

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
at 7.30 pm in the Old Schoolroom, Charlton**

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

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

**155/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
These were received from Cllr Emily Hall-Roberts

**156/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
None.

**157/22 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH EYRE**  
County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre's report was received earlier today and was circulated to members. She drew attention to the concern of the Chief Fire Officer to the prevention of wild fires and to WCC's more user-friendly approach to the reporting of problems, such as flooding and drainage. There was an update on the work along the A.46 south of Evesham.  
She also reported on local issues, etc, including the footway in The Strand which is still under discussion, the aborted closure of The Strand due to roots of a tree covered by a TPO. There is no update on the Evesham-Pershore Cycle route. The WCC Minerals Plan Development Plan Document identifying preferred sites seems likely to be consulted during Q2 or Q3 next year.

**158/22 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TONY ROWLEY**  
The Asset of Community Value application for the Gardeners Arms PH is being discussed at WDC,

**159/22 UPDATE ON THE SWDPR**  
Further draft housing allocations have been included in the latest draft of the SWDP. No allocations have been included in Charlton and Cllrs Roger Davies and Richard Sims will discuss the proposals and make a submission if necessary. Some concern was raised regarding the timescale for the application for a live/work building in Boston Lane (22/01585) and the implications on the recent similar application for Sterling Stables, Boston Lane (22/02026).  
The Gypsy and Traveller DPD proposes 2 additional pitches at The Hill in Charlton. It was agreed that Cllrs Roger Davies and Richard Sims submit an objection.

**160/22 20s PLENTY FOR WORCESTERSHIRE**

Cllr Richard Sims reported of the 250 leaflets circulated 48 had been returned, with a majority favouring a 20mph limit through the village. Several comments were included, for example the introduction of chicanes (although these have been discounted previously by WCC). Data from the new VAS on Canada Bank was also reviewed, showing that during the period Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022 44% of vehicles were exceeding the current 30 mph speed limit. It was proposed by Cllr Richard Sims, seconded by Cllr Wendy Sharpe, that these results be submitted to WCC with a request for a new 20mph limit in the Village, and this was agreed by 4 votes to 2. Cllr Richard Sims will draft a letter for the Clerk to submit to WCC

**161/22 UPDATE ON THE WCC MINERALS PLAN**

The update was given earlier in the meeting.

**162/22 COMMUNITY LEGACY GRANT/OLD SCHOOLROOM**

The work has now been completed and the grants have been paid to the Workman Trust. The final assessment form is to be submitted. The formal opening was held on 15<sup>th</sup> October and was attended by the Chairman and CEO of WDC, our District and County Councillors, as well as many residents. The Chairman wrote to Julian Hawley and Nigel Cates for their work on behalf of the trustees. Internet at the OSR is currently arranged by the Pre School and the Parish Council has agreed to pay £50.00 per year to use it for parish council business. It was commented that other users of the OSR would find broadband useful, but this is a matter for discussion between the OSR committee/trustees and Pre-School.

**163/22 TICKET TO RIDE**

Cllrs Richard Bentley and Richard Sims have had discussions with other parish councils to see how this scheme can be progressed. It is not an easy task as Hill and Moor PC have dropped out. It was agreed that a leaflet drop be made in Charlton to ascertain the views of residents and that Lynne Yapp be asked to print these. It is likely that the scheme will cost the Parish Council about £1,000 annually, if implemented.

**164/22 SURVEY BY THE FIRE SERVICE**

Cllr Richard Sims reported that the County Fire and Rescue Service could arrange for a survey of householders in Charlton. This could be an open afternoon or evening. It was agreed that the Fire Officer be approached and to arrange for an event to be held.

**165/22 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

- (1) **Parish Paths Warden.** There was no report.
- (2) **Croptorne and Charlton Village Hall.** There was no report and no information has been received regarding The Sheppey. The meeting agreed that with our existing commitments and likely cost pressures, particularly due to increasing electricity prices and costs of maintaining the Green/cemetery, etc, that we are unlikely to assist. This likely to be followed up by the new Chairman of the Hall and our Chairman will explain our position to him/her.
- (3) **Workman Trust/Old Schoolroom.** There was no further report.
- (4) **PACT.** There has not been a recent meeting, but Cllr Roger Davies and Cllr Richard Sims have met the local police and have drawn attention to speeding.

**166/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

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

**167/22 REPORTS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 AND 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022, which had been circulated with the agenda, were noted. The Chairman drew attention to application 22/02248 that had been received today for the retention of a lake for use ancillary to the existing gundog training facility at Ryden Lane. It was agreed that this be considered this evening and that ‘No objection’ be raised. It was agreed to ask for an update on the enforcement action at Upper Haselor Farm.

**168/22 PLANNING APPLICATION 22/02084/ADV**

This application in Childswickham Parish is for advertisements on the A.46, near the junction with the road through Hinton-on-the-Green. Objections have been submitted by Childswickham PC and a resident in Evesham. It was agreed that an objection is submitted on the lines of those by Childswickham PC and noting those of the local resident.

