supply allocation has now dropped to 2.11 years. This relates to the number of already identified sites for new housing development throughout the county. It is very important that this does not drop below two years, as the consequence could be that Somerset Council would lose control over where new housing developments are built. This means that new sites will urgently need to be identified, with countryside sites being considered in locations that will not be popular with local residents. A recent

example of this has been the recently approved housing development at Keinton Mandeville.

3. Most of the unauthorised brown signs that have been put up in the village have now been removed. Unfortunately, some more have now been put up. These need to be removed or they will be taken down by Somerset Council.

This is a summary of the report Councillor Page gave to the meeting.

1. Members of the public can attend all Somerset Council planning development committee meetings, either in person or virtually.
2. Somerset Council has received a national award for adult social care. More people are now receiving care in their homes instead of residing in residential homes which is very encouraging as most people prefer to stay in their homes, and it also saves a lot of money.
3. The Local Government Boundary Commission has reported, and the recommendation is that this parish is included in the Ilchester ward with only one ward county councillor. The public consultation on this boundary review is open until 11<sup>th</sup> August and all members of the public who have a view on the proposal, for and against, should reply to the consultation on this link. <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset>

25/72 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Armstrong, Crawley and Williams.

25/73 To receive declarations of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

25/74 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

It was resolved to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.

25/75 To consider an application received to fill the remaining casual vacancy on the Parish Council by co-option.

It was resolved to co-opt Karen Rowlands to the Parish Council. Councillor Rowlands signed the declaration of office and joined the council.

All councillor seats are now filled.

25/76 To consider the briefing sheet from Somerset Council's regarding volunteer highway maintenance for parish, town and city councils.

The contents of the briefing sheet were noted.

25/77 To consider and adopt a Parish Council IT policy.

It was agreed to defer this item to the next parish council meeting.

25/78 To receive the Speed Indicator Device report.

The following Speed Indicator Device report was noted.

Charlton Mackrell - The period monitored was between 17<sup>th</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> July.

There was an average of 1,697 vehicles per day (inbound) and 1,630 vehicles per day (outbound).

Inbound – 80% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 13% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 5% between 36 – 40mph. 2% between 41 – 45% and 1% over 46mph.

Outbound – 53% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 29% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 13% between 36 – 40mph. 4% between 41 – 45% and 2% over 46mph.

Charlton Adam - The period monitored was between 15<sup>th</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> July. There was an average of 237 vehicles per day (inbound) and 240 vehicles per day (outbound).

Inbound – 85% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 9% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 4% between 36 – 40mph. 1% between 41 – 45% and 1% over 46mph.

Outbound – 72% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 17% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 7% between 36 – 40mph. 2% between 41 – 45% and 1% over 46mph.

25/79 To approve the following payments.

Payee	Details	Net	VAT	TOTAL
Anthony Jay	Clerk's salary July	£436.28	£0.00	£436.28
HMRC	PAYE July	£128.47	£0.00	£128.47
Anthony Jay	Clerk's expenses July	£70.40	£0.00	£70.40
SALC	Councillor training X 2	£70.00	£0.00	£70.00
Reading Room	Room Hire X 2	£42.00	£0.00	£42.00
Chubb Bullied	Legal Services	£667.00	£150.00	£817.00
Community Centre	Donation	£3000.00	£0.00	£3,000.00
Total		£1414.15	£150.00	£1564.15

It was resolved to approve the payments.

The Clerk reported that the council's finances at the end of June were:

Current Account    £1,122  
Reserve Account    £68,709

The 2025-26 Accounting Spreadsheet had been previously forwarded to all councillors. No questions or concerns were raised.

25/81 To receive the clerk's report.

The clerk has recently attended a briefing about new legislation which will be introduced late this year, or early next year. This relates to council meetings.

Councils will be able to hold their meetings either a) in person as present b) virtually – with all councillors and members of the public attending online, as was the case during the covid period and c) hybrid – with some councillors and members of the public being physically present, and some attending on line. It will be up to individual councils to decide which option to use, which could vary from meeting to meeting. This has been the situation in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales ever since the pandemic.

There will be a system of councillor proxy voting. Various options are being considered, with full details appearing in the new legislation.

The land registry work on Welham Field has now been completed, and the land is registered in the name of the parish council.

25/82 To receive councillor reports.

There were no councillor reports.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

End of minutes.