

## Charlton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm

Clerk to the Council, Wendy Cope 22, Heathfield Road, Norton Evesham

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Present: Chairman Cllr Roger Davies, Vice Chairman Cllr Richard Bentley,  
Cllr Helen Hill, Cllr Wendy Sharpe, Cllr Darren Salmons, Cllr Richard Wallis,  
Cllr Ted Grazier, District Councillor Angie Crump,  
County Councillor Elizabeth Eyre, Parish Clerk Wendy Cope.

1) Apologies None

2) Not present None

3) Declaration of interest, None

4) Public Session There were two members of the public present, Diane and David Barlow, who drew the attention of The Council to a broken streetlight, The Council were able to say that this was being replaced. They also indicated that The Parish website needed updating, with regards to some contact details, they were assured this would be dealt with. Cllr Wallis was also able to assure The Council that the new broadband was working very efficiently.

5) Review of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of The Parish Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Wallis and seconded by Cllr Sharpe.

County Councillor's Report Cllr Eyre reported that Worcs C C had been on site regarding the tree root problem on The Green, affecting the road and footway, this would need trenching work and the expertise of a tree root surgeon. She also reported that Highways had reported to her that The Bridge did not need any safety work, to remove silt build up. She also reported that the footway problem from Yew Tree Cottage to The Cemetery is in hand, and that she was waiting for an update on The Bight. Cllr Davies said he would send pictures. She reported that Severn Trent had closed Boston Lane as an emergency, at the same time the road through Fladbury was closed. The Glamping site visibility splay and signage would probably need The Enforcement Officer to take a look. The Right of way Path Fields department had asked if The Lengthsman could help with clearing pathways, however it was noted that The Lengthsman's budget did not stretch to this.

6) District Councillors Cllr Crump reported that The Chairman of Wychavon Robert Rapheal had attended The Chatterry as part of his tour of all Parishes in Wychavon. It was noted that Wcc did not close Charlton roads when flooded, leading to vehicles driving through, some too fast creating bow waves, which in turn place properties at additional risk of being flooded. It was noted that barriers could only be erected within the law, it was noted that Jem Teale maybe help with this. Cllr Crump informed The Council that Wychavon had a shortage of sandbags, however a good option was to fill supermarket plastic bags as these lasted longer, because they didn't rot. She recommended that Crophorne along with Fladbury and Charlton, should write a collective letter outlining the problems caused by the wash when flooding occurred. So that she can take up the issue at full council. Cllr Crump reported that the water testing on The River Avon was proving to be successful with the first training session having taken place, should anyone want to volunteer there is a WhatsApp Group for people to join. She stated that Severn Trent had put a lot of money aside for this issue. Cllr Crump reported that the forms to have The Gardener's Arms Charlton Public House, declared as An Asset of Community Value, were being processed

- 7) Report on The South Worcestershire Development Plan. Cllr Davies reported that The South Worcestershire Development Plan is now complete and has been sent to The Inspector, for reviewing.
- 8) Report on The WCC Minerals Plan. Cllr Davies reported there was no change on The Minerals Plan.
- 9) Report from Parish Path Warden, Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall and Workman Trust/Old School Room. No reports received.
- 10) Report of Planning Committee Planning Application W/23/00502 Bank House Ryden Lane has been passed.
- 11) Finance To approve payments to Brian Arrowsmith £180 and Smart Cut 451.96. Debit card payments of replacement keys £9.05, Ryman Stationary £69.47, First Page Printers, £21.28, Post Office Counters £6.00 and PKF Littlejohn LLP £756.00. These per proposed by Cllr Salmons and seconded by Cllr Sharpe.
- 12) Report from Charlton Chatterry Cllr Davies, Cllr Sharpe, Cllr Wallis and Cllr. Bentley all attended The Chatterry when The Chairman of Wychavon DC Robert Rapheal visited on his tour of The Parishes. Mr. Rapheal said a few words. There were some questions from the members of The Chatterry 1) Could they have a copy of The Minutes from Parish Council Meetings? Cllr Sharpe said she could print these off and take them. 2) Could they have notification of Parish Council Meetings? Cllr Sharpe again said she could do this. 3) Could a Parish Councillor attend their meetings every six months to update them? Cllr Davies said this wouldn't be a problem. 4) Would it be possible to have A Parish Newsletter from time to time? It was agreed that Cllr Salmons would take this over and the first one could possibly be after The Annual Parish Meeting.
- 13) Report on Bio Diversity Cllr Davies reported that Calc had sent through a paper concerning Bio Diversity where: *Section 40 of the Act 2006, in force 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023 places a duty on all Local Authorities, including Parish Councils, to from time to time consider what action an authority can properly take to further the general biodiversity objective!* He appraised The Council that there were several issues that could be quoted: up grading the street lights to led (in the process); The Merrybrook and The River Avon Action Committee; suggest that Cllr Eyre liaise with WCC Officers to encourage them to put pressure on Severn Trent to complete all works in a timely fashion, thus reducing extra mileage that vehicles need to travel to get round road closures, and a new tree to be planted on The Green.
- 14) Report on Matters concerning The Green Someone in The Parish wishes to plant a new tree. It was suggested that Cllr Grazier, Cllr Davies and Cllr Sharpe should meet to discuss which type would be most suitable. Brian Arrowsmith The Lengthsman is to be asked to clean and oil one of the benches on The Green if this doesn't work then next year it could be stained. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Parishioners regarding Parking on The Green reminding them that there are by laws regarding this. It was agreed that new signage should be installed for the summer reminding people to take their litter away. Smart Cut will be asked to kill the weeds on the track, but advise this is best done next spring.
- 15) Report on Cemetery Matters The Hedge at the front of The cemetery maybe needs to be cut back.
- 16) Report on Highways, Footpaths including The new VAS machine It was reported that The New Vas machine has been ordered from SWARCO, Cllr Davies said he would order the new pole from

Highways. Cllr Davies reported that he and Cllr Salmons would walk around The Parish and alert property owners where appropriate on their responsibility to keep footpaths clear.

17) To consider an application for public footpath status for paths not on the definitive map no update

18) Report on Flooding Issues Cllr Davies reported that he found that the flooding now took 8-9 hours to peak after it stops raining rather than 5-6 hours previously. Cllr Grazier reported that the woody dams seemed to be working holding back the water, however to install anymore could run the risk of flooding farm land, used for arable purposes so positions need to be carefully selected.

19) Report on Street lighting Cllr Davies reported that the new streetlights had now been ordered at a cost of £7230.20

20) Reports for information Broadband is now live in 5/6 of The Parish. Parishioners have to sign up to commit to it. It was reported that some households who had originally signed up might not get it if they had moved away, occupants passed away or if they thought the cost was too high. The old system will expire at the end of 2025. Pollution on The River Avon had been covered in the report from Cllr Crump. Resubmission of The Asset of Community Value was also covered in Cllr Crumps report. The Lengthsman's worksheet was signed off. It was discussed that the land opposite The Cemetery might be considered for bio diversity, if funding could be sourced through Jo of The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.

21) Report from CALC It was reported that The Clerks wages had increased and that this was to be backdated to April 2023.

22) Correspondence It was reported that the annual email from Wychavon had been received asking for The Parish Council's Budget. It was agreed that Cllr Davies, Cllr Bentley and The Clerk would meet before Christmas to do this.

23) Items for inclusion/information in the next Agenda Cllr Salmons asked for The Newsletter to be discussed.

24) Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
Meeting adjourned 9.50

**Signed/date**

