

CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Virtual Zoom Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 11th March 2021, at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT Cllr Roger Davies (Chairman)
Cllr Emily Hall-Roberts
Cllr Helen Hill
Cllr Sally Martin
Cllr Richard Sims

In attendance: District Cllr Tony Rowley
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(No member of the public was in attendance.)

30/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Cllr Ted Grazier and Cllr Mike Wood.

31/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

32/21 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH EYRE

County Cllr Eyre's report was circulated to Members before the meeting earlier in the day. The report updated the current progress in the County towards lockdown and the success of the vaccination programme. The report included the progress towards the implementation of various highway concern and problems in the Parish and included the increase in the highway budget for the coming year, with an emphasis on gully emptying. The Chairman reported that Cllr Eyre had arranged a £2,000 grant towards highway work in Charlton, and this has been received. A further meeting via Zoom is arranged for next week, between County Cllr Eyre, Cllr Davies, Cllr Sims and Barry Barnes from WCC.

33/21 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TONY ROWLEY

Cllr Tony Rowley updated the meeting on the progress of the SWDPR. The Sustainability Appraisal is now out for consultation which finishes on 19th April 2021. This does not affect Charlton. The consultation for sites for Travellers and Travelling Showmen has been delayed until after the County Council elections in May. He reported that the Boundary Commission is looking at ward boundaries in Wychavon, which may alter the number of wards. Parish councils and residents will be consulted in due course.

Cllr Rowley reported that Wychavon had frozen Council Tax for next year and parking on WDC car parks will continue to be free until the end of lockdown on 21st June.

34/21 SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

The update has been reported above by District Cllr Tony Rowley.

35/21 WCC MINERALS PLAN

The Inspector's report and further information from WCC are awaited. There is hope that a meeting via Zoom with WCC officers can be held

36/21 LEGACY GRANT APPLICATION BY THE OLD SCHOOLROOM TRUSTEES

This application for the extension and alteration of the Old Schoolroom has been submitted to Wychavon and a copy has been circulated to Members for information. The decision by Wychavon is expected to be announced around the 14th May..

37/21 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

1. Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall. No report has been received. It is understood that John Grove has taken over as the Chairman.

2. Workman Trust/Old Schoolroom. The Legacy Grant application is currently the main aspect of the Trust.

3. PACT. There has not been a meeting since the last Parish Council meeting.

38/21 CORONAVIRUS UPDATE CHARLTON

The local Support Group is continuing.

39/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th JANUARY 2021

The draft minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Sally Martin, seconded by Cllr Helen Hill, and resolved, that the Minutes be signed as a true record. (As this is a virtual meeting the Clerk will arrange for them to be signed by the Chairman).

40/21 REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The report of the virtual Planning Committee held on 23rd February 2021, which had been circulated with the agenda, was noted.

The Chairman reported that, as a result of an application for the removal of a length of hedgerow, which was subsequently withdrawn, the Parish Council, along with Crophorne PC and Fladbury PC, became aware of work to be undertaken by Network Rail on the river bridge. The work requires a temporary track to be laid for the heavy vehicles and crane and this will utilize Sidings Lane, before crossing fields by the railway line to the railway bridge. Work is to be done from April to June, mainly between 7.30 am and 6 pm on weekdays, with some weekend work. Once the work is completed, hopefully by the end of June, the hardcore for the new track may be removed. Residents living in Sidings Lane object to the use of the lane by these large lorries. Contact has been made with Network Rail, so that the affected parties are aware of our concerns and we hope to be kept up-to-date with the work.

The Chairman reported that the Wrubble application adjacent to the Fladbury Crematorium will not be considered by WCC until June, after the elections. It is understood that there is a great deal of local opposition to the application.

41/21 FINANCE**1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.12.20 – 31.01.21**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Richard Sims, seconded by Cllr Helen Hill, and agreed, that the following accounts be paid:

46/21 CEMETERY MATTERS – DAMAGE TO THE LYCHGATE

The Chairman and Vice Chairman have recently spoken with the assessor of the NFU Mutual Insurance company. Problems with the lack of public access has been drawn to their attention, as this is disrupting burials and general visiting. Details of the second quotation are still awaited., which the NFU Mutual say is needed before they agree to the repair. Details are on the website and a notice explaining the difficulties is displayed at the entrance.

