

## Charlton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm

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

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Present: Vice-Chairman Cllr Darren Salmons, Cllr Roger Davies

Cllr Helen Hill, Cllr Richard Wallis, Cllr Wendy Sharpe District Councillor Angie Crump,

County Councillor Elizabeth Eyre, Parish Clerk Wendy Cope.

- 1) Apologies Cllr Richard Bentley
- 2) Not present Cllr Ted Grazier
- 3) Declaration of interest, None
- 4) Public Session Several members of the public attended, the first group have come to inform The Council of the foul smells at the top and bottom of Canada Bank. Cllr Salmons was able to inform them that he had spoken to Severn Trent re-active team, with regards to the problem at the bottom of Canada Bank. They had informed him that they had conducted a survey and recommended a pressure release from the pumping station, and a wet flush should help. There was at least one dry and sumpless gully on The Green, and suggested the Highways should be able to help with this. The second group of people had a major issue with the foul smells at the top of Canada bank. One gentleman advised that he had been trying to deal with this since May 2023. All the people involved reported that the smell was really bad sweeping through their houses 2-3 times a day, one man reported it was so bad his son had been physically sick. The general opinion was that the new sewerage system at The Yessel Lan Caravan Park was not being maintained correctly. A report from Severn Trent is attached, to verify this. This gentleman had spoken to Worcestershire Regulatory Services who had said they couldn't help, and the only redress would be to seek private direct legal redress. When the Caravan Park owners applied for an extension to their time of operation, to eleven months of the year, representation were made about the sewer issues which were mentioned in the Officer Report. Cllr Eyers and Cllr Crump said they would both try and help with this. The third group of people came to ask The Council for help with speeding on Yessel Lane. They asked if white lines could be painted on the road on the bends, or reflective posts. Cllr Davies asked Cllr Eyre if it would be possible to put some signs up by the houses, and she will investigate this. Another resident asked if The County Council were responsible to setting speed limits, if so, could they be lowered, especially to 20mph in the village to reduce speeding? Cllr Eyre said they were responsible however, it was very difficult to change speed limits in Worcestershire, and Cllr Davies said The Parish Council had tried to do this before but had been unsuccessful, Cllr Eyers said slowing down signs would help. The Police had said they would carry out random checks in The Village.
- 5) Review of minutes of previous meeting  
The minutes of The Annual Parish Council Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were proposed by Cllr Davies and 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Hill.
- 6) County Councillor's Report Cllr Eyre report attached
- 7) District Councillors Cllr Crump reported that District Cllr Bradley Thomas had now been elected as The Member for Parliament for Bromsgrove which will cause a bi-election. She also reported that she had attended the planning meeting for Sidings Lane Charlton application, with Andy Hambleton, this had been very difficult and challenging. Although the objections were made very clearly and concisely, she felt that they had no chance of stopping the development and it was passed

unanimously. Cllr Crump reported that she had attended Charlton Country Fair and that it had been very well attended and the weather had been wonderful.

8) Report on The South Worcestershire Development Plan. Cllr Davies reported that there had been a survey about ongoing information regarding A Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Davies asked The Council if Charlton needed a plan, as Charlton is classed as a B4 unsustainable Village. The Council agreed that it did not need one.

9) Report on The WCC Minerals Plan. Cllr Davies reported there was no change on The Minerals Plan.

10) Report from Parish Path Warden, Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall and Workman Trust/Old School Room. Cllr Sharpe asked if it would be possible to ask The Parish Path Warden if he could clear path 507(B), Cllr Davies urged anyone to report overgrown paths to WCC on their 'report it' website, and said he would report this one. He will also talk to the owner of another blocked footpath. No reports from Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall and Workman Trust/Old Schoolroom.

11) Report of Planning Committee The planning committee met on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to discuss W/24/00909/CU Charlton Glamping and further objections were submitted to Wychavon District Council.

12) Finance It was agreed that The Finance Committee would meet soon to discuss interest rates on the bank accounts held by The Parish Council. The Clerk told The Council the balance of the current account was ££20,776.44 and the bus account £25,961.75. She had received a refund of Vat for £2,797.18 plus grass cutting reimbursement from WCC of £255.56. Payments to Smart Cut, The Lengthsman, The Clerk and Grove Business Solutions were approved.

