

Charlton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting 11th January 2024 at 7.30pm

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

- 1) Apologies Ted Grazier, Wendy Sharpe, Darren Salmons
- 2) Not present None
- 3) Declaration of interest, None
- 4) Public Session There were three members of the public in attendance, who had come to discuss the flooding issues because of the flooding in the previous week. It was noted that the dams were working well. The gauge was a great help although this wasn't on the original website anymore, Cllr Davies advised that now on a new website and hope to include details in the new village Newsletter when produces. In the meantime, we are hoping to get a letter out to those houses directly affect by flooding. The provision of the gauge is now funded jointly by The Natural Flood Management Project and Parish Council. After 2027, this might have to be funded solely by The Parish Council! The drains were another issue raised as these seem to get blocked by pine needles, and contribute to the risk of flooding. It was noted that Wychavon do not seem to clean the roads as often as they use to. The Council was able to inform that anyone can report a blocked drain on the WCC website. The Clerk said she would contact Highways to determine when the gullies were last cleaned on mass. Another issue was, the use of barriers on the corner by The Gardeners Arms where the floods tended to start. Cllr Eyres informed that the only people who were able, legally to put barriers out were The County Council. Cllr Davies said he intended to write to CALC to clarify the position on barriers. Cllr Crump said she would speak to Jem Teal, at Wychavon DC to see if he could help. Cllr Davies advised that he, Cllr Sharpe and Derek Arnold had met and they were looking for as tree system warning being set up when advance notice of flood events were received – note this does not always happen. Another issue was the flooding from The Farmland beside Sidings Lane. Cllr Davies advised that the track was in private ownership, the farm was rented and therefore the responsibility would lie with the Landowner or Freeholder, Cllr Eyre quoted the environment Act 2021. However, discussions by an affected householder and The Farm Manager, had taken place and it is hoped that the farm would resolve this.
- 5) Review of minutes of previous meeting
The minutes of The Parish Council Meeting held on 9th of November 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Wallis and seconded by Cllr Hill.
- 6) County Councillor's Report Please see separate report.
- 7) District Councillors Cllr Crump reported that she was awaiting the dates for the public consultation on SWDP and that the design codes were out for consultation. The fire in The Italian Restaurant in Pershore was causing significant disruption to traffic, because the building was considered unsafe and that could continue for some time. Pershore volunteer Centre would like to expand the bus service that is in place in Fladbury to other villages. Cllr Davies and Cllr Bentley stated that they felt there wasn't the interest in Charlton, following the survey undertaken recently

However, Cllr Crump said that she would check with previous people she had spoken to. The Community Legacy Grant is now open for another round. The Police Crime Commissioner is holding a question service, and she would ask about VAS machines, The Council said that it would be useful if The Police engaged more with the community. Changing places toilets are being installed, these are where toilets are more disability and baby friendly. The River Avon Action Group are making more testing kits available, Cllr Davies said that testing was fine however the pollution levels were well known, and although he appreciated that it was going to take a huge amount of time to clear up.

8) Report on The South Worcestershire Development Plan. AS discussed earlier with Cllr Crump
9) 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 Applications W/23/02337/FUL Boston Lane Stables and W/23/02091/FUL The Hill Canada Bank were dealt with at a meeting of The Planning Committee on Thursday 14th December 2023.

11) Finance To approve payments to Brian Arrowsmith of £367.50, Roger Gurney of £620.52 and Wendy Cope of £991.40. Cllr Davies presented the budget for 2024. Which was proposed by Cllr Bentley and seconded by Cllr Wallis. This involved an increase in The Parish Precept of 0.99%

12) Report on Bio Diversity nothing to report at present, other than action plan to be prepared.

13) Report on Matters concerning The Green Cllr Davies reported that he had asked The Lengthsman to renovate one of the benches in the spring, unfortunately there wasn't a report regarding the trees as Cllr Sharpe had sent her apologies due to illness. Cllr Davies asked The Clerk to obtain a quote from Smart Cut for the renewal of the mowing contract for The Parish and also to ask them to quote for the removal of ivy around the trees in The Cemetery. Cllr Bentley said he was attending to all matters concerning the renewal items for the defibrillator, at the Old School Room.

14) Report on Cemetery Matters nothing to report

15) Report on Highways, Footpaths including The new VAS machine The pole for The New Vas Machine will be fitted very soon.

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

17) Report on Flooding Issues already discussed, in The Public Forum. Noted that earlier in the meeting Cllr mentioned that Charlton Parish Council were the only Parish Council to respond to the recent Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Consultation.

19) Report on Street lighting The Clerk reported that the update was due to take place in February 2024

20) Reports for information Broadband is now complete in The Parish. Pollution on The River Avon had been covered in the report from Cllr Crump. It is hoped that The Village Newsletter might be ready this spring, unfortunately Cllr Salmons sent his apologies due to illness.

21) Correspondence Emails from Wychavon concerning The Design Initiative and Worcestershire CC for Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

23) Items for inclusion/information in the next Agenda None

24) Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Thursday 14th March 2024

Meeting adjourned 9.30

Signed/date

