

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 13th July 2023
at 7.30 pm in the Old Schoolroom, Charlton**

PRESENT Cllr Roger Davies (Chairman)
Cllr Richard Bentley
Cllr Ted Grazier
Cllr Helen Hill
Cllr Wendy Sharpe
Cllr Richard Wallis

In attendance: Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

PUBLIC FORUM

(No residents were in attendance.)

90/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre, District Cllr Angie Crump and Parish Paths Warden Adrian Peake.

91/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

92/23 CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Darren Salmons was proposed by Cllr Richard Wallis to be co-opted to the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Wendy Sharpe and agreed. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

93/23 APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK

The Chairman reported that the advertisement is on the CALC website and will be included in the next CALC Update. One application has been received.

94/23 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH EYRE

County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre had given her apology for her absence and her report had been circulated to members. Cllr Roger Davies drew attention to several items, including an update on the WCC Minerals Plan and possible implications following the refusal of an application at Lea Castle, near Kidderminster, and WCC involvement with Merry Brook/Canada Bank bridge and the water draining off the ground on to The Bight.

95/23 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ANGIE CRUMP

District Cllr Angie Crump had given her apology. There was no report.

96/23 UPDATE ON THE SWDPR

There is no update as the plan is being considered against changes to the NPPFG,

97/23 UPDATE ON THE WCC MINERALS PLAN

This had been reported in County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre's report. Along with adjoining parish councils the implications of the refusal at Lea Castle will need to be considered for the implications on mineral extraction in the Avon Valley when the Minerals Development Plan document become available for consultation later this year. In the

meantime WCC are presently consulting on their Planning Validation documents and a response from us is appropriate regarding the Minerals element after consulting with other local parish councils.

98/23 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- (1) **Parish Paths Warden.** There was no report from Adrian Peake. Cllr Richard Bentley will contact him to check on progress and mention a couple of issues..
- (2) **Croptorne and Charlton Village Hall.** There was no report or minutes
- (3) **Workman Trust/Old Schoolroom.** Cllr Wendy Sharpe reported that maintenance work on part of the roof will be done during the Summer holiday period.

99/23 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 11th MAY 2023

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

100/23 REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 20th JUNE 2023.

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 20th June 2023 was circulated with the agenda and was noted. Regarding the recent permission for the glamping site off Canada Bank (22/01426) concern was raised about the gravel at the access off Canada Bank being washed away during recent heavy storms, causing roadside drains to be blocked with gravel. The Clerk was asked to report this to both WCC and WDC and to check when the visibility splays are to be provided.

101/23 FINANCE

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.04.23 – 31.05.23

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

The bank reconciliation for the end of May 2023 was agreed and signed by Cllr Wendy Sharpe.

2. Accounts for Payment

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

R D Gurney	salary	£1008.48
	expenses	£96.00
Brian Arrowsmith (June)	lengthsman	£187.50
	bench installation	£40.00
Smart Cut Ltd (May)	£434.98 + £87.00 VAT)	£521.98

It was reported that correspondence is continuing with Npower to confirm the changes to the street lights and for the 2 accounts to be merged.

3. Confirmation of the following Debit Card payments since 27th April 2023 and cheque payments since 9th May 2023:

W H Smith	£4.99 + £1.00 VAT	£5.99
First Paige, printers	£11.17 + £2.23 VAT	£13.40
First Paige	£13.16 + £2.64 VAT	£15.80
The Garden Furniture	£374.99 + £75.00 VAT	£449.99
Ryman Stationery	£12.49 + £2.50 VAT	£14.99
Charlton with Crophorne Pre School		£100.00
Hydro-Logic Services	£763.00 + £152.60 VAT	£915.60
D M Payroll Services Ltd		£100.00
Smart Cut Ltd	£302.36 + £60.47 VAT	£362.83
Smart Cut Ltd	£562.30 + £112.36 VAT	£674.76
Brian Arrowsmith (April/May)		£445.00
HMRC		£252.00

102/23 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The report of the Internal Auditor was circulated with the agenda. The need to update the Asset Register with the new notice board and VAS sign was noted. The accounts will need to be signed when the minor typo errors have been amended.

103/23 EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

The Clerk reported that the documents had been sent to the external auditor and the response is awaited.

104/23 THE GREEN

(1) Trees on the Green. Cllrs Roger Davies, Ted Grazier and Wendy Sharpe agreed to meet to consider what and where to plant on the Green and to report to the September meeting.

(2) New benches. The bench in memory of Freddie Jack has been welcomed and admired. The Clerk will check if other offers of seats wish to proceed.

(3) Parking on The Green. It was agreed that the Clerk writes to residents living on The Green to remind them that parking is not allowed on the Green but, if they need to park thereon, they should request permission from the Clerk. This will allow the Parish Council to meet the legal requirements.

(4) New notice board. As the Clerk has not been successful in contacting Amazon for the correct spanner, he will send the details to Cllr Richard Bentley.

(5) Defibrillator. The battery is due to be replaced and the Clerk will check on the details.

105/23 CEMETERY MATTERS

The quotation from Mike Wood for the new fencing is awaited.

The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation from Toby Chung for work on the tree adjacent to the lychgate and also to obtain a quotation for the pollarding of the willow tree on the Green.

106/23 HIGHWAY MATTERS

The latest VAS figures for vehicles coming down Canada Bank show that about one third are travelling at 30+ mph. The additional VAS sign, which it was hoped to provide, cannot be installed as it requires a mains electricity supply. The most suitable sign costs £4,348, which includes a set of batteries. A 50% grant is still available from the Police and Crime Commissioner. It was agreed that the Parish Council proceeds with the purchase of this sign and to enquire whether this can be solar powered.

107/23 UPDATING OF PATHS IN THE PARISH

The Clerk was asked to acquire detailed maps from WCC.

108/23 FLOODING ISSUES

The EA has ceased funding the flood gauges. To date Wychavon DC have declined to contribute and we will discuss further with our District Councillor. Until 2027 a 50% share will come from the NFM project and the Parish Council will fund the other 50%, which is budgeted for. With changes to the flood warning system it was agreed that a leaflet drop be made in the village this autumn to explain the changes and to enable people new to the village to sign up to warnings.

109/23 STREET LIGHTING

The quotation from Prysmian for the upgrading of the 5 remaining 'older' columns well as getting a quotation for upgrading of all remaining lights is awaited.
The Clerk is still discussing the street lighting energy concerns with Npower.

110/23 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- (1) **Broadband.** Whilst there are still some unresolved issues it appears that the upgrading of the system will be completed by the autumn.
- (2) **Pollution of the River Avon.** The local Working Group has recently met. Pollution levels appear to be way in excess of the expected levels.
- (3) **Asset of Community Value.** There is still no progress.
- (4) **Lengthsman worksheet.** The worksheet for June was noted. The Clerk will circulate the list of duties to members.

111/23 CALC

The regular Updates have been circulated by the Clerk. The Clerk will continue to circulate the training courses to members.

112/23 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

113/23 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

No items suggested

114/23 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

This is arranged for Thursday 14th September 2023.

R L Davies.....

Chairman

28th September 2023