13) To receive details of Parish Councillor emails Cllr Wallis had written a very comprehensive report on different companies offering .gov.uk email services and linking these to The Parish Council Website. Cllr Davies was concerned about the length of time the favoured provider had been in business. Cllr Wallis said he would investigate further. The Council debated whether it might be an idea to split the website and have one for The Village and one for The Parish. Cllr Sharpe said she would talk to The Joseph Baker Workman Trust to see if they wanted to be involved.

14) Report on Bio Diversity Cllr Davies reported that he The Clerk and Cllr Hill had met with one of The Managers from Smart Cut to obtain a quote to discuss strimming, treating and sowing wildflowers on the land opposite the cemetery a quote of £536.78+Vat had been obtained. The Clerk said she had approached WCC for some funding which might be available. Cllr Davies proposed that the work go ahead and Cllr Salmons seconded.

15) Report on Matters concerning The Green The Council debated that a new bench was required on The Green, this was proposed by Cllr Sharpe and seconded by Cllr Salmons, cost approximately £450. The Clerk was asked to purchase a new bench, this would be the same as one purchased in 2023. The Clerk was asked to ask The Lengthsman to renovate other benches on the Green and also to ask him to extend the height of The Vas machine on Canada Bank. Cllr Wallis reported that he had concerns about the Merrybrook and that maybe it needed stones at the sides to stop it from receding further. Cllr Davies said this was natural flood erosion. A group of Councillors will view the issue.

16) Report on Cemetery Matters Cllr Davies, The Clerk and Cllr Hill met one of The Managers from Smart Cut to discuss some work that had taken place in The Cemetery, which they felt was unsatisfactory, he agreed to redo the work. Whilst he was there Cllr Davies asked him to quote for the siding out of the path outside of The Cemetery and also for reporting and quoting for any

attention the trees in The Cemetery needed. The Council asked The Clerk to obtain a report and quote from TC Contacting too. The Clerk reported that The Cemetery should have an inspection every five years, to that end she had obtained three quotes one for £288+Vat one for £600+Vat and one which was free with an assumption that they would carryout any work required. Cllr Davies proposed Memory Lane at £288+Vat and this was seconded by Cllr Salmons. The Clerk reported that she had an enquiry about an interment for ashes from someone who's Grandparents had resided in The Village, The Council approved this. The Clerk reported that a recent interment had taken place, on receiving the monies from E. Hill she was confused, that they did not match the price list. It was decided that E Hill may not have received an updated price list, so The Clerk could send them one, stressing that there would not be any further charge in this instance.

17)Report on Highways, Footpaths including The new VAS machine this had already been dealt with earlier in the meeting. The Clerk has transferred the technical data to a usb for the new VAS Machine which she will pass onto Cllr Salmons.

18) To consider an application for public footpath status for paths not on the definitive map Cllr Davies reported that Cllr Bentley was working on enlarging a map.

19)Report on Flooding Issues Cllr Davies reported that he and Cllr Sharpe had attended a meeting with E.Tassell WCC, J Teale WDC, J Walker EA, B Barnes Highways and D Arnold. They had discussed at great length road closures and keeping The Merrybrook clear. It is important to get people involved in clearing it. There is a lot of growth by The Cemetery Bridge, and Canada Bank bridge needs clearing. WDC are the authority that deals with land drainage. Cllr Davies felt it was necessary to publish a leaflet to inform people of what is required. Cllr Davies felt it was a very positive meeting

20) Land opposite The Cemetery Cllr Davies reported that it was time to to make a request to HMLR for formal ownership, probably a possessory title, this land again.

21)Reports for information Cllr Crump reported that the pollution on The River Avon is still being monitored, they are looking for more funding from WDC and raising money at various walkabouts and fairs. Cllr Davies said it would be good to have a meeting with The Lengthsman to introduce Cllrs Bentley and Salmons.

22) To consider The Newsletter Cllr Davies asked the question do we need two Newsletters? It was agreed that in future the existing Newsletter would continue, which could incotporate articles that Cllr Salmons is already collating. . Cllr Davies proposed that The Parish Council would meet the printing costs of £30 per Newsletter, and that would be retrospectively for the last one. This was agreed.

23)Correspondence None

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

25) Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Meeting adjourned 10.30pm

**Signed/date**

