

The Charltons Parish Council

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Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

held on Tuesday 15th October 2024

commencing at 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell

Councillors Present:

Tamzin Elliott (Chairman)

Dennis Elliott

Kim Williams

Alan Crawley

Adam Ware

In Attendance: Somerset Councillor Tim Kerley, the Clerk and one member of the public.

❖ **Public Question and Comments:** No comments.

❖ **Reports from Somerset Council:**

Cllr Tim Kerley reported as follows:

- Strawberry Line. Contractors and volunteers with the Strawberry Line Society have been working since February on the latest section of a multi-user path which will eventually stretch uninterrupted from Collett Park in Shepton Mallet to Yatton railway station, via Wells and Cheddar. Work to deliver this vital 'missing link' is now nearing completion after a new footbridge the length of a double-decker bus was officially installed on Tuesday (October 15), and will open to the public in a matter of days.

- Huish Episcopi Bus Incident. Cllr Kerley was initially unaware of the school bus incident until he received the Clerk's email asking for an update. Therefore, he emailed the Portfolio Holder for Transport asking for a report. He also asked for an urgent update from the Education Department.

[Following the meeting, the Clerk received the following email from Cllr Richard Wilkins, Lead Member for Transport & Waste Services: "On the day in question this route, which is operated by Berry's Coaches was running approximately 15 minutes late following some technical problems with the vehicle related to some water ingress following heavy rainfall. As the driver arrived in the area he took a wrong turn which took him to the 8.9ft bridge in Charlton Mackerell instead of the 12ft bridge, which is the next right hand turn. The driver stopped to check, and believed the bus would fit under after he had gained a view from the slope on the other side of the bridge. The driver lowered the suspension, but unfortunately the skylight on the vehicle caught the bridge as he was crawling through at approx. 2-3mph. This caused the glass in the skylight to shatter, and fall into the vehicle, near to 3 passengers. Thankfully, no children were injured. The driver stopped the vehicle to check that all children were okay and proceeded to reverse back to a safe place out of the way to allow traffic through and to wait for a replacement vehicle. When the replacement vehicle arrived, the children were transferred and proceeded onto school arriving approximately one hour late.

Our School Transport Team were informed about the initial delay and subsequently further information regarding the incident at the bridge and confirmation that the CCTV on the vehicle had also been checked to confirm the driver's version of events.

Following this incident the driver has been removed from this route and replaced by a driver/supervisor who has driven this route regularly in the past. Berry's Coaches confirmed that they are carrying out their own internal investigation/action into their driver on the day. Once the facts of this incident had been established by our School Transport Team this information was passed on to Huish Episcopi School."

Following further discussion on Local Community Networks (LCN), **Cllr Kerley left the meeting at 8.05pm.**

24/75. Apologies for absence:

To receive any apologies for absence.

RESOLVED: Apologies received from Cllrs Bob Adams, Susie Crang and Mike Parsons. Somerset Councillor Stephen Page also tendered his apologies.

24/76. Declarations of Interests:

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any Pecuniary or Other interests they may have under the Localism Act 2011 and NALC Model Code of Conduct adopted May 2022. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

RESOLVED: None declared.

24/77. Minutes:

To approve the Minutes of the PC meeting held on Wednesday 17th September 2024.

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

24/78. Planning.

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

i. **PA 24/02204/HOU & PA 24/02205/LBC.** Demolition of modern garden room, erection of traditional Georgian style orangery with various external alterations and internal enhancements to a Grade II Listed Building, alterations and additions to existing detached garage and alterations to vehicle entrance from access track at Court Hay, George Street, Charlton Adam, TA11 7AS.

Councillors agreed that the proposed alterations and additions were an improvement and in keeping with the Grade II listed building and its surroundings, on which there would be no adverse impact. The architect plans are very thorough and it was noted that a neighbour had commented in support of the plans.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed unanimously to recommend that the application be **APPROVED** subject to approval by the Conservation Officer.

b. Somerset Council (SC) Decisions: None received.

24/79. Parish Council Accounts:

a. Balance of the Council's Bank Account and Bank Reconciliation:

To receive the full council accounts and bank reconciliation.

RESOLVED: The Clerk previously circulated the PC Accounts which were received and approved. No bank statements received for formal bank reconciliation.

b. Accounts for payment:

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

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| i. Dominic Blackledge War Memorial refurbishment -
Payment for stages 1 and 2 | £2,790.00 |
| ii. ElanCity – solar panel & fixing kit | £577.51 |
| iii. Tor Signs – extension post for SID | £98.00 |
| iv. Reading Room Hire Jul & Sep 24 | £36.00 |

RESOLVED: Items of expenditure approved unanimously.

24/80. Signage:

To approve proof from ParSigns for signage to Reading Room to be installed on village green.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed unanimously to approve the proof and would inform the Reading Room accordingly to proceed with purchasing the sign. Exact location on village green to be agreed with PC.

24/81. Community Flood Action Group and Emergency Planning (EP):

Update.

RESOLVED: Nothing further to report. A member of the public, who worked for Glastonbury Town Council, recommended that the PC use the LCN lead member as a direct contact for any issue with flooding and EP.

24/82. Items for Report and Future Business.

a. Parish Council Vacancy. The Clerk confirmed that the vacancy was advertised and one application had been received to date. The vacancy would be filled by co-option as an agenda item at the next meeting.

b. Kingweston Road. Councillors were grateful to Kingweston Estate who had carried out a thorough job of cutting the hedges and clearing the ditches along Kingweston Road and had cut culverts into the ditch to prevent water flowing onto the road.

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed:

Dated: