

The Charltons Parish Council

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Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 14th February 2024 commencing at 7.30pm
in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell

Councillors Present:

Tamzin Elliott (Chairman)

Alan Crawley

Mike Parsons

Bob Adams (Vice-Chairman)

Dennis Elliott

Kim Williams

In Attendance: The Clerk and three members of the public.

Public Session.

No comments.

Reports from Somerset Councillor.

Councillor not in attendance.

24/09. 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: Cllrs Nick Blackledge and Susie Crang gave their apologies, which were received and approved.

24/10. 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) adopted May 2022.

(NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

RESOLVED: None declared.

24/11. Minutes.

To approve the Minutes of the PC meeting held on Tuesday 16th January 2024.

RESOLVED: The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

24/12. Planning.

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

i. **PA 23/02868/FUL.** Over cladding of the existing community hall structure, small extension to the North and East elevations and internal rearrangements of the building spaces to better provide for the community's needs at The Charltons Memorial Community Hall, Top Road, Charlton Adam, TA11 7BE.

The PC initially discussed the above application at its meeting on 16th January 2024, at which councillors raised a number of issues and concerns that could not be answered at the meeting and, therefore, an extension of time was sought to allow the Community Hall to address the points raised, which are as follows:

1. Shower Provision. The proposed layout of showers and toilets could lead to users of the Public Space, i.e. the Café, mingling with sports men or women using the shower facilities. This could lead to potential safeguarding issues. It would be much more sensible for access to the showers to be directly from the changing rooms instead of through the vestibule shared with the toilets.

2. Parking. The proposal is to extend the building to the north, taking some of the existing parking spaces, yet the Applicant has not provided a Parking Plan with the application. As the original building was erected in the 1980s, with parking to suit vehicle use at that time, it would seem prudent to ask for a Parking Plan to meet the requirements of The County Parking Strategy for a Leisure Centre, which is the function of the Community Centre. Following the January meeting, the PC received an amended plan, yet to be submitted to Somerset Council Planning. Councillors were unsure if the proposed revisions to the shower and toilet facilities completely overcome the potential safeguarding issues, although they go some way to mitigate them.

A councillor also suggested that the Community Hall Committee could consider replacing a short section of hedge at the Hall's entrance with a post and rail fence to provide safer access and egress as part of the revised plans.

Although the PC approves the proposal in principle, councillors requested that the application be referred to Sport England to give their verdict on the potential for safeguarding issues to occur. Sport England should also be contacted to see if this proposal would prejudice the use of the Playing Field in any way.

RESOLVED: Due in the main to potential safeguarding issues the Parish Council resolved unanimously to recommend **REFUSAL**.

b. **Somerset Council (SC) Decisions:**

i. **PA 23/02329/LBC & 23/01354/HOU**. Alterations and extension to curtilage building at Cedar Lodge, High Street, Charlton Adam, TA11 7AR – **REFUSED**.

ii. **PA 23/01383/FUL**. Change of use and erection of a barn for stabling of broodmares and foals on land at Rag Lane, Cary Fitzpaine, BA22 8JB – **APPROVED**.

24/13. 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 received and approved

b. **Accounts for payment.**

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

i. Charltons Memorial Community Trust Grounds Maint Grant	£2,511.54
ii. Somerset Council – 30mph speed limit Lytes Cary	£2,125.38
iii. Charlton Village News 2023	£300.00
iv. Safelincs – Paediatric replacement defibrillator pads x 2	£225.17
v. Corporate Christmas Tree Co. – replacement tree lights	£191.93
vi. ChubbBulleid – Land Registry Fee Welham Field	£170.00
vii. Microsoft 365 subscription	£59.99
viii. Overt Locke – de-icing materials	£40.00

RESOLVED: Items of expenditure approved unanimously.

c. **Grant Requests.**

To consider requests for financial assistance from:

i. The Charltons Memorial Community Trust (CMCT) CIO - £10,000 over 3 years to redevelop the Community Hall.

