

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 11th November 2021,
at 7.30 pm in the Old Schoolroom, Charlton**

PRESENT Cllr Roger Davies (Chairman)
Cllr Helen Hill
Cllr Richard Sims
Cllr Mike Wood

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.)

131/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Cllr Emily Hall-Roberts

132/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

133/21 CASUAL VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

It was reported that Sally Martin has resigned from the Parish Council. The Notice of the vacancy is currently advertised on the Parish notice board by the Returning Officer, which gives the right for 10 residents to request an election. This period expires on 22nd November 2021, after which the Parish Council can fill the vacancy by co-option

134/21 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH EYRE

County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre had given her apology, but had sent her report, which was circulated to members before the meeting. The Chairman referred to the following matters:

Unrecorded footpaths and bridleways. WCC reports that any such routes will need to be registered by 2026. There are some in the Parish, particularly around the Whitehouse Farm area, which should be considered for registration. The Clerk was asked to investigate with WCC the procedures for doing this. It was commented that there ought to be an improvement in waymarking on 501(C) and kissing gates in place of fence boundaries – 2 required. The Clerk was asked to follow this up with WCC.

Hampton footbridge proposal. This should be part of the Evesham-Pershore cycle route, but there is still the question of funding for this scheme. WCC survey, available on the website, is seeking the public view. It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

Wrubble application at Fladbury. WCC has approved this with 42 planning conditions.

Broadband. Delays between Openreach and the DCMS have today been resolved following involvement of our MP and Parish Council email to the Permanent Secretary. The emails to residents who applied for the scheme should be issued shortly.

Sewer work in Yessell Lane. The matter of compensation is yet to be addressed. The Chairman has raised this with Cllr Elizabeth Eyre.

Clearing of Merrybrook under Canada Bank bridge has still not progressed.

135/21 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TONY ROWLEY

Cllr Tony Rowley reported that the decision of the Boundary Commission into ward boundaries is awaited. The final tranche of Legacy grants is to open shortly and parish councils will be able to submit for further projects. He suggested that the application for the Gardeners Arms to be made an asset of community value should be re-submitted.

136/21 REVISED SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

There is no update.

137/21 UPDATE ON THE WCC MINERALS PLAN

A Joint response has been submitted to the Inspector via WCC from the local parish councils, citing problems of air quality and other reasons. This report will be presented to the Inspector by WCC. The Chairman thanked Cllr Richard Sims for his work on this matter on behalf of Charlton.

138/21 COMMUNITY LEGACY GRANT/OLD SCHOOLROOM

Four quotes from Builders have been requested. It was reported that the Agreement between the Parish Council and the Trustees has not yet been signed, although it is understood that the Trustees are in agreement. The Clerk was asked to send the Agreement, and the terms and conditions to the Chairman of the Trust for signing.

139/21 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- (1) **Crothorne and Charlton Village Hall.** The Clerk has not received any information from the Committee and the Council is not aware of the new Chairman.
- (2) **Workman Trust/Old Schoolroom.** There was no report, other than details of the Legacy Grant referred to in minute no. 138/21 above.
- (3) **PACT.** There have been no recent meetings.

140/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th SEPTEMBER 2021

The draft minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Helen Hill, seconded by Cllr Richard Sims, and resolved, that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

141/21 REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 18th OCTOBER 2021

The report of the Planning Committee held on 18th October 2021, which had been circulated with the agenda, was noted.

The Chairman reported that, in relation to application 21/02183, he had submitted comments relating to the Natural Flood Management scheme to the Environment Agency, for discussion with Bellway Homes, the applicants to see whether further improvements can be built in.

142/21 FINANCE**1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.08.21 – 30.09.21**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

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

Smart Cut Ltd (October)	£355.00 + £71.00 VAT	£426.00
Brian Arrowsmith (September)		£144.00
Brian Arrowsmith (October)		£144.00

3. Confirmation of the following 3 cheque and 3 Debit Card payments :

26.08.21	Staples UK Ltd	£48.48 + £9.70 VAT	£ 58.18
31.08.21	Post Office Counters		£ 18.12
02.09.21	First Paige Printers	£12.16 + £2.44 VAT	£ 14.60
18.10.21	Smart Cut Ltd	£325.00 + £65.00 VAT	£390.00
18.10.21	N Power Ltd	£172.45 + £8.62 VAT	£181.07
18.10.21	N Power Ltd	£61.46 + £3.07 VAT	£ 64.53

143/21 BANK RECONCILIATION

The Bank reconciliation for the half year ending September 2021 was agreed and signed by Cllr Richard Sims.

144/21 EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

The External Auditors requested further explanation of the significant variations between the 2020/21 Accounts and those of the previous year. This was been submitted at the end of August and there is no further information.

