



CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th FEBRUARY 2021

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

In attendance: Mrs H Bourner – Clerk
1 Member 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, HCC Mrs Z Brooks & TVBC Mrs Linda Lashbrook.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Minutes

Cllrs to approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th January 2021 as a correct record of proceedings

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 19th January were confirmed as a correct record proposed by Cllr Ward & seconded by Cllr Smith.

4) Public participation

A member of the public asked why Bluestone Planning were being paid a further £243 which he assumed was for the costs to produce the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Smith confirmed this was likely to be the final invoice to produce the final version of the plan to go to referendum. Cllr Ward said using a consultant was the only way the village was likely to reach a conclusion and produce a final plan. He also said that a substantial amount of the overall costs to make the plan were met by a grant obtained not from the general precept funds. Cllr Smale said spending this money should be considered an investment which should help preserve Charlton Village. All reports can be seen on the Parish Council website.

5) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on several items as follows: -

The section 137 limit for 2021 has been confirmed at £8.41 per elector.

Bench at Carters Meadow

The lengthsman has examined the bench and says the wood needs replacing as it is rotten. He has quoted to do this work for £260.00 This equates to £130 for materials and the balance as labour. He plans to replace the planks with sawn timbers and needs to buy these and prepare them for fitting in the spring. Alternatively, a bench made from recycled materials can be purchased for £350 including the installation kit. After some discussion Cllr Smith proposed spending a maximum of £450 to purchase and fit a new bench made of recycled materials. This was seconded by Cllr Smale. The Clerk will arrange for this work to be carried out by the lengthsman.

Litter bin

The litter bin and fixing kit have been delivered to the lengthsman who has agreed to fit this.

Request for grit bin

A resident of Peake Way asked the Parish Council to arrange for a grit bin to be installed in the close. This is not a HCC road and therefore they are unable to fit although HCC Z Brooks has agreed to see if there is a space near the entrance where a bin can be fitted. The Clerk advised the resident speak to the management company who look after this road.

Lengthsman

Lengthsman work for the next season was discussed. It was agreed proposals should cover two to three months only as there will be times when strimming might not be required but other jobs may be. The Clerk will continue to liaise with the lengthsman and Cllr Hodgson will take on the responsibility of checking what work is required on a monthly basis.

6)HCC & TVBC Report-

No Borough or County Councillors were present.

7)Finance -

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

Lloyds current £11914.96

Savings £35537.67

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

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

Cllrs to approve payments to be made

H Bourner Salary £411.09

HMRC £63.60

H Bourner expenses £11.30

Glasdons £25.90

HCC £1225.00

Bluestone Planning £243.00

8) Communications

Cllr Ward said he would like to establish how the residents of Charlton would like the Parish Council to communicate with them. Do residents look at the Parish Council website and if so, what information would they like to see there? There is a Charlton facebook group with 400 members but that shows not all residents use this and although newsletters are delivered to every household in the parish response to questions posed in these are limited.

After some discussion it was agreed a survey should be circulated throughout the village and Cllr Smith will aim to set up a survey monkey for this purpose which can be circulated via facebook, the resident's forum, and the website. A note confirming how to access this will be included in the newsletter.

9) Local transport plan consultation.

Cllr Ward said he had circulated details about the HCC Local Transport Plan including a link to the HCC webpage, of particular importance is the link to climate change. It is possible to complete the survey as an individual. After some discussion it was agreed it would be difficult for the Parish Council to complete this but individually Councillors agreed they will review and complete the survey.

10) Pavement and Footpath proposal

Cllr Ward confirmed he had approached the HCC Countryside Ranger to discuss improvements for access to footpath 727 which is on a steep bank. They agreed

they could install some steps and a handrail to improve safety. After some discussion the Parish Council agreed they should ask for this work to be carried out. It was also agreed that any possible additions to pavements adjacent to Footpath 727 would be considered once this work had taken place and its effectiveness ascertained.

11) Bridge access

Cllr Ward confirmed TVBC are working with the Disabled Ramblers Association to fine-tune access to Charlton Park across the new bridge for disabled users. A Charlton resident who uses a mobility scooter is helping.

