

# 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 15<sup>th</sup> September at 5.00pm

## **Councillors Present (remotely):**

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

In Attendance (remotely): D.Cllr C Hull, the Clerk and three members of the public.

## **Public Session**

No comments.

## **20/62. 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 Powell. C.Cllr Ruddle and D.Cllr T Capozzoli also tendered their apologies.

## **20/63. 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.

## **20/64. Minutes.**

To approve the Minutes of the Remote Ordinary PC Meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

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

## **20/65. Planning.**

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

i. **PA 20/02212/HOU.** Proposed two storey extension to dwelling to replace existing conservatory at The Garden House, Sandpit Lane, Charlton Mackrell.

The PC had no objections to the proposed extension, however, in order to ensure the privacy of neighbouring properties Badgers Brook and Greengage Cottage, the PC requests that obscured glass is used in the north and south elevation first floor windows.

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

ii. **PA 20/02220/REM.** Reserved matters application following Outline approval 19/02412/OUT for the erection of 2 dwellings seeking approval of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale on land south of Somerton Lane Charlton Mackrell.

Councillors carried out an on site visit and are content with the layout of the 2 dwellings, however, the PC is concerned over the appearance/materials used. The Waney edge cladding is overly dominant and not in keeping with the character or context of the existing properties in Somerton Lane, which are finished in brick, reconstituted stone and render.

Councillors asked the Applicant, who attended the meeting remotely, to reduce the amount of Waney edge cladding used.

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

b. South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Decisions:

i. **PA 20/01562/HOU.** Erection of an oak framed mansard to create a garden room at Little Orchard, George Street, Charlton Adam – **APPROVED**.

ii. **PA 20/01400/HOU.** Erection of a first floor extension above the existing single storey extension to side of detached dwelling at Greystones, Ilchester Road, Charlton Mackrell – **APPROVED**.

iii. **PA 20/01417/HOU.** Conversion of existing garage and kitchen, erection of a first floor extension over. Extend and enclose existing porch and create a new one for studio and kitchen access. Erection of a single storey garden room and kitchen extension to the rear at The Parsonage, George Street, Charlton Adam – **APPROVED**.

iv. **PA 19/03365/FUL.** Demolition of residential outbuildings and the erection of a dwelling, garage and a carport at Dovecot House, Hillway, Charlton Mackrell – **APPROVED**.

**20/66. 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):

Slade Parry Ltd. Project Manager Project Charltons	£2,552.28
SALC Affiliation Fee Apr 20 – Mar 21	£293.55
K M Dike Nurseries Grass Cutting Aug 20	£169.94
CPRE Membership renewal	£120.00
Clerk's Expenses	£44.39

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

c. National Association of Local Councils (NALC) E01-20 | 2020-21 National Salary Award

To approve Clerk's Salary in accordance with The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) new pay scales for 2020-21 to be implemented from 1 Apr 2020 and backdated.

**RESOLVED:** Council unanimously **APPROVED** the Clerk's progression from spine column point (SCP) 20 to SCP 21 (an increase of 27p per hour), which would be backdated to 1 Apr 20.

**20/67. NALC: Consultation PC10-20 - Changes to the Current Planning System**

Parish Council to consider response to the NALC regarding The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation on changes to the planning system (deadline 17 Sep 20).

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed unanimously that no response was necessary.

**20/68. NALC: Consultation PC11-20 - White Paper Planning for The Future**

Parish Council to consider response to NALC regarding The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation on planning for the future (deadline 15 Oct 20).

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed unanimously that the Chairman and Cllr Adams would draft a paper for circulation to all councillors for comment. Delegated authority was granted to the Clerk to assemble comments and submit the Council's response to meet the Government deadline of 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and NALC's deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

## **20/69. Youth Club Briefing**

Briefing to be provided by Youth Club in order for PC to consider possible additional funding. Kate O'Boyle was present remotely to give her brief, which outlined how the Coronavirus pandemic had seriously affected the Club's finances. The Club ceased to run from March 2020 due to Covid-19 and could no longer hold fundraising activities, whilst still incurring expenditure such as the furlough cost of the Charltons Youth Worker and other non-refundable costs. The Club plans to re-open on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and was currently working hard to ensure the sessions are Covid-secure by adhering to the Government guidelines, which also incurred additional costs.