**169/22 FINANCE****1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.09.22 – 30.09.22**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

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

**2. Accounts for Payment**

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

Smart Cut Ltd (September)	£391.40 + £78.28 VAT	<b>£469.68</b>
Smart Cut Ltd (October)	£484.78 + £96.95 VAY	<b>£581.70</b>
Brian Arrowsmith (September)		<b>£202.50</b>
Brian Arrowsmith (October)		<b>£277.50</b>
T C Contracting Ltd	£400.00 + £80.00 VAT	<b>£480.00</b>
Prysmian Cables & Systems Ltd	£560.00 + £112.00 VAT	<b>£672.00</b>
PKF Littlejohn LLP	£300.00 + £60.00 VAT	<b>£360.00</b>
N Power Ltd (July-Sept)	£463.72 + £23.19 VAT	<b>£486.91</b>
“ “	£142.73 + £7.14 VAT	<b>£149.87</b>

**3 Confirmation of the following cheque and Debit Card payments since 22<sup>nd</sup> September:**

Post Office Ltd	£13.04
J Baker Workman Trust	£56,329.69
J Baker Workman Trust	£26,028.31

Ryman Stationery                      £39.16 + £7.83 VAT                      £46.99

**170/22 ADVICE ON RECLAIMING VAT**

The correspondence received via CALC was circulated previously and was noted.

**171/22 TO CONSIDER THE QUOTATION FOR WORK ON TREES IN THE DOVECOTE, THE GREEN AND THE CEMETERY**

The quotation for this work in connection with the Risk Assessment was circulated with the agenda and was agreed. The Clerk agreed to make any necessary application for those trees included in the TPO on the Dovecote. It was agreed that work should commence on the trees not affected by the TPO. The Chairman discussed the willow tree on The Green with TC Contracting Ltd and it was agreed that this can be retained, with a trim in 2023 – an email regarding the issue has subsequently been received and will be retained with the risk assessment.

**172/22 EXTERNAL AUDIT**

The Clerk reported that the accounts for 2021/2022 have been approved by PKF Littlejohn, the external auditors.

**173/22 POLLUTION OF THE RIVER AVON**

The Chairman will press for a meeting with EA.

**174/22 CEMETERY MATTERS**

Cllr Roger Davies has discussed the new fence on the northern boundary with Toby Chung. A quote will be requested.

The front hedge is still encroaching the pavement and Brian Arrowsmith will be asked if he can cut it back.

There is a considerable amount of ivy of the yew trees and the Clerk was asked for Smart Cut Ltd to attend to this.

**175/22 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

No information has been received from Fladbury PC regarding the problem at Mill Bank. The Clerk was asked to report to WCC that the hedge on Canada Bank requires cutting and to ask WDC to cut back the overgrown hedge on their land in The Strand.

**176/22 UPDATING OF PATHS IN THE PARISH**

It was agreed that this item be deferred. The Clerk was asked to acquire detailed maps from WCC.

**177 /22 FLOODING ISSUES**

Cllr Ted Grazier agreed to clear Merrybrook when the weather improves. It was reported that the attenuation drain from the pond in The Bight needs checking to ensure it is not blocked. Some of the leaky dams are in need of some repair, although they are still effective. There is still no decision on the funding for the upkeep of the flood gauge. The Chairman has chased WCC re the silt under Canada Bank bridge, but no response yet.

**178/22 STREET LIGHTING**

The Chairman has prepared an update on the street lights in Charlton. There are 9 columns that could be replaced with LED lights – 5 metal and 4 concrete columns. If grants are available then it was agreed that all 9 be upgraded: if no grant available then the Parish Council should proceed with the 5 on metal columns.

**179/22 THE GREEN**

**(1) Parking on the Green.** The Clerk has drafted a letter for consideration, which would then be sent to residents living on The Green.

**(2) New benches.** There is a request that a new bench be provided in memory of the late Freddie Jack, making a total of 3. Cllrs Roger Davies, Richard Sims and Wendy Sharpe agreed to investigate. It was agreed that the Parish Council makes the purchase and then to be reimbursed.

**(3) Trees on The Green.** There was a discussion what would be a suitable tree to plant for the Platinum Jubilee. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

**(4) New notice board.** There is a problem with the locks and this is being taken up with the supplier

**180/22 PARISH COUNCIL PROJECTOR**

The projector was purchased to assist planning meetings in particular, but it is understood that the trustees of the Old Schoolroom are also considering purchasing one. It was agreed that this be shared with the trustees, and that no formal agreement is needed

**181/22 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**(1) Broadband.** There is still no progress.

**(2) Evesham-Pershore Cycle Route.** There has been no progress.

**(3) Asset of Community Value.** This is currently with District Cllr Tony Rowley, who is still discussing it with officers at WDC.

**(4) Lengthsman worksheet.** The worksheet for September was circulated with the agenda and was noted.

**182/22 CALC**

The regular Updates are circulated to members when received. The AGM is arranged for the evening of Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November at Shires Farm, Hawford, Worcester WR3 7SG

**183/22 CORRESPONDENCE**

(1) Wychavon DC – Parish Precept and Council Tax 2023/2024 required by 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

(2) WCC – Request for any additions to the snow contractor list

(3) WCC – Notice of temporary closure of Top Street; anticipated 5 days from 14<sup>th</sup> November

(4) Confirmation that DM Payroll Services Ltd be the Internal Auditor for the current financial year

**184/22 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**

(1) Budget and Precept

**185/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

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Chairman 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023