12) Green Space in front of Carters Meadow

Cllr Smale confirmed he had communicated with the manager at Carters Meadow regarding the Parish Councils desire to see the space protected as an open green space. He had also discussed sharing the costs of grinding tree stumps and a replacement tree. Finally, he had presented some alternative signage which would make it clear that the entrance to Carters Meadow was 50 metres from the main road and that there was no access to the Lakes. The manager has confirmed he has presented the sign options to the resident's association and awaits a response. He was happy to accept help with the grinding of tree stumps and confirmed Cllr Wylde has offered an acer tree to be planted as a replacement to those trees felled on the site. Cllr Smale will contact him regarding replacing the bench with one made of recycled materials.

13) Hedging at Goch Way

Cllr Wylde had drawn up a plan of proposed planting to this site which had been circulated to all Councillors. The proposal was to reinstate hedging removed by builders which had originally been installed in a joint project between Hampshire County Council, TVBC and the Parish Council.

Cllr Ward had contacted HCC regarding this project and their initial response was that planting hedging on highway land was not possible. There were some other options: - replanting to a limited height, planting trees or planting further back from the highway on private land. Cllrs Ward and Wylde will now consider these options.

14) Climate Change

Cllr Ward reported that Mike Cripps a resident of Charlton had taken on responsibility for drafting an action plan for the village. This would form part of discussions in the village in the hope that a team can be recruited to push forward with initiatives. There will be an article and survey document in the next newsletter. He further reported that he had established the battery recycling point was in the Tesco store but tucked away at the back by the Post Office. He urged residents to use this facility. While carrying out research he had established Tesco recycled various other items such as water filter cartridges and certain light bulbs. The Clerk was asked to write to Tesco Charlton to establish exactly what recycling facilities they offered.

15) Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted –
20/03209/PDHN single storey extension 14 Augustine Way- prior approval not required

20/00971/HSCN- consent to store LPG, Charlton Crematorium-withdrawn

The following applications received- None.

Cllr Wyle confirmed he had obtained advice regarding the many signs left in the village which advertised businesses. He confirmed estate agent signs should be removed within two weeks of the house sale and signs erected by tradesman working at properties should be removed immediately the work is completed.

Finally, a question had been raised as to whether a property in Porchester Close had the appropriate planning permission for what appeared to be a new semi-detached property created following building work. The Clerk will make enquires at TVBC.

16) Councillor responsibilities

During a discussion of potential Councillor areas of responsibility, the following were identified and allocated: -

Emergency resilience planning-Cllr Ward
Speed watch-Cllrs Smale, Ward & Mills
Traffic Liaison -Cllr Smith
Communication-Cllrs Smith & Ward
Community Hall- Cllrs Ward, Wylde & Hodgson
Environment – Cllrs Wylde & Ward
Footpaths & rights of way - Cllrs Wylde & Ward
Planning- Cllrs Wylde, Smale & Hodgson
Carters Meadow- Cllrs Smale & Mills
Neighbourhood Plan – Cllrs Ward & Hodgson
Book Exchange- Cllr Smale
Charlton Lakes- Cllr Ward
Lengthsman- The Clerk & Cllr Hodgson
Climate Change- Cllrs Ward & Smith

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

Traffic Liaison – Nothing to report.

Speed watch – Cllr Ward confirmed he will move the speed watch sign to Hatherden Road and gather data in order that the police can be notified of speeding traffic, a concern raised recently by a resident.

Community Hall Feasibility- Possible sites for the hall have been established and there will be an article in the next Village Newsletter informing residents of progress.

Environment & Rights of Way– Cllr Wylde had nothing to report

Community Emergency Plan – Cllr Ward has nothing to report.

Lengthsman scheme- see details in Clerks Report.

Neighbourhood Plan- See public participation.

18)Correspondence-

The Clerk confirmed she had received the following correspondence

Emails regarding speeding in the Village.

A letter and plans regarding traffic flow at The Tesco Store Charlton

19) Items proposed for future agendas were: -

Litter problems

Books being dumped at the Book Exchange

Stream Bank repairs

Close of Meeting – The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 16th March 2021

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