**RESOLVED:** Following a brief discussion, Councillors agreed unanimously to approve an additional grant of £550 using funds earmarked, but no longer required, for Village Day and Play Day. The PC advised that further financial assistance may be available following a review of all reserves held at its next meeting. *(D.Cllr Hull arrived remotely at 6.00pm)*

## **Reports from County and District Councillors**

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

D.Cllr Hull apologised for his late attendance. He reported that 169 district councillors voted in favour of 'Stronger Somerset'; the business case for a twin council authority, in opposition to the Somerset County Council's business case 'One Somerset', which was for a unitary authority. 56 District Councillors voted in opposition, the majority of which were also Conservative County Councillors. He was unhappy with the bad timing of the reform of local government, which was being conducted during such difficult times, when there were far more important issues to consider; he also regretted that there would be no referendum. D.Cllr Hull recommended that councillors and residents make their views known to their district and county councillors or directly to SSDC, who would address their concerns.

## **20/70. Project Charltons - Refurbishment of the Memorial Hall Playing Field Play Area.**

Update from Project Charltons Working Group (ProjC WG), to include request from Churchwardens to create additional car parking on the playing field.

The Clerk previously circulated a 'Statement from ProjC WG to the PC' and reported that she was awaiting clarification and confirmation from Steve Parkinson, Somerset Association of Local Councils' (SALC) VAT advisor and expert regarding claiming back VAT on ProjC.

The Vice-Chairman reported that he attended the webinar on Trustees and their roles/responsibilities and would circulate the presentation to all councillors for their reference. The PC were informed by the Chairman of the Charltons Community Centre Committee, as the Management Trustees, that they were not in favour of the additional car parking area on the Memorial Playing Field. The PC considered that, as the Custodian Trustee, it would not ordinarily be consulted on such issues, however, as the proposal concerned a possible change of use to the property, the PC agreed to comment and endorse the Trust's decision to refuse the Churchwardens' request.

**RESOLVED:** Following a brief discussion it was agreed unanimously that the PC would ask the ProjC WG to provide a progress report for each PC meeting in order to adhere to PC processes and Financial Regulations.

## **20/71. Reports from the PC Committees, Working Groups (WG) and PC Representatives:**

Councillors to provide reports.

- a. Community Infrastructure (CIL) Levy WG. Cllr Adams reported that the WG met recently, however, they agreed that public consultation on how CIL should be spent would take place closer to the time when CIL was due to be received in 2021. The WG were currently drafting its roles and responsibilities which would be presented to the PC at its next meeting for approval.
- b. Speedwatch. Cllr Crawley reported that since Speedwatch had ceased, the level of speeding traffic had increased.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Crawley would look into the possibility of resurrecting the scheme.

- c. Highways. Cllr Elliott asked for an update on improvements to HGV signage from Christians Cross. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman reported that they had also met with SCC Highways on site at Kingweston Road to discuss the Small Highway Improvement Scheme (SIS).

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk agreed to hasten Gary Warren.

- d. Community Plan. Cllr Adams reported that the recently approved 20mph speed restriction scheme outside the primary school had not been installed in the summer holidays as previously advised, which may be due to the pandemic.

**RESOLVED:** D.Cllr Hull agreed to ask for an update from C.Cllr Ruddle on all highway matters discussed.

**20/72. Items for Report and Future Business.**

- a. Parish Council to review earmarked reserves
- b. Cllr Adams reported that the sign for the village car park had been delayed and would not be received until 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020. He also reported that a blocked drain was exposed when he cleared mud from the entrance drive.

**ACTION:** The Chairman agreed to ask Martin Butt if he could clear the drain.

- c. Cllr Adams reported on that the PC had been approached by Mr R Culley, a resident who was working with Keinton Mandeville Parish Council to introduce FTTP (Fibre to the Premises) broadband to the community as part of a Community Fibre Partnership scheme (<https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/community-fibre-partnerships>). A CFP Scheme has been established with Openreach and an initial estimate received for delivery of FTTP to the community. A further estimate was provided covering 625 properties in and around Keinton Mandeville, Charlton Adam, Kingweston and Babcary.

**ACTION:** Cllr Adams agreed to arrange meeting with BT and Mr Culley to discuss the possibility of FTTP in the parish.

**Next meeting:** to be held virtually on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020, (7.00pm via Zoom TBC)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.40pm.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....