

# The Charltons Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025 commencing at 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell.

Councillors Present: Adam Ware (Chairman), Katie Armstrong, Susie Crang, Alan Crawley, Karen Rowland, and Joe Woollorton.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

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

Public Questions and Comments.

There were no questions.

Somerset Councillor report.

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

Yeovil Hospital has declared an emergency situation and has been forced to close its maternity unit. There will possibly be an announcement in November over whether this department will be reopening.

Somerset Council has been awarded a grant of £4 million by central government to be used to install new public electric vehicle charging points, mainly in rural locations. Parish Councils will be asked if they would like a charging point in their area.

Somerset Council is supporting the administrative merger of Strode, Bridgwater, Taunton and Cannington colleges as this will lead to more courses being available, and better investment.

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

Somerset Council has declared a planning emergency, due to the current staffing shortage and the difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff in the planning department. The old South Somerset area is particularly suffering, as previously it had a very good planning department prior to the creation of the unitary authority.

25/83 To receive any apologies for absence.

Councillor Anneke Stockhausen was not present.

25/84 To receive declarations of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

25/85 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

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

25/86 To consider the Parish Council's response to the following planning application.

20/02220/REM. Land south of Somerton Lane, Charlton Mackrell TA11 6AE. Reserved Matters application following Outline approval 19/02412/OUT for the erection of two dwellings seeking approval of access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale.

Please note that outline planning permission has already been granted for two dwellings to be built in this location.

It was resolved to object to the planning application as the proposed properties are overbearing compared with the neighbouring properties. The proposed roofs are too tall and steeply pitched.

25/87 To consider and approve a Parish Council IT policy.

It was resolved to approve a Parish Council IT policy.

25/88 To consider and approve the change of the Parish Council's website address and emails from .org to gov.uk

It was resolved to change the Parish Council's website address and emails from .org to gov.uk.

There will be no set up charges, however as with our old website and emails there will be annual hosting charges.

25/89 To consider changing the Parish Council's method of accounting from a spreadsheet to the Scribe accountancy package.

This agenda item was adjourned until a future meeting.

25/90 To consider the Parish Council's response to the Somerset Council Sunday car parking charges consultation.

It was resolved to object to any proposals to introduce any additional Sunday parking charges.

25/91 To receive an update from the CIL working group.

The CIL working group has met recently and are working on proposals for the Parish Councillors to consider. These include:

- The upgrading of the footpaths in the parish, with improved signage and gates/stiles.
- Better signage in the parish.
- Payment of the costs involved in a potential change of speed limit to 20mph in some parts of the parish.

The Somerset Council Highways Department has indicated that the introduction of a 20mph speed limit may be possible in parts of the parish. The Parish Council would be asked to contribute approximately £5000 to the cost of this work. A map showing the roads being considered for a revised speed limit is included at the end of these minutes.

25/92 To consider the appointment of a Parish Councillor to the parish's CIL working group.

It was resolved to appoint Councillor Williams.

25/93 To consider the number of dog bins in the parish.

A review will be carried out of the current number of dog bins, and potential locations for new dog bins will be identified.

The pupils of Charlton Mackrell primary school will be asked to design posters to be displayed in the parish asking people to pick up their dog mess.

25/94 To receive the Speed Indicator Device report.

These are the latest Speed Indicator Device figures.

Kingweston Road, Charlton Mackrell - The period monitored was between 12<sup>th</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup> September.

There was an average of 1,839 vehicles per day (inbound) and 1,611 vehicles per day (outbound).

Inbound – 81% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 12% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 5% between 36 – 40mph. 2% between 41 – 45% and 1% over 46mph.

Outbound – 54% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 28% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 13% between 36 – 40mph. 4% between 41 – 45% and 2% over 46mph.

Broadway, Charlton Adam - The period monitored was between 12<sup>th</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup> September.

There was an average of 255 vehicles per day (inbound) and 267 vehicles per day (outbound).

Inbound – 87% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 8% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 3% between 36 – 40mph. 1% between 41 – 45% and 1% over 46mph.

Outbound – 76% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 15% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 6% between 36 – 40mph. 2% between 41 – 45% and 1% over 46mph.

25/95 To approve the following payments.

Payee	Details	Net £	VAT £	Total £
Anthony Jay	Clerk's salary August *	500.16	0.00	500.16
Anthony Jay	Clerk's salary September	500.16	0.00	500.16
HMRC	PAYE August *	156.72	0.00	156.72
HMRC	PAYE September	156.22	0.00	156.22
Anthony Jay	Clerk's expenses August *	27.95	0.00	27.95

Anthony Jay	Clerk's expenses September	62.45	0.00	62.45
Jon Legge	Footpath signs work	77.85	0.00	77.85
SALC	Councillor training	75.00	0.00	75.00
Corporate Xmas Tree	Christmas lights	104.15	20.83	124.98
Safelincs	Defibrillator pads	199.47	39.41	238.88
Total		1860.13	60.24	1920.37

Please note that the payments marked with an asterix were made in August when there was no council meeting.

It was resolved to approve the payments.

25/96 To receive the clerk's report.

Somerset Council has been notified of the resignation of Mike Parsons as a Parish Councillor and have now confirmed that a suitably qualified person can now be co-opted to the council.

There is now a requirement for all councillors and council staff to undergo Data Protection and Freedom of Information training. The clerk will make the arrangements for this training.

Refurbishment work on footpath signs has taken place. Jon Legge is thanked for his work.

A new planning application has been submitted, which will be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

25/02027/OUT at Land at Chessels Lane, Charlton Adam. Outline application with all matters reserved except for access, for the erection of five dwellings with associated drainage, landscaping and access.

25/97 To receive councillor reports.

An application has been submitted to name one of the roads in the new housing development at Charlton Adam 'Wilcox Drive' in memory of Sgt William Wilcox MM of the Cornwall Light Infantry who lived in Broadway, died on 10th November 1919 and is buried in Charlton Adam Churchyard.

Former councillor Bob Adams and Celia Mycock from the Charltons Historical Society were thanked for their research work in providing the required information behind this application. The final decision over whether this application is approved will be made by Somerset Council, in conjunction with the housing developers. If this suggestion is approved, then consideration will be given to the installation of a plaque explaining the reasons behind the road name.

The Clerk is asked to write to Kingweston Estates, the owners of the 100 acre field next to Kingweston Road, asking whether they would be prepared to plant

trees on their field. This would help with the drainage of this field, and could help to prevent flooding in the parish. The Parish Council has been donated a large number of saplings which could be planted.

The volunteers who have carried out clearance work at the river in Carey Fitzpaine are thanks for their work.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025. The Clerk will not be able to attend this meeting due a prior engagement arranged before his appointment. Councillor Armstrong has kindly agreed to clerk the meeting.

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

End of minutes.