47/21 LAND OPPOSITE THE CEMETERY

The result of the re-seeding is awaited.

48/21 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS

Details of the current position regarding works on the highways in the Parish had been included in the report from County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre and a Zoom meeting is planned for next week. A grant of £2,000 from WCC, through Cllr Eyre has been received for highway work in the Parish.

The Chairman reported that one privately owned footway in the Strand has been repaired. Run-off continues to be a problem in Brook Lane and Church Leys.

49/21 FLOOD ISSUES

The Chairman reported that Ted Grazier hopes to continue the construction of leaky dams, now that the ground is drying out. Now that there is an extension to the National Flood Management contract leaky dams are being suggested upstream off Haselor Lane. We are still waiting for WCC to undertake the work under the Canada Bank bridge.

50/21 STREET LIGHTING

The Clerk reported that the New Homes Bonus application for the replacement of 2 street lights in The Dovecote has been approved. This includes the remaining £602 NHB money, as a contribution to the £2,790 quotation. Mark Colston at Prysman has suggested that street light no 4 in Top Street be considered and the Chairman suggested that street light no 7 in Ryden Lane also be considered. The Clerk will ask for a quotation to include these two lights, which the meeting agreed.

The Clerk reminded the meeting of the difficulties that he is having with NPower, reported in Minute no. 41/21, but this will be pursued.

51/21 SIGNAGE AND NEW SEATS ON THE GREEN

The new signage on The Green has now been completed and is installed.

Regarding the two offers of seats on The Green members agreed that these should be made of teak, and the Clerk will contact the donors to seek their approval. Members were told that there may be another offer of a seat, in memory of Helen Fowler, and this is thought to be an excellent idea.

52/21 NEW NOTICE BOARD

It was agreed that this be put temporarily delayed.

53/21 UPDATING OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

A copy of the new draft Regulations was circulated by email before the meeting. This did include some suggestions by the Clerk. The Chairman suggested several amendments which were accepted. The updated Financial Regulations were proposed by Cllr Emily Hall-Roberts, seconded by Cllr Sally Martin, and agreed. The Clerk and Chairman will make the amendments, prior to circulating to Members.

54/21 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MAY MEETINGS

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Annual Parish Council Meeting must be held in May and the Annual Parish Meeting must be held in March, April or May. With coronavirus regulations due to be lifted on 17th May there seems little time for these meetings to be held. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Council Meeting, which by law only requires the election of the Chairman, be held by Zoom on Wednesday 5th May. With evidence from those parishes who have held an annual parish meeting having no public attendance, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not arrange a Parish Meeting this year. It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council be held by Zoom during the last week in April, on a date to be agreed by the Chairman and Clerk.

55/21 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- 1. Police and Crime Commissioner grant application.** This remains on hold pending confirmation by County Cllr Liz Eyre on which of the proposed traffic calming measures will be funded by WCC. County Cllr Eyre has suggested that a second VAS sign be purchased after the planned Zoom meeting next week. The meeting agreed to proceed with a grant application on this basis.
- 2. Lengthsman.** Brian Arrowsmith's report for January was noted.
- 3. Broadband in Charlton.** Vouchers are due to be sent out shortly by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. While there is a shortfall WCC will cover this.
- 4. Pershore to Evesham Cycle route.** There is no progress.

56/21 ITEMS FROM CALC

The Executive Officer's fortnightly Updates, including advice during the coronavirus pandemic, have been circulated to members and are noted. The Clerk had attended the monthly Zoom meeting with other Worcestershire Clerks.

57/21 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

1. Street trader consultation. Noted that an objection has been made
2. Wychavon DC – notification that the listing of the Gardeners Arms as an Asset of Community Value expired on 26th February 2021. It was agreed that the Clerk arranges for this to be renewed.
3. Wychavon DC – notice of fly tipping in Charlton. Noted that this is a result of the complaint by the Parish Council.
4. Wychavon DC – request for poll clerks at the local elections. This to be put on the website.

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58/21 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

None

59/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be notified in due course.

The meeting closed at 9.11 pm.

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Chairman

2021