

The Charltons Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Held as a consultative virtual meeting via Zoom software on
Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 7.00pm

Councillors Present (remotely):

Nick Blackledge (Chairman)

Alan Crawley

Tamzin Elliott

Darin Kay

Bob Adams

Dennis Elliott

Rick Harrison

Dee Powell

In Attendance (remotely): C.Cllr D Ruddle, D.Cllr T Capozzoli, D.Cllr C Hull, the Clerk and two members of the public.

Public Session

There were no questions from members of the public present.

Reports from County and District Councillors

District and County Councillors may give short verbal reports on matters affecting the Parish.

D.Cllr Hull reported that South Somerset District Council's (SSDC) Area East Committee would meet virtually next month via Zoom. It was anticipated that there would be a full agenda as the Committee had not met since December 2019, therefore, there would be a backlog of planning applications to be determined by the Committee.

D.Cllr Hull reported that the Stronger Somerset Members' Briefing would be held on 18th February 2021 at which they would find out what the latest developments were. He also reported that the Scrutiny Committee were looking at local energy schemes as there is a lot of interest in local energy and he had asked residents to let him know their views on local bus services, which he considered to be inadequate.

D.Cllr Capozzoli confirmed that Area East meetings would re-commence in March for which there would be a full agenda. D.Cllr Capozzoli also reported that he had forwarded a Members' Update on planning that included an update on personnel within the planning department, which the Clerk confirmed she had circulated.

D.Cllr Capozzoli advised that some local Parish and Town Councils were purchasing and sharing/renting out Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). Operators would be required to attend Chapter 8 training; Cllr Crawley registered his interest in training. D.Cllr Capozzoli advised that there may be funding available from SSDC to purchase SIDs. The PC agreed to include this on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

C.Cllr Ruddle reported that Somerton Town Council recently awarded a grant of £5,000 to Langport Transport Group (LTG) who were applying for funding for a feasibility study to look at the possibility of a railway station being re-opened in the Langport and Somerton area. LTG was also successful in its recent application to the Department for Transport who awarded LTG £50,000 under the Restoring Your Railway Fund.

C.Cllr Ruddle wished to speak further on local bus schemes, which was a regular topic of discussion at Area North. The general consensus was that it would be easier for the larger town and parish councils, such as Wincanton, Somerton, Martock, Ilminster and Crewkerne, to collaborate as they would have access to a higher level of funding in order to finance a local bus service scheme; the smaller more rural parish councils could contribute at a level commensurate

to their precept. He considered that local bus services were not going to improve, therefore, he would continue to pursue this initiative.

C.Cllr Ruddle reported that, at the next full meeting of Somerset County Council (SCC), the Council had tabled a motion to grant £400,000 to Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to enable the CAB to continue providing its invaluable support.

C.Cllr Ruddle reported that SCC were unable to sign off its accounts at present as the Property Department hadn't kept an up to date record of its assets and values; there was also an issue of duplicate invoicing/payments in the Highways department, which required resolving.

21/14. 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: Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Jemma Lawson.

21/15. 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 2012) adopted July 2012. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

RESOLVED: No interests declared.

21/16. Minutes.

To approve the Minutes of the Remote Ordinary PC Meeting held on Tuesday 19th January 2021.

RESOLVED: The minutes were confirmed as a true record and would be duly signed.

21/17. Parish Council Vacancy.

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

RESOLVED: There were two eligible candidates for the vacancy, Mr D Elliott and Ms P Schofield. The Clerk called for nominations for each vacancy. Cllr Harrison proposed Ms P Schofield for co-option onto the Council, which was seconded but not passed as a majority vote was not achieved. Cllr Crawley proposed Mr Elliott for co-option onto the Council, which was passed by a majority vote. Cllr Elliott signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office (DAO) remotely and joined the Council.

(D.Cllr Capozzoli left the meeting at 7.20pm)

21/18. Project Charltons - Refurbishment of the Memorial Playing Field Play Area.

To authorise transfer of funds held for Project Charltons to the Charltons Community Centre and Memorial Playing Field Trust Committee.

RESOLVED: Following the formal request from the Community Hall Trust to transfer the funds held by the Parish Council on behalf of Project Charltons, the PC agreed to transfer the balance remaining of £12,751.72 to The Charltons Community Trust. ***(D.Cllr Hull left the meeting at 7.25pm)***. The Clerk agreed to formally notify the Community Trust that, with effect from 1 April 2021, the revised arrangements for reimbursement of grass and hedge cutting would commence. Expenditure would be reimbursed to The Trust upon receipt of all invoices, paid directly by The Trust to the contractor, that relate to grass cutting within the confines of the playing field for the previous financial year.

21/19. Planning.

- a. To consider the following planning applications (PA):
 - i. **PA 21/00184/FUL.** Proposed lean-to extension on the existing building for hay storage on land Os 2560 part George Street, Charlton Adam. Councillors considered that the proposed extension is not 'of a very modest size' and is actually quite large, measuring approx. 6m x 10m. The Supporting Statement is also

inaccurate as, despite the building being set back, it will be highly visible from the highway. Three fruit trees will need to be removed to clear the site for the extension, therefore, councillors request that replacement hedge/trees are planted to minimise the visual impact. There was also the suggestion of raising the ground (a berm) against the new barn.

RESOLVED: The PC agreed unanimously to recommend that the application be **APPROVED** on the condition that there is mitigation to minimise the visual impact.

ii. **PA 21/00331/HOU.** Two storey side extension at Ferlochan, Chessels Lane, Charlton Adam.

It was commented upon that the window in the side elevation may overlook the property next door, however, residents have not commented to date. Councillors agreed that this was an uncontroversial application and had no further observations.

RESOLVED: The PC agreed unanimously to recommend that the application be **APPROVED**.

iii. **PA 20/03439/FUL.** Erection of a vehicular and a pedestrian gate and post rail fence across the entrance of the National Trust Visitor car park at Lytes Cary Manor, Lytes Cary. It was agreed that the proposal would be of negligible detraction to the Grade I listed Manor House and its Grade II listed park and garden, both of which would benefit from an additional level of security. Councillors considered that as English Heritage were consultees, they were better placed to decide whether they also believe the detraction to be minimal and thus whether the erection of the fence and gates is acceptable and meets their standards.

RESOLVED: The PC agreed unanimously to recommend that the application be **APPROVED** on the condition that English Heritage recommend approval.

b. South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Decisions: None.

21/20. 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 presented and subsequently approved. The bank reconciliation to be duly signed.

b. **Accounts for payment.**

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

The Charltons Village News PC page 2020	£300.00
Mr M Cecil-Denning Wayleaves	£178.70
K M Dike Nurseries Grass Cutting Jan 21	£169.94
Wix.com website annual subscription	£122.40
Parish Online subscription 29 Jan 21 to 29 Jan 22	£86.40
Namesco Ltd renewal thecharltons.org.uk for 6 years	£68.39
SALC Training – Code of Conduct 28 Jan 21	£50.00
Somerset Forge – Fingerpost repair	£30.00

21/21. Speed Mitigation.

To consider proposal to reduce the speed limit to 40mph on the approach to Sticklebridge Farm on the A37.

Councillors discussed various options to help mitigate speed and accidents, including improved signage, Vehicle Activated Signage (VAS) and re-painting road markings to include rumble strips.

RESOLVED: Following a full discussion, it was agreed that the PC would compile evidence to build its case prior to requesting action from County Highways.

21/22. Solar Streets – A Solar PV Initiative.

Update on the principle/possibilities of bulk buying solar PV to provide a lower cost PV system to residents.

RESOLVED: Cllr Adams reported that the next issue of The Charltons Village News would include an article on how The Charltons could ‘piggy back’ off the Somerton Scheme. Any residents considering installing Solar Panels could look at IDDEA Solar Streets Somerton online or alternatively call them on 01380 726999 mentioning Somerton Solar Streets.

21/23. Reports from the PC Committees, Working Groups (WG) and PC Representatives:

Councillors to provide reports.

a. Highways. Cllr Crawley reported that he’d received the new signage to help prevent HGV’s illegally accessing the parish, which would be installed at the top of Kingweston Rd, Ilchester Rd near Bonfire Lane and the entrance to Broadway.

Councillors discussed the inconvenience and disruption caused by the articulated lorries delivering to the development site opposite the Fox and Hounds Inn.

ACTION: The Clerk agreed to ask the developer to remind his suppliers that articulated lorries are not able to access the site and that they should use smaller lorries if possible.

b. Environment. Cllr T Elliott reported on the large amount of rubbish now visible in the ditches and verges along Kingweston Road up to Christian’s Cross since they’d been cut. Cllr Adams advised that fly tipping is quickly acted upon if reported via the SSDC website at www.southsomerset.gov.uk/services/environmental-health/nuisances/report-fly-tipping/.

c. Laptops for Children. Cllr Adams reported that Mrs S Costain’s scheme to re-furbish laptops for Charlton Mackerel School had successfully supplied twenty laptops, which meant all children in the school were able to learn from home during the Covid-19 pandemic, for which the PC were very grateful.

d. Preparing for the Possibility of Return of Face to Face Meetings. The regulations that allow local authorities to hold meetings remotely apply to local authority meetings that are required to be held, or held, before 7 May 2021. This means that, without any further action from the government, all local authorities including local councils must return to face to face meetings from 7 May. NALC is working with a number of national bodies to press the government to extend these regulations beyond this date and will continue to stress the urgency and importance of this issue. However, at this time government has no plans to extend these regulations and so local councils have been advised that they should start preparing for the real possibility of face to face meetings from May.

ACTION: Cllrs Adams, T Elliott and the Clerk agreed to carry out an assessment of the options and venues available in order to minimise any risk while effectively being able to conduct PC business.

21/24. Items for Report and Future Business.

a. The provision or sharing of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs).

Next meeting: to be held virtually on Tuesday 16th March 2021, 7.00pm via Zoom.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed:

Dated: