

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 20th October at 7.00pm

Councillors Present (remotely):

Nick Blackledge (Chairman)	Richard Montagu (Vice-Chairman)
Bob Adams	Alan Crawley
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

No comments.

Reports from County and District Councillors

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

C.Cllr Ruddle reported that a letter had been sent from the Secretary of State confirming that there would be some form of unitary authority. North Somerset and BANES were included in the proposals, which was a surprise and would make matters interesting. He had no idea whether there would be Council elections in May 2021, but more may be known in January 2021.

Cllr Ruddle reported on the members' briefing regarding the Government's proposed planning reforms and would forward the relevant documentation to the Clerk. In brief, the proposal was that planning would be categorised in zones such as housing, industry, commercial, green belt etc., which was similar to planning in America. Areas already identified as suitable for development would be automatically zoned for approval and only considered at the Reserved Matters stage. A 5 year housing land supply would no longer be required. Section 106 payments and Community Infrastructure Levies would be replaced by payments based on final profit. He was uncertain how the proposed planning reforms would affect rural areas as he considered them to be more significant for larger towns.

Cllr Capozzoli reported the Council approved a letter at the recent Full Council meeting, stating that it did not agree with the proposals within the White Paper and gave the reasons why. He stressed that it was important for Parish and Town Councils and residents to respond to the White Paper consultation, as the proposals would remove the requirement for consultation with local authorities, leaving the decision solely to the planning officer, which was undemocratic.

Cllr Capozzoli asked that he and Cllr Hull be copied in to any correspondence relating to planning enforcement matters, or residents could contact them directly.

Cllr Hull also disagreed with the Government's plans for reform, feeling them to be unsuitable for predominantly rural areas such as The Charltons. In particular, he considered that the reforms fail to suitably address local democratic concerns, sufficiently protect biodiversity across all community types and ensure environmental protocols are robust enough to help meet our net-zero carbon target by 2030. Naturally, huge concern exists with how these proposals would be shaped by any new unitary authority(s). Hopefully more should be known early 2021.

Cllr Hull briefly mentioned the solar panel initiative proposed via Baltonsborough PC, which was on the agenda for discussion at item 20/82. He encouraged the Charltons to consider supporting the scheme, perhaps linking up with Somerton.

20/73. 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 from Cllr Tamzin Elliott.

20/74. 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: None.

20/75. Minutes.

To approve the Minutes of the Remote Ordinary PC Meeting held on Tuesday 15th September 2020.

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

20/76. Parish Council Vacancies.

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

RESOLVED: There was one eligible candidate for the vacancy, Mr R Harrison, who was co-opted unanimously. Cllr R Harrison signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office (DAO) remotely.

20/77. Project Charltons - Refurbishment of the Memorial Hall Playing Field Play Area.

Update from Project Charltons (ProjC) Working Group (WG) and related matters.

Dawn Richards previously circulated her report on behalf of ProjC (Attachment 1), which the WG would continue to provide monthly. Ms Richards confirmed that the Project's target was to raise £150K in order to provide the proposed scheme as presented, which includes activities for children of all ages and adults. If funds allowed, the WG had a list of 'extras' at an approximate cost of £25K, however, due to Covid-19 the WG had been unable to carry out fundraising activities and had to rely more on grant applications. They were currently waiting for a response from Viridor regarding their grant application for £96,355. There followed a robust discussion regarding roles and responsibilities of the PC as Custodian Trustees of the Community Centre and Playing Field, and the Community Centre Committee as Management Trustees and how, therefore, the PC could legitimately claim back VAT. Ms Richards advised that if the PC could not claim back VAT on purchases made on behalf of ProjC, it would not affect the project other than they would have to raise more funds.

RESOLVED: The PC agreed that it would not reclaim VAT on items purchased for ProjC unless HMRC confirmed otherwise; the Clerk and Ms Richards agreed to contact HMRC to confirm VAT status. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Crawley and Harrison agreed to arrange a meeting at the Community Centre with members of ProjC, Rob Parr, SSDC's Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer and Gary Slade, Project Manager to discuss a number of outstanding concerns.

