

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 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.)*

**28/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received from Cllr Emily Hall-Roberts, Cllr Ted Grazier and County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre.

**29/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**30/23 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH EYRE**

County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre had given her apology for her absence. Her report had been circulated to members before the meeting. The Chairman drew attention to the actions taken by Highways England on the A.46, particularly the reduced speed limit and work in the vicinity of Hinton Cross. Attention was drawn to the WCC budget for 2023/24 and WCC action regarding climate change. Regarding local issues the Parish Council was thanked for its input to the Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy. She commented on various highway issues that are outstanding.

**31/23 20s PLENTY FOR WORCESTERSHIRE**

The Clerk had received a general response from County Cllr Rouse, which was sent to all parish councils, and which was not helpful as he implied that he was only concerned with actual petitions. It was made clear that the Parish Council's request was submitted on behalf of the village and it was supported by information from the police.

**32/23 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TONY ROWLEY**

Cllr Tony Rowley commented that a minerals application at Lea Castle in Wyre Forest has been refused and an appeal has been lodged. WCC are still preparing the Minerals Development Plan document, and the outcome could affect the requirement to extract sand and gravel elsewhere. He reported that energy bill support and alternative fuel payments are now live. He reminded the meeting that voter ID is now required at elections. He referred to the WDC Design Guide and some changes to planning policies. He is still pursuing the Asset of Community Value application for the Gardeners Arms PH, which is still being considered by WDC.

**33/23 UPDATE ON THE SWDPR**

There is no update and some 1,500 representations are being analysed.

**34/23 UPDATE ON THE WCC MINERALS PLAN**

There has been no further information since the last meeting.

**35/23 WORCESTERSHIRE CC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTATION**

The joint representations from Charlton, Crophorne and Fladbury Parish Councils have been submitted to WCC. The main emphasis has been on the current level of pollution in the River Avon. Representatives from Fladbury and Charlton attended the WDC Rural Panel meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January and it is hoped a local group will be formed. Cllr Roger Davies agreed to circulate details and reports of meetings to Members.

**36/23 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

- (1) **Parish Paths Warden.** Adrian Peake's report on the footpaths in the Parish and the work that he has done was circulated to members and was noted. This included replacing some waymarking signs and some cutting back
- (2) **Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall.** There was no report.
- (3) **Workman Trust/Old Schoolroom.** There was no report but the website is being updated.
- (4) **PACT.** There are unlikely to be any further meetings for the foreseeable future.

**37/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023**

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

**38/23 REPORT ON CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES**

The Clerk reported that he has received updates on two applications. It was agreed that no further comments be made in respect of application 22/01584 for the conversion of an agricultural building to a dwelling off Haselor Lane, nor on application 22/02084 for advertisements at Cheltenham Road, Hinton-on-the-Green.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council application for work on two trees in The Dovecote had been approved on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023: this work has been completed.

It was also reported that the application for a mobile home at Sterling Stables, Boston Lane, has been approved.

**39/23 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION, 4<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023**

The Clerk gave details of the timetable for the submission of applications for the forthcoming election and circulated application forms. The notice of the election will be displayed on village notice boards and website by 14<sup>th</sup> March and applications must be submitted by 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Because of the election timetable the Parish Meeting has to be held after this date and, to avoid Easter, it was agreed that it be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**40/23 FINANCE****1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.01.23 – 31.01.23**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

The bank reconciliation for the end of January 2023 was agreed and signed by Cllr Helen Hill.

**2. Accounts for Payment**

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

Brian Arrowsmith (January)		<b>£202.50</b>
R D Gurney salary January-March		<b>£1,008.48</b>
expenses		<b>£48.00</b>
HMRC		<b>£252.00</b>
Grove Business Solutions	£150.00 + £30.00 VAT	<b>£180.00</b>
Stuart Adams per WIX.com		<b>£10.98</b>
Stuart Adams per WIX.com	£65.91 + £13.17 VAT	<b>£79.08</b>

**3. Confirmation of the following cheque and Debit Card payments since 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023:**

T C Contracting Ltd	£1,170.00 + £234.00 VAT	£1,404.00
Ryman Stationery	£79.78 + £15.99 VAT	£95.97
NFU Mutual – for repayment of VAT		£10,593.59

**41/23 TO SIGN OFF ACCOUNTS FOR 2022/2023**

Agreed to sign off the Accounts when a minor modification has been made.

**42/23 HIRE OF THE GREEN**

Requests for the hire of The Green have been received informally for the Coronation on 6<sup>th</sup> May and for the Village Fayre on 24<sup>th</sup> June. These were both agreed, subject to satisfactory completed application forms being received. The Clerk has written to our current insurers to check what cover exists and what users would need to cover and then to inform the hirers. WDC have allocated £200 for each parish council towards the cost of event for the Coronation and it was agreed that a further £100 be paid towards both the event in the village and to the Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall event. The Clerk was asked to contact County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre to see if she is able to make a contribution.

**43/23 THE GREEN**

(1) **Vehicle Parking on the Green.** The Clerk will forward draft letters to Cllr Roger Davies, 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 will arrange purchase of the spanner..

**44/23 POLLUTION OF THE RIVER AVON**

This was included in minute 35/23 above.

**45/23 CEMETERY MATTERS**

The need to update the cemetery fees was referred to in last year's report from the Internal Auditor. Details of the current fees, together with those of Pershore Town Council and Eckington PC, together with suggested fees for Charlton cemetery, were circulated prior to the meeting. After a discussion it was proposed by Cllr Helen Hill, seconded by Cllr Wendy Sharpe, and agreed that the new fees should come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

The Chairman agreed to contact Mike Wood to replace the fence on the western boundary.

It was reported that a vehicle had recently driven into the roadside hedge, causing damage. There is no evidence who the driver was. It was agreed that we would meet with the lengthsman to review what we can do to remedy the damage.

**46/23 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Current highway issues have been reported above in County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre's report. Cllr Richard Sims commented that a request for a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner for an additional VAS sign should be made in the next financial year. Cllr Richard Sims agreed to follow this up in April.

**47/23 UPDATING OF PATHS IN THE PARISH**

The Clerk was asked to acquire detailed maps from WCC.

**48/23 FLOODING ISSUES**

It is hoped that work to remove the branch of the tree obstructing the Merry Brook at the Gardeners Arms will be removed soon. A build-up of silt under Canada Bank road bridge still requires removal by WCC.

**49/23 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.

**50/23 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

- (1) **Broadband.** There is a need for an update.
- (2) **Meeting dates for 2023/2024.** These were noted.
- (3) **Asset of Community Value.** Cllr Tony Rowley had reported on this earlier.
- (4) **Lengthsman worksheet.** The worksheet for January was noted.
- (5) **Trees in The Dovecote.** The Clerk reported that the application for the TPO work has been approved by WDC.
- (6) **Open meeting with Fire and Rescue Service, 27<sup>th</sup> January.** This was well attended and follow-up meetings with some residents have been held.

**51/23 CALC**

The regular Updates have been circulated by the Clerk.

**52/23 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1) Wychavon Parish Games 2023.

**53/23 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**

None

**54/23 DATE OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

This is arranged for Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

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Chairman

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18<sup>th</sup> May 2023