RESOLVED: As previously considered when setting the precept for FY 24/25, councillors unanimously approved a total grant of £3,000 would be available for application by the CMCT, which could be used towards the cost of redeveloping the Hall and/or grounds maintenance of the Playing Field. Due to the financial crisis at SC, the PC could not commit to providing

the same level of grant over the next 3 years and any additional grant applications would be considered on a year to year basis.

ii. Parochial Church Council (PCC) of The Charltons - £468 (incl. VAT) for the cost of specialist ongoing maintenance of the clocks on the two church towers St Peter and Paul in Charlton Adam and St Mary the Virgin in Charlton Mackrell.

RESOLVED: The PC unanimously approved a grant towards the maintenance of one of the clocks under section 2 of the Parish Councils Act 1957. It was suggested that the PCC could raise funds locally towards maintenance of the second clock.

24/14. Flood Events – Update.

Following enquiries to ascertain the root cause of the recent flash flood events, the PC discussed the flooding in George Street and Primrose Hill, where the water flowed down the main road and into George Street on both sides. The ditch alongside George Street was unable to cope as it was completely full of sediment. The water flowed around the parking area opposite Little Orchard into the pond, which overflowed into the fields above Primrose Hill.

Following a brief discussion, councillors agreed to contact residents most affected by flooding to see if they would be interested in forming a Community Flood Action Group (CFAG), which would be supported by the PC and the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA). Cllr Adams suggested that residents/councillors could look online at Ilchester Mead and the Langport CFAG as examples.

RESOLVED: PC to approach SC Highways to discuss the possibility of clearing the ditch to the south of George Street while not increasing flows into the fields above Primrose Hill Park. The Chairman agreed to contact some of the residents affected to discuss the possibility of forming a CFAG.

24./15. Items for Report and Future Business.

a. Notification of sewer repairs in The Charltons. Wessex Water (WW) will be repairing damaged sections of the sewer system in and around the villages of Keinton Mandeville, Charlton Adam, Charlton Mackrell and Kingsdon this spring.

Access for residents and businesses within these closures will be maintained, although it may be delayed at times. Work will start on Monday 26 February 2024 and is expected to last for around eleven weeks, finishing on Friday 10 May 2024. A full programme for the area is outlined on the parish website via the following link:

https://www.thecharltons.org.uk/data/uploads/1206_1583487378.pdf

Cllr Adams reported that he had raised the PC's concerns with WW over access to the student pick up point at the Old Post Office, asking that they contact the school bus operators if they hadn't done so already. To follow this up, the PC contacted South West Coaches who have rearranged to pick up at the War Memorial and Berrys are aware but will 'play it by ear' on the days affected.

b. Cary Fitzpaine Defibrillator. Cllr Williams reported that she was awaiting additional quotes for an electrician to install the Defibrillator, which she hoped would be operational ASAP.

c. Dog fouling – A resident asked if the PC could provide a gentle reminder to dog owners to remember to collect their dog waste bags if left for collection at the end of a walk, as the resident had counted seventeen bags in the hedge from the end of George Street to Charlton Mackrell Primary School.

d. Levels and Moors Local Community Network (LCN) Meeting 4 Mar 24. The Chairman agreed to attend with Cllr D Elliott.

e. Quotation for grounds maintenance works the War Memorial. Cllr Williams reported that she had met with Mallory Services, Yeovil who would provide a quote by the end of the week to remove 2.5 tree stumps, rake, level and turf the site. She agreed to source at least one more quote prior to the next meeting.

f. Rights of Way Repairs. The Clerk reported that Keinton Mandeville (KM) authorised a repair of the footpath and stile at the kissing gate located at Newcombe Farm, which one side of the stile is KM parish and the other is The Charltons. The repairs include laying new railway

sleepers in the sum of £2,530 ex VAT and the KM Clerk asked if The Charltons would like to make a contribution to this work.

Action: Following a brief discussion, councillors agreed that maintenance of stiles and gates were the responsibility of the landowner, however, the Clerk agreed to ascertain the exact location for consideration at the next meeting.

Next meeting: to be held on Tuesday 19th March 2024, 7.30PM in The Reading Room, Hillway, Charlton Mackrell.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed:

Dated: