



**CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th APRIL 2021**

Present: Cllr J Smith (Chairman), Cllr C Ward (Vice Chairman), Cllr I Smale,
& Cllr P Wyld.

In attendance: Mrs H Bourner – Clerk
HCC Mrs Z Brooks
TVBC Linda Lashbrook
0 Members of public

PLEASE NOTE THIS WAS A VIRTUAL MEETING IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT ADVICE DURING THE CORONA VIRUS RESTRICTIONS.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr B Hodgson.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

All Cllrs present confirmed that no amendments were required to their register of interest declarations.

3) Minutes

Cllrs to approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th March 2021 as a correct record of proceedings

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March were confirmed as a correct record proposed by Cllr Smale & seconded by Cllr Ward.

4) Public participation

No members of the public were present.

5) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on several items as follows: -

Bench at Carters Meadow

The Clerk confirmed the bench was delivered to her home address. It was a very large box on two pallets and kerb side delivery. Fortunately, the Lengthsman was able to collect this for fitting and the pallets were removed by a local transport company.

Letter to Tesco

After the February meeting a letter was sent to Tesco Charlton asking what recycling facilities they offer and asking them to put the battery recycling bin in a more obvious position. As they had not replied Cllr Ward recently took a copy of the letter and handed it to the store manager. There has still not been any response! The Clerk will pursue the matter.

CFI work

The Clerk confirmed she has been in touch with HCC regarding the traffic calming work requested. They have suggested the work is likely to start in June with a caveat of possible delays clearing work from the previous financial year.

Lengthsman work

The Clerk confirmed she has discussed the annual work programme with the Lengthsman. He will be washing all signs in April and will start some strimming in areas where growth is apparent. They had agreed in dry months it is possible some areas will not need to be strimmed.

Hants & IOW Wildlife Trust photography Competition

The Clerk said she has been contacted by Hants & IOW Wildlife Trust about a photography competition focussing on chalk streams. This is open to people in Hampshire and the Parish Council have been asked to advertise this. Cllr Ward will put details in the next newsletter.

6)HCC & TVBC Report-

HCC Zilliah Brooks reported that following a concern raised by a villager she had been able to arrange for a highways officer to visit the roundabout where Foxcotte Road leads to Penton. She said a loose metal drain cover was creating a noise nuisance, there was a blocked drain and repairs to pot holes had simply not worked. The loose metal cover was to a BT cable supply and they had ensured open reach repair this very quickly. She confirmed this was her last meeting as a Hampshire County Councillor and thanked all Parish Councillors for their work in the community. Cllr Smith thanked her for all the work she has done over the past five years for Charlton.

Cllr Lashbrook was unable to give a report as the upcoming elections mean officers are in purdah. Cllr Ward asked if she was aware that the NP was going to referendum on the 6 May and asked if she were able to highlight this to parishioners wherever possible.

7)Finance -

The bank balance at 31st March 2021 was as follows:

Lloyds current £9249.66

Savings £35538.22

Cllrs to consider and approve the financial statement for the period 1st March to 31st March 2021.

RESOLVED: It was resolved to approve the financial statement for the period 1st March to 31st March 2021 as a correct record of accounts.

Cllrs to approve payments to be made

H Bourner Salary £499.89

H Bourner expenses £18.20

HALC £579.29

Retrospective

Bluestone planning £378.00

Barry Notley £106.00

Garden Furniture Ltd £349.99 (Bench for Carters Meadow)

The annual accounts and audit return were discussed and agreed. Cllr Smith proposed the audit return be signed. This was seconded by Cllr Ward. All agreed. The Clerk will arrange for this to be reviewed by an internal auditor before submission.

8) Communications

Cllr Ward reported there were very few responses to the communications questionnaire but of those received there seemed to be a view that a community website with a Parish Council page might serve Charlton better. However, he recommended no action takes place until and unless a 'real enthusiast' from the community could be identified to act as webmaster and manager of the site. He would continue to post items of interest/importance on the website and publicise. Cllr Smith will put details on Charlton Chat again and the subject will be revisited later in the year.

9) Wetherby Gardens

Cllr Smale & Cllr Wylde reported on a meeting with some residents of Weatherby Gardens. They reported the hedge planted by HCC had not been looked after and the residents had therefore cut this back themselves. Unfortunately, the low wall next to the hedge has been damaged by the hedge roots. Cllr Wylde agreed to look at this to see if a repair is possible. The trees alongside the car park need some work to remove dead wood and a blocked drain in the car park needs to be cleared as this causes flooding, particularly the gardens of number 1 Weatherby Gardens. There were some discussions as to who was responsible for the area as it was likely the roads and footpaths were not adopted by HCC and any work required would therefore be the responsibility of the housing management committee. Cllr Wylde agreed to discuss this with residents. (Subsequently Cllr Ward has established HCC are not responsible for this area)

Finally, when work was carried out to the roundabout the developers of Peake Way

(Foreman Homes) left some rubble on the green area in front of the houses which needs to be cleared. This will be reported to TVBC as fly tipping.

10) Stream bank repairs-land opposite Carters Meadow

Cllr Ward gave details of a meeting with the residents regarding recommendations from H&IOW Wildlife Trust in relation to the stream bank and surrounding area. The residents were in agreement with installing wooden railings, rebuilding the part of the bank that had collapsed and removing the old and very tatty conifer tree. They also asked if 'No Parking' signs could be placed on the green triangle as previously agreed. Cllr Smith will obtain some prices for the signs and bring details to the next meeting. The shrubs beside the stream bank also need a good cut back and Cllr Wylde agreed to cut these back with the new Parish Council hedge trimmer. Quotes for the work required to clear trees and fit railings will be obtained.

11) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Ward reported the Parish Council cannot influence any voting in favour or indeed, against the plan but can inform the community about the upcoming Referendum on 6 May and encourage them to vote. To this end some posters have been put up around the village advertising the plan and opportunity to vote. Costs of £20 have been incurred by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. After some discussion it was agreed no further banners or leaflets will be purchased.

12) Green Space in front of Carters Meadow

Cllr Smale confirmed the new bin has been installed and the old bench has been removed. The new bench will be installed shortly. The Carters Meadow management team are very happy for tree stumps to be removed and that the Parish Council have agreed to pay for this work. There was some debate about the agreement between the Parish Council and Carters Meadow Management Team and the railings, in particular the proposal to remove the railings in September 2022. As the railings have been erected on land neither party own the agreement is unenforceable however the Parish Council wish to work with The Carters Meadow Management Group to reach a mutual resolution regarding these railings. A meeting between parties will be arranged in early 2022. Finally, the matter of new signage is pending as this has yet to be discussed by the Carters Meadow resident's forum.

13) Hedging at Peake Way

Cllr Wylde believes the original hedging was planted in 2006 in a joint venture between HCC, TVBC & the Parish Council, however no evidence can be found to confirm this.

Hampshire Highways has confirmed the options for hedge planting at Peake Way are: -

- To replant any hedgerow or trees subject to land owner's permission, off the public highway.
- The Parish Council could apply for a cultivation licence from HCC. This would enable them to carry out planting but there are specific conditions on the height of planting allowed.
- Approach HCC Arboriculture team to investigate the replanting of some trees.

After some discussion Cllr Wylde proposed an approach to the arboriculture team to establish what trees they would recommend. This was seconded by Cllr Smale and agreed by all. He will make this approach and report to the next meeting.

14) Climate Change

Cllr Smith confirmed she had asked for a Tetra Pak recycling bin to be placed in Charlton. However, TVBC said there were limits on how many bins of this type they could provide as the costs of each bin was £1000. TVBC confirmed there is a Tetra Pak recycling bin in the George Yard car park as well as at the large Tesco store and suggested Charlton residents take their recycling there. She has expressed her disappointment given the current drive for recycling linked to and climate change. This was debated and all agreed Cllr Smith should pursue this matter further and obtain more details of why it costs £1000.

There doesn't seem to be popular groundswell of climate change activists in the village and so it has been proposed to focus on specific low level 'bite sized' actions and to highlight these in the village newsletter. Initially the focus would be:

1. Composting

2. Tetra Pak recycling
3. Pill foil recycling
4. Clothing recycling
5. Battery recycling
6. Re-wilding including tree planting.

15) Litter Pick

Cllr Ward proposed the date of 26th June was set for a litter pick in Charlton. Villagers will be asked to join in collecting litter. Litter pickers, bin bags and gloves will be provided to volunteers. All agreed. Details will be advertised in the Village Newsletter.

16) Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted –

21/00482/FULLN- single storey extension 7 Kimberley Close-permission

The following applications received-

21/00865/FULLN-replace conservatory with single storey extension and erect front porch-7 Tower Close – no objection

21/00922-single storey extension- 52 Sunnyside Close – no objection

21/00851/FULLN- connection to main sewer & installation of twin swage pump –13A Foxcotte Road- no objection

21/01081/FULLN- erect car port 39 Mercia Avenue – no objection

21/01080/FULLN- Single storey rear extension to form enlarged kitchen/dining room; Form new opening to existing rear elevation and single storey front extension to form enlarged entrance hall – full details had been received by Cllr Smale as a resident but not by the Parish Clerk. This will be reviewed and a response sent by email.

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

Traffic Liaison – see Clerk’s report

Community Hall Feasibility- The preferred location for a Village/Community Hall is still under discussion with TVBC.

Environment & Rights of Way– Following a suggestion from a resident, Cllr Wylde had shared some outline plans for steps on Footpath 727 where it climbs a small hill from the junction of Mercia Ave to the field. HCC Countryside access were not in favour of steps for accessibility reasons but had suggested a handrail could be fitted. Concerns were expressed that a sawn wood rail would not be in keeping and anything fitted needs to be rustic and in keeping. Cllr Ward will ask the HCC Ranger if this is possible.

Community Emergency Plan – Cllr Ward has nothing to report.

Lengthsman scheme- see Clerks report

Neighbourhood Plan- See full report at paragraph 11.

Charlton Lakes- Cllr Ward will be meeting a representative from People & Places and TVBC for an update shortly.

20) Correspondence-

The Clerk confirmed she had received the following correspondence

Brochure from The Royal British Legion regarding commemorative signs for VE day

21) Items proposed for future agendas were: -

Wetherby Gardens wall

Area by entrance to the watercress beds:

- **No parking signs on Green Triangle**
- **Options for stream bank repairs and enhancement of surrounding area**

New signs for Carters Meadow.

Close of Meeting – The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 18th May 2021 in the Foxcotte Room.

