

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 12th January 2023
at 7.30 pm in the Old Schoolroom, Charlton**

PRESENT Cllr Roger Davies (Chairman)
Cllr Richard Bentley
Cllr Helen Hill
Cllr Wendy Sharpe
Cllr Richard Sims
In attendance: District Cllr Tony Rowley
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM
(No residents were in attendance.)

1/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Cllr Emily Hall-Roberts and Cllr Ted Grazier

2/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3/23 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH EYRE

County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre had given her apology for her absence. She submitted her report shortly before the meeting and Cllr Richard Sims was able to give some details. The report will be circulated to members. The main items related to the delayed highway work in the Strand was caused by the pipework contained asbestos. She reported that WCC see no problem regarding the silt build-up under the Canada Road bridge and a meeting is to be arranged to consider the pollution problem on the River Avon.

4/23 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TONY ROWLEY

Cllr Tony Rowley reported that Gayle Wootton has been appointed as the new Head of Planning at WDC. He advised that the comments received for the SWDP review are currently being collated, the EIP is scheduled for later this year and has no update on the Asset of Community Value application for the Gardeners Arms PH.

5/23 20s PLENTY FOR WORCESTERSHIRE

The Clerk had submitted the Parish Council's comments to Cllr Rouse at WCC. This has been acknowledged, but no further information has been received. The Clerk will follow up later in January.

6/23 UPDATE ON THE SWDPR

The Parish Council's objections to the Gypsy and Traveller site proposal at The Hill have been submitted.

7/23 UPDATE ON THE WCC MINERALS PLAN

There has been no further information since the last meeting.

8/23 TICKET TO RIDE

Cllr Richard Sims reported that the survey in the village had been carried out, but only 16 responses had been received, 6 of which were supportive in varying degrees. He reported that the scheme in Fladbury has been dropped as it was not viable and, therefore, there is no option for Charlton to join that scheme. Due to there not being sufficient support to make a scheme viable it was agreed that this would not be pursued further. A statement to this effect is to be uploaded to the Village website advising residents not having their own transport to consider the Social Car scheme operated by Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre. Thanks were expressed to Cllrs Richard Sims and Richard Bentley for their work with this project.

9/23 SURVEY BY THE FIRE SERVICE

Cllr Richard Sims reported that the open meeting with the County Fire and Rescue Service is arranged to be on 27th January in the Old School Room, as part of the Charlton Chatterry. Arrangements for house visits can be made. This will be advertised on the Parish Council website.

10/23 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- (1) **Parish Paths Warden.** There was no report.
- (2) **Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall.** There was no report and no information is expected until the AGM.
- (3) **Workman Trust/Old Schoolroom.** There has not been a meeting since the last PC meeting.
- (4) **PACT.** There has not been a recent meeting.

11/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th NOVEMBER 2022

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

12/23 REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 12th DECEMBER 2022

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12th December 2022, which had been circulated with the agenda, were noted.

13/23 FINANCE**1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.10.22 – 31.12.22**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

The bank reconciliation for the end of December 2022 was agreed and signed by Cllr Helen Hill.

2. Accounts for Payment

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

Brian Arrowsmith (November)	£210.00
Brian Arrowsmith (December)	£195.00
Lynne Yapp (for printing)	£ 30.00

R D Gurney	salary October-December, plus back pay from April 2022	£1133.08
	expenses	£ 69.99
N Power Ltd (Oct – Dec)	£194.44 + £9.72 VAT	£204.16
“ “	£135.27 + £6.76 VAT	£142.03

3. Confirmation of the following Debit Card payment since 10th November:
HMR&C (3rd quarter) **£283.40**

The Clerk reported that he had received invoices from TC Contracting Ltd – for work on trees – and for the annual subscription from Community First. It was agreed that the Clerk discusses the details of the invoice from T C Contracting and pays via the Debit Card. It was agreed that the membership of Community First not be taken this year, particularly as the OSR trustees are members.

14/23 TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2023/2024

Cllr Roger Davies had circulated the spreadsheet giving details of expenditure and income for the current year and also notes various aspects of likely costs in the coming year. After discussion that an increase in the Budget from £13,668 to £14,315 meaning an increase of 5% was proposed by Cllr Richard Sims, seconded by Cllr Richard Bentley, and agreed.

15/23 TREES IN THE DOVECOTE, THE GREEN AND THE CEMETERY

This work has been completed, with the exception of the 2 trees on The Dovecote, which are included in the Tree Preservation Order. The Clerk has submitted this application to WDC.

16/23 POLLUTION OF THE RIVER AVON

This was referred to in County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre’s report and a meeting is scheduled to be held.

17/23 CEMETERY MATTERS

Cllr Roger Davies reported the quotation from T C Contracting for the replacement fence was not accepted and he will contact Mike Wood for a quotation. Members had noted that the Cemetery fees had not been increased since 2017 and the Clerk was asked to circulate the current fee schedule, so that this can be discussed at the next meeting.

18/232 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Cllr Richard Sims commented that several highway issues are included in County Cllr Elizabeth’s report, which is to be circulated. Cllr Richard Sims reported that an additional and more useful VAS sign would be of benefit. He understands that a grant may be available from the Police and Crime Commissioner, with some funding from the PC reserves. It was agreed that an application for a grant be made to the PCC.

19/23 UPDATING OF PATHS IN THE PARISH

The Clerk was asked to acquire detailed maps from WCC.

20/23 FLOODING ISSUES

Because of the current issues that are not resolved it was considered important that a meeting be arranged with the EA. It is hoped that Ted Grazier will be able to clear Merrybrook and to remove the recently fallen branch.

21/23 STREET LIGHTING

The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation for the upgrading of the 5 remaining 'older' columns as well as getting a quotation for upgrading all the remaining lights.

22/23 THE GREEN

(1) **Parking on the Green.** The Clerk will let Cllr Roger Davies see the draft for consideration, before sending to residents living on The Green.

(2) **New benches.** The supplier of the 3 new benches has not yet been visited.

(3) **New notice board.** The Clerk now has details of the required spanner and will arrange to purchase one.

23/23 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

(1) **Broadband.** There is still no progress. Engineers are still investigating with planned completion date of August 2023.

(2) **Evesham-Pershore Cycle Route.** There has been no progress and it was agreed that the £500 be removed from the Reserves.

(3) **Asset of Community Value.** A response is awaited from WDC.

(4) **Lengthsman worksheet.** The worksheet for December was noted.

(5) **Parish Council elections, 4th May 2023.** Because Charlton PC meets on the second Thursday of alternate months it is likely that there would not be time for the meeting to be held on the normal date. It was agreed that this meeting be held on Thursday 18th May. The Clerk was asked to check what arrangements need to be made in the event of insufficient people being elected.

(6) **Parish Council projector.** The Chairman will formally advise the Chair of the OSR trustees that this is also available for them to use.

24/23 CALC

Zoom meetings have been arranged for persons interested in becoming parish councillors and details will be displayed on the notice board and on the website.

25/23 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Community First – Nomination for an Honour

(2) PKF Littlejohn – To be the External Auditor for 2022/2023.

26/23 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

None

27/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 9th March 2023.

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Chairman

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9th March 2023