



CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18th OCTOBER
2022**

Present: Cllr C Ward (Vice Chairman), Cllr I Smale, Cllr Mrs C Mills & Cllr R Stevenson.

In attendance: H Bournier- Clerk
1 Member of public

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from HCC Chris Donnelly, TVBC L Lashbrook Cllr Mrs J Smith & Cllr P Wylde

2) Co-Option of new Councillor

Rachelle Stevenson had expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. She was also interested in becoming editor of the Charlton Newsletter. Details had been circulated to all Councillors and Cllr Ward proposed she be co-opted to the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Smale. All in favour. The Clerk provided the necessary forms for completion.

3) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Stevenson expressed an interest in a planning application at her neighbour's property. There were no other declarations of interest and all councillors confirmed no changes were required to register of interest forms.

4) Minutes

Cllrs to approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th August 2022 as a correct record of proceedings.

Resolved: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th August were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chairman. Proposed Cllr Ward seconded Cllr Smale. All agreed.

5) Public participation

The member of public present asked for an explanation regarding the proposal to install a gate in the railings by the land in front of Carters Meadow. Cllr Ward confirmed Cllr Smith had met with the Carters Meadow Estate Manager and it was agreed in principle that a gate could be installed. (See item 10 for details)

A question was asked if the waterway in the village was in fact the river Anton. Cllr Ward said the important thing was this waterway was deemed a main waterway by the Environment Agency and this feeds into the river Anton. Cllr Ward confirmed some work to clear this has taken place and further work is planned.

6) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported as follows: -

Jubilee and Community Day profits

Work to complete the Jubilee accounts has been completed. Details of Lake side ticket sales have finally been received and surplus funds from the Jubilee event total £2535.37 these will be ring fenced for the community hall project.

There are still some outstanding fees to be received for the Community Day for which invoices have been issued. The Clerk will endeavour to finalise these accounts as soon as possible.

Quotes from lengthsmen

A quote for lengthsmen work in 2023 has been obtained from the current contractor who will be raising his price to £25.00 per hour. A further quote of £30.00 per hour has also been received. One more quote will be obtained.

Tree by Millennium stone

TVBC were contacted and asked to remove the tree. Although they cut the grass here, they confirmed the land belongs to HCC. HCC have said they are not minded to remove the tree but are happy for the PC to do this work if they wish. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote to remove the tree.

Favourite Parks Competition

TVBC L Lashbrook was asked for more details regarding this competition as Charlton Park had been entered although the PC did not know about this in advance. Cllr Ward confirmed the park had been awarded a prize.

Survey Monkey

Lloyds Bank have refunded the subscription paid in error via an indemnity claim.

Community Pay Back teams

The Clerk confirmed she had contacted the local office to establish if a team could renovate the bus shelter and is awaiting a response

Audit report

Following a request from PKF auditors The Clerk confirmed she had changed figures to net off an insurance claim and submitted a revised document. PKF have now written to say that was not necessary, their mistake! There were no other matters arising.

7)HCC & TVBC Report-

HCC Cllr Chris Donnelly was not present.

TVBC Cllr Lashbrook was not present.

8)Finance -

The bank balance at 30th September 2022 was as follows:

Lloyds current £31443.98

Savings £35545.64

Cllrs to consider and approve the financial statement for the period 1st August to 30th September 2022.

RESOLVED: It was resolved to approve the financial statement for the period 1st August to 30th September 2022 as a correct record of accounts. Proposed Cllr Ward, seconded Cllr Smale. All agreed.

Cllrs to approve payments to be made

H Bourner Salary £524.16

H Bourner expenses £18.20

Barry Notley £240.00

Retrospective

H Bourner Salary £524.16

H Bourner expenses £34.50

Barry Notley £120.00

P Wylde £51.67

PKF Littlejohn £240.00

Bulpitt Print £565.00

Note

TVBC returned planning application fees £240.00

Survey Monkey subscription returned £384

2nd instalment of precept £12500.00 now received

9) Community group

This matter was deferred to the November meeting.

10) Green Space near Carters Meadow

Cllr Ward reported on a meeting Cllr Smith had attended at Carters Meadow. Anchor, the owners of Carters Meadow, were keen to make a claim under adverse possession for the area of land to the right of the entrance road which adjoins the pub car park as they want to protect this. Cllr Smith pointed out this was registered in the Neighbourhood Plan as open green space and as such was therefore protected. She established that Anchor had no intention of making such a claim for the piece of land to the left and had no concerns in principle to a gate being placed in the railings to allow access to the public to this open area.

Cllr Smith suggested the Parish Council would be happy to pay the costs of installing the gate and proposed that in due course a bench and litter bin be installed near the new entrance, again the costs would be met by the Parish Council.

Cllr Smith had obtained a quote to make and fit a gate from Hurstbourne Forge for £400.00 plus VAT. Given this was a niche market it was agreed to accept this quote without attempting to source others. Proposed Cllr Ward seconded Cllr Smale. All agreed.

The matter regarding signage had also been discussed and Cllr Smith had conceded a further sign would not be necessary provided it was clear to residents they could use the open green space.

Finally, Cllr Smith suggested in future the ongoing costs of maintenance of the land could be shared between the Parish Council and Carters Meadow. The Carters Meadow estate manager said any agreement would need to be made with Anchor head office.

11) SSEN Grant

Cllr Ward confirmed he had secured a grant from SSEN to help with the purchase of equipment to support community resilience. Space was needed to house the items, in particular a generator and he had been negotiating with HCC to site a shed on land owned by them off Enham Lane. There was also a parcel of land owned by individuals and the Clerk was asked to write to them to establish if they would be prepared for the Parish Council to site a shed on their land.

12) Stream bank repairs-entrance to Charlies Lake

Cllr Ward confirmed some clearing has taken place by a group of volunteers from the village. Further work was required and Cllr Ward was in discussion with a company who had carried out some work to the stream and river banks near Carters Meadow.

13) Siting of Beacon in Village Centre

Cllr Ward reported that concerns had been raised by TVBC in respect of the proposed site of the Beacon in particular they had raised concerns regarding its prominence although all agreed this was supposed to be a prominent village landmark!

A resident had also raised objections to the proposed site and TVBC have asked the Parish Council to submit a pre app. Cllr Ward had mapped out four potential sites which could be used and is attempting to get street scene drawings to accompany the pre app.

There were concerns raised that the Parish Council seemed to have little input into design and style for planning applications in the Parish even though they have an agreed Neighbourhood Plan which incorporates the TVBC Local Plan policies. Cllr Ward will be taking this matter up with HALC, TVATPC and responding to the SCI Community Involvement in Planning Survey, using this as an example of how Localism is not working.

14) Lengthsman work 2023.

Cllr Smith said she had received one quote to carry out lengthsman work from a local gardener. The Clerk has also received one quote and will now attempt to obtain one more.

15) Community Hall Update

Cllr Ward reported that pre application for a community hall has been submitted to TVBC. Some responses have been received. These will be considered at the next meeting of the community hall working group who are working toward submitting a full planning application.

16) Budget 2023/24

The Clerk said it was time to consider the budget for the next financial year to 31st March 2024. A draft document with projected spending to the end on 22-23 and proposed income and expenditure for 23-24 had been circulated. These figures were discussed and all agreed to give the matter detailed consideration in order that a budget can be set at the November meeting.

17) Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted –

22/01674/FULLN-erection of first floor extension and installation of solar panels, 2 Ethlebert Drive- withdrawn

The following applications received-

22/02359/FULLN-two storey front & rear extension, 69B Hatherden Road- no objection

22/02455/FULLN-demolition and replacement of single storey extension, 108 Charlton-

objection, scale & dominance, loss of light and overshadowing & loss of privacy to neighbouring property.

22/02159/FULLN-lean to side extension, Foxcotte Barn- no objection

Revised planning terms of reference were discussed and agreed the Clerk will circulate full details.

18) Councillors to provide a report on their areas of responsibility

Traffic Liaison-Cllr Smith was absent

Speed awareness cameras-Cllr Ward reported his involvement in a speed watch team. Details of speeding traffic were recorded and sent to the police, which resulted in a police camera unit attending the village. Further speed watch surveys will be undertaken.

Concerns were raised about overgrown trees and hedges on Goch Way which are highways responsibility. The overgrown area is now covering road signs and roots are encroaching on neighbouring properties. It is very dangerous to pedestrians who find it very difficult to see when crossing the road. The Clerk will report this to HCC.

Lengthsman scheme- see item 14

Community Hall Feasibility- see item 15

Environment & Rights of Way– Cllr Wylde was not present

Charlton Lakes- Cllr Ward reported that a TVBC officer wants to come to the next PC meeting to discuss the use of Charlton Lakes and how this may be developed in the future. All agreed he should be invited.

Carters Meadow- see separate agenda item.

19) Correspondence

The Clerk highlighted several items of correspondence as follows

Email regarding trees covering lights at Wetherby Gardens

Email regarding Cats mess

Email regarding footpath between Saxon Fields and Charlton Road

Details of the upcoming HALC conference

HALC newsletter

20) New items proposed for future agendas were:

None at present

21) Close of Meeting –The meeting closed at 9.20pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 15th November 2022, 7.45pm, in the main church hall.