20/78. Planning.

a. To consider the following planning applications (PA):

i. **PA 20/01567/HOU.** Amended plans for the erection of a single storey extension to dwelling at Welham Barn, Welham Farm Lane, Charlton Mackrell.

The PC previously approved the application, which was amended in order to meet the requirements of the planning officer. Councilors also noted that parking arrangements had been revised, which resolved the neighbour dispute, therefore, councilors agreed to continue to recommend approval.

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

ii. **PA 20/02614/HOU.** The erection of a two bay open garage/car port at Wallflower Cottage, Broadway Road, Charlton Adam.

Cllr Adams reported that he carried out a site visit. Councillors agreed that this was an uncontentious application.

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

b. South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Decisions:

i. **PA 20/00871/REM.** Application for approval of reserved matters following approval of planning application 20/00690/S73 for the approval of the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale on land opposite Fox And Hounds, Broadway Road, Charlton Adam – **APPROVED.**

ii. **PA 20/00646/FUL.** The subdivision of existing dwelling into two separate dwellings, erection of two first floor rear extensions, demolition of existing outbuilding and the formation of associated parking at Alehouse Lodge, Ilchester Road, Charlton Mackrell – **APPROVED.**

c. Public Footpath L6/22 (off Broadway Road) Charlton Adam Diversion Order. Representations to be received by 12th November 2020.

RESOLVED: The PC previously agreed at its meeting on 21st January 2020 that the amended route was an improvement and recommended approval of the diversion.

(D.Cllr Capozzoli and D.Cllr C Hull left the meeting at 8.10pm)

20/79. 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 Youth Club Grant FY 20/21	£1,550.00
Cary Traders – Hedge cutting Village Car Park and Community Hall	£344.40
K M Dike Nurseries Grass Cutting Sep 20	£169.94
Clerk's Expenses & Salary increase	£110.80
SLCC Membership renewal	£109.00
Walton Press - leaflets for 'Fibre to The Premises' information	£86.00

RESOLVED: Items of expenditure **APPROVED** unanimously.

c. To review Parish Council Earmarked Reserves.

Cllr Adams previously circulated his review of the PC's reserves.

RESOLVED: The Clerk agreed to include Cllr Adam's proposals when drafting the precept for FY 21/22, which would be considered and set at the PC meeting in January 2021.

20/80. FTTP (Fibre to the Premises) Broadband

Report from the Vice Chairman and Cllr Crawley following meeting with Richard Culley, resident working with Keinton Mandeville PC, to discuss providing FTTP as part of a Community Fibre Partnership scheme.

Councillors advised that twenty two residents had already expressed an interest in the scheme and there was no commitment required at this stage. Vouchers were available for residential premises up to £1,500 and £3,500 for businesses.

RESOLVED: The PC agreed to fund and hand-deliver leaflets to all households in The Charltons, Lytes Cary and Cary Fitzpaine with information on the scheme.

20/81. Clothing Recycling Bank 'Bags of Help' for Charlton Mackrell School

To consider request from Friends of Charlton Mackrell School and Preschool committee (PTA) for the temporary installation (12 months) of a clothing recycling bank in the Village Car Park to raise funds for the school.

RESOLVED: Councillors approved unanimously. The Chairman agreed to sign the Service Level Agreement for the clothing bank BOH on behalf of the PC.

20/82. Solar Streets – A Solar PV Initiative.

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

D.Cllr Hull previously circulated the solar panel initiative proposed via Baltonsborough PC, which as a 'Green' policy, he absented himself from the discussion of the scheme as he did not wish to prejudice the outcome. Cllrs were unsure of the suitability of the scheme for the parish due to its conservation areas and social housing, which may limit the number of interested properties.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to defer this item until the next PC meeting.

20/83. Reports from the PC Committees, Working Groups (WG) and PC Representatives:

Councillors to provide reports.

a. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) WG. Cllr Adams previously circulated the proposed roles and responsibilities of the WG, which were approved unanimously.

b. Community SpeedWatch (CSW) and Highway Matters. Cllr Crawley reported that CSW had been reinstated. He advised that speeding traffic along Kingweston Road continued to be an issue as were HGVs attempting to access the villages and having to attempt to reverse to avoid the railway bridge. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the PC had waited long enough for the promised improved signage and would install its own, in accordance with Highway legislation.

ACTION: Cllr Adams agreed to obtain a quote from ParSigns, Somerton for blue signage with an HGV crossed out, which would be installed on existing highway poles.

Cllr Harrison expressed an interest in setting up 'LorryWatch' using CCTV and general public information

ACTION: To be included on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

c. Environment. Cllrs asked for an update on volunteers for parish 'Environment Champions'.

ACTION: The Clerk agreed to email those who previously expressed an interest.

Cllr Adams advised that he recently reported an incident of fly tipping in the ditch along Kingweston Road; interestingly the rubbish contained the same empty bottle/s of wine as are regularly 'dumped' in the ditch north of Broadway!

d. Primary School. Cllr Adams reported that the school would be displaying the children's carved pumpkins along its wall on Friday, which councillors may like to see.

e. Remembrance Sunday. A resident present remotely advised that there would be no formal wreath laying ceremony this year due to Covid-19, however, if any individual wished to lay a wreath on that day, the PCC advised that they would be free to do so.

ACTION: PC's donation of £50 towards the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for payment on the agenda at the next meeting.

f. Parish Council Vacancies. The Clerk advised that there were two vacancies remaining on the PC, which she would re-advertise and encouraged councillors to 'recruit'.

20/84. Items for Report and Future Business.

Please notify items to the Clerk at least 24hrs before the meeting.

a. Solar Streets – A Solar PV initiative.

b. To consider initiating a Lorry Watch scheme.

c. Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - £50.

Next meeting: to be held virtually on Tuesday 17th November 2020, 7.00pm via Zoom.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed:

Dated:

DRAFT

Attachment 1



October 2020

Progress report for the Charltons Parish Council 20th October 2020

We have now been working together since January 2019 developing the plans for the replacement of the playground and improvements to the facilities for all villagers on the Memorial Playing Field. Initially we collected information about play and leisure facilities and received a lot of help and advice from Rob Parr, South Somerset Facilities Officer who has a long and successful history of developing play and leisure facilities in the area. We have regularly consulted the whole village from April 2019 about what they would like to see on the field. We developed the plans using this information with the help of a professional project manager experienced and knowledgeable in similar projects. We have also worked with Martin Butt who has laid a path free of charge on the eastern edge of the field to improve access and later will build the necessary mounds for the play equipment.

Alongside the planning we have been making applications for funding as a working group of the Parish Council set up in April 2019 with the purpose of redeveloping the playground and field as follows:

- **Viridor Credits.** We have made an application to them for £96,355 to cover the cost of purchasing and installing play equipment for children from 0-13 years. As part of this application we needed to obtain three fully comparable quotes for the work. This was organised for us by the project manager. The application has been well received and goes to the Viridor national funding committee at the end of October. This application has required us to demonstrate that we have support within the village. We have provided 17 letters of support including ones from the Chair of school governors, the Headmistress, preschool staff, the Co-ordinator of the youth club, the Chair of the hall committee, the Chair and Clerk of the Parish Council, our District councillor and parents and children. Additionally, we have needed as part of the application process to be able to provide 10% of the monies applied for as a contributing third party payment and have obtained permission from donors to use their donations in this way. This application was made on the understanding that we would be able to reclaim VAT on purchases. We now have to wait until early November to hear the outcome which will depend on other applications to Viridor and the amount of funding available to the funding committee.
- **South Somerset** We successfully applied for £995 towards the projected cost of £3465 for preparation work, development of plans and specifications by the employment of a Project Manager. This will be payable when we have spent the £3465
- **Wessex Water** We successfully applied for £1500 for the installation of a water bottle filler at the hall and a contribution towards the sensory area. We are in the process of installing the water bottle filler which has already been purchased and there will be an invoice following for approval for the cost of installation by a contractor approved by the hall committee.
- **Calor Rural Fund** We raised £1877 through crowd funding from local supporters

Our next actions will be very much influenced by the outcome of our Viridor application. We will continue to make applications for funding for the youth area, the adult fitness equipment and the sensory area.