145/21 PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT

As Sally Martin has resigned from the Parish Council the Chairman and Vice Chairman agreed to review the Risk Assessments.

146/21 PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET FOR 2022/2023

This will be considered at the January meeting, as the budget requirement is needed by WDC by 26th January 2022.

147/21 CHEQUE SIGNING ARRANGEMENTS

Cllr Helen Hill was proposed as a cheque signatory by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Mike Wood, and agreed. The Clerk will also enquire how he can have internet access the bank account

148/21 CEMETERY MATTERS, INCLUDING THE REBUILD OF THE LYCHGATE

The Chairman reported that work on the lychgate is delayed, as the contractor is waiting for suitable timber to complete the work. A different supplier has been found, but it is not likely that the re-building will be completed before next February or March. The Clerk confirmed that re-imburement for the first stage payment has been received from NFU Mutual. The hedge is now overgrowing the footway and the Clerk was asked to report this to Smart Cut Ltd.

Regarding the land opposite the Cemetery, it was agreed that necessary tidying up work be undertaken by Brian Arrowsmith. In the Spring the top part should be fertilized, the bottom part weed-killed, and then it is probably appropriately appropriate that grass seed is sown.

149/21 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Many items have been included in County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre's report. Brian Clement will be pursuing the drainage problem in Merryfield and the Parish Council will be supporting him. The Clerk was asked to report to WDC that the street cleaning department should be asked to clean the whole village. There are areas with a large number of pine needles which become very slippery underfoot when wet and are a significant health and safety risk. District Cllr Tony Rowley asked that the request is made via him.

The Clerk was asked to chase WCC to arrange urgently the cutting of their hedges on Canada Bank.

The grant of £2,000 has been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner towards a new VAS sign and a meeting is to be arranged to confirm the specification before a purchase order can be made.

150/21 PARISH PATHS WARDEN

There is no information regarding an appointment of a PPW for Charlton. As agreed at the last meeting details were put on the Village website, but still there is no response.

151/21 FLOODING ISSUES

The Chairman reported that Cllr Ted Grazier has been installing dams to Merry Brook, off Haselor lane. He will work on clearing the Brook downstream of Canada Bank bridge, after WCC have cleared the gravel, silt etc from under the bridge.

The Chairman reported that the EA has installed new flood gauges along the River Avon between Evesham and Pershore.

152/21 STREET LIGHTING MATTERS

The Clerk reported that the final money from the New Homes Bonus has been paid by WDC. It was agreed that an update of the street lights be done next year.

153/21 THE GREEN

(1) Damage by refuse freighter. The insurer for WDC's contractor has agreed to the payment, and Midland Tree Care have been asked to undertake the work in accordance with their estimate. The Clerk will email Paul Sharpe of the current situation.

(2) Parking on the Green. This continues to be a problem. The Clerk will be writing to the 6 residents who have access along the drive by The Green, as detailed in the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2021.

(3) Trees on the Green. Midland Tree Care will be asked to undertake an assessment of the trees on The Green, The Dovecote and the Cemetery.

(4) New benches. The Clerk was asked to continue to follow up the offer of a bench in memory of the late Jean Munn, as we are now in a position to proceed.

(5) Bus shelter. It was agreed that the re-pointing be left until next year. It was noted that the solar panel does not appear to be working but it was agreed that, with no evening buses the matter would not be pursued.

154/21 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- (1) **Bridleway adjacent to the Caravan Park, off Yessell Lane.** This is still awaiting action by WCC.
- (2) **Network Rail project.** New contractors have been appointed, but there are still the same problems. The work should be completed by December.
- (3) **Broadband.** This is now proceeding, as referred to in Minute 134/21.
- (4) **Pershore to Evesham Cycle Route.** This has also been referred to earlier in the meeting.
- (5) **Wall adjacent to Ryden Lane.** A meeting has been held with WCC. The County Council officers are looking at the possibility of either restoring a narrow footway or alternatively a grass verge with reflective posts spaced out to avoid vehicles parking immediately adjacent to the wall.
- (6) **Asset of Community Value.** A new application relating to the Gardeners Arms will be submitted, as suggested by Cllr Tony Rowley
- (7) **Lengthsman.** The report for September was attached for information.
- (8) **Street Trader application.** The Clerk has been informed that the applicant will work in those villages where no objection was raised.

155/21 CALC

The CALC AGM will be held on 16th November, and there is no report.

156/21 CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Came and Co, insurers – change of name to Gallaghers
- (2) WDC – Chairman’s Civic Service, All Saints, Evesham on 13th March 2022

157/21 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- (1) Budget and Precept

158/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 13th January 2022. `

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

R L Davies

 Chairman 13th January 2022