

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
at 7.30 pm in the Old Schoolroom, Charlton**

**PRESENT** Cllr Roger Davies (Chairman)  
Cllr Helen Hill  
Cllr Wendy Sharpe  
Cllr Darren Salmons  
Cllr Richard Wallis

In attendance: Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

**PUBLIC FORUM**

*(No residents were in attendance.)*

**115/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received from Cllr Richard Bentley, Cllr Ted Grazier and Parish Paths Warden Adrian Peake.

**116/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**117/23 APPOINTMENT OF THE PARISH CLERK**

The Chairman announced that Wendy Cope has been appointed as the Parish Council Clerk to succeed Roger Gurney. Arrangements for the transfer are to be agreed.

**118/23 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH EYRE**

County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre referred to several items in her report, which had been circulated previously. In particular she made reference to the Environment Improvement Plan, the problems associated with the water quality of the River Avon and the boundary changes for WCC Divisions. The County Council is considering the options for mineral extraction following law changes and now that the Lea Castle application has been dismissed on appeal. It seems likely that further extraction along the River Severn, near Upton-on-Severn is likely to proceed, rather than the Charlton/Fladbury area. Cllr Davies has asked that our CC ask for a copy of "WCC Minerals Site Access Appraisal" which was prepared by Jacobs I February 2020? Cllr Elizabeth Eyre cannot obtain this and we will need to submit a freedom of information request. Locally reference was made to tree root problems in The Strand/The Green – WCC are finding this too difficult to resolve and our CC will take this up with them again. The problems with the road between the Cemetery bridge and Jubilee Bridge was also reported on. A detailed report has been prepared showing the number of wells on land off The Bight and the French drain has been checked and found to be working well. As a result, WCC has closed the water on the road problem and this will have to be raised again if problems re-occur. WCC is asking residents to cut back hedges overgrowing the public highway, including footways, and it is hoped that parish councils will help with this

**119/23 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ANGIE CRUMP**

District Cllr Angie Crump reported that WDC has provided money for rural grants. She commented that planning permission in principle had been given for a eco houses in Cropthorne, but the planning application did not comply. The Chairman of WDC will be visiting all parishes as part of the 50th year of Wychavon; the Charlton visit will be to the Chatterly in the OSR. Problems with water quality of the River Avon is being looked into and the 'Ticket to Ride' scheme is being looked at again. Cllr Angie Crump agreed to find out about the planning issues with the Canada Bank glamping site and the problems with Upper Haselor Farm. She agreed to check with the officers regarding the Asset of Community Value for the Gardeners Arms PH.

**120/23 UPDATE ON THE SWDPR**

This has now been submitted to the Secretary of State for the independent examination in public. All supporting documents and evidence have also been submitted. A date for the EIP is awaited and it is stated that the councils involved will be in a position to adopt the Plan in late 2024.

**121/23 UPDATE ON THE WCC MINERALS PLAN**

The comments made by County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre earlier in the meeting had been noted.

**122/23 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

- (1) **Parish Paths Warden.** Adrian Peake's half yearly report had been circulated previously and was noted.
- (2) **Cropthorne 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.

**123/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**

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

**124/23 REPORTS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST and 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023.**

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were circulated with the agenda and were noted.

**125/23 FINANCE****1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.06.23 – 31.08.23**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

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

**2. Accounts for Payment**

It was proposed by Cllr Darren Salmons, seconded by Cllr Richard Wallis, and agreed, that the following accounts be paid:

R D Gurney	salary	<b>£1008.48</b>
	expenses	<b>£48.00</b>
HMRC		<b>£252.00</b>
Brian Arrowsmith (August)		<b>£187.50</b>
Smart Cut Ltd (August)	£403.16 + £80.64 VAT	<b>£483.80</b>
Wychavon DC (for local election)		<b>£50.00</b>

An invoice for £630, plus VAT, has been received from the external auditor and the Clerk was asked to check with CALC as to whether this is reasonable.

**3. Confirmation of the following Debit Card and cheque payments since 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023::**

Wm Morrison		£3.00
Post Office Counters		£15.20
First Paige printers	£17.07 + £3.41 VAT	£20.48
Ryman Stationery	£80.81 + £16.16 VAT	£96.97
IONOS	£9.99 + £2.00 VAT	£11.99
Defibshop	£123.00 + £24.60 VAT	£147.60
Smart Cut Ltd (July)	£403.16 + £80.64 VAT	£483.80
Brian Arrowsmith (July)		£210.00

**126/23 EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE**

The Clerk reported that he had received email confirmation this afternoon that the External Auditor has approved the audit for 2022/2023. Documents must be on public display for 2 weeks and he will arrange for this after the meeting and for the documents to put on the website. The External Auditor's report will be circulated to members.

**127/23 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. A quotation of £495 has been received from T C Contracting for the pollarding of the willow tree and this is accepted.

**(2) New benches.** The Clerk will check if offers of seats wish to proceed.

**(3) Parking on The Green.** The Chairman and the Clerk will discuss how to progress this issue.

**(4) Defibrillator.** The Clerk had arranged for new batteries and pads to be delivered to Brian Coleman and he has replaced them.

**128/23 CEMETERY MATTERS**

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

The Clerk has received a quotation of £90 from Toby Chung for work on the lime and holly trees adjacent to the lychgate. This was accepted and for the Clerk to confirm this with Toby. It is noted that the hedge is overgrowing the footway. This is due to be cut back in the first half of October.

**129/23 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

WCC has accepted that a solar powered VAS sign is acceptable and this application for a grant had been submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner. This has now been approved and the 50% grant (circa £1,900) is now due. Arrangements will be made for the sign to be purchased. Cllr Roger Davies and Cllr Darren Salmon agreed to follow up County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre's comment about overgrowing hedges and walk through the village

**130/23 UPDATING OF PATHS IN THE PARISH**

The Clerk was asked to acquire detailed A3/A4 maps from WCC.

**131/23 FLOODING ISSUES**

There was no update.

**132/23 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. It was proposed by Cllr Roger Davies that if the quotation for the complete upgrading of the street lights does not exceed £8,000 then work would proceed. This was seconded by Cllr Darren Salmons and agreed.

The Clerk is still discussing the street lighting energy concerns with Npower.

**133/23 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

- (1) **Broadband.** This is progressing.
- (2) **Pollution of the River Avon.** This was reported earlier in the meeting.
- (3) **Asset of Community Value.** This was reported earlier in the meeting.
- (4) **Lengthsman worksheet.** The worksheet for August was noted.

**134/23 CALC**

The regular Updates have been circulated by the Clerk and notice of the AGM on 17th October in Droitwich was enclosed with the agenda.

**135/23 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1) The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor, Diane Malley, has now retired.
- (2) Notice of a temporary Road Closure Order in Boston Lane for 3 days from 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**136/23 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**

No items suggested

**137/23 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

This is arranged for Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023. -

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Chairman

9<sup>th</sup> November 2023