



*CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL*  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH  
2023**

Present: Cllr Mrs J Smith (Chairman) Cllr C Ward (Vice Chairman), & Cllr I Smale  
In attendance: H Bournier- Clerk  
HCC Chris Donnelly  
2 Members of public

**1) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC Lashbrook, Cllr Mills & Cllr Wylde.

**2) Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest and all councillors confirmed no changes were required to register of interest forms.

It was noted Cllrs Smith & Ward are members of Charlton Village Community Association who have applied to the Parish Council for grant.

**3) Minutes**

Cllrs to approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 as a correct record of proceedings.

**Resolved:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chairman. Proposed Cllr Ward seconded Cllr Smale. All agreed.

**4) Public participation**

The members of public present talked about cycling in the area and the terrible road surfaces, potholes and flooding. They stated how dangerous it is when negotiating these issues especially with oncoming traffic. In particular, the mini roundabout on Foxcote Lane, this has been reported to HCC reference 7112360, who have done nothing to resolve the issues. It was noted that several other residents have also reported this stretch of road. HCC Donnelly present agreed to speak to highway's officers regarding this matter and will provide updates.

**5) Clerk's Report**

**The Clerk reported as follows: -**

Parish Council elections will take place in 4 May 2023. Individuals will be responsible for completing nomination papers which have to be hand delivered although delivery can be by a third party. Full details and application forms have now been circulated. The Clerk agreed to deliver papers on behalf of any current Councillors who wish to stand for election and confirmed she had made an appointment to do this on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

A contractor had agreed to complete the HCC training which was a one-day course to enable him to carry out the work as lengthsman in 2023. The Parish Council will now review what work they wish him to undertake.

HCC Donnelly has spoken to highways on behalf of The Clerk to establish why there were continued delays regarding the installation of the crossing. They have said all the workforce are currently carry out repairs to roads following the damage caused by the difficult winter weather. It is hoped a new date for the work to be carried out will be provided soon.

Local Council agreed pay scales have been updated with an inflationary increase backdated to April 2023. Back pay had been calculated. Old pay rate £15.60 per hour increased to £16.64 per hour, an increase of 7%. The revised scale from April 2024 is £17.10 per hour, a further 6% but this includes a performance increase.

## **6)HCC & TVBC Report-**

**HCC Cllr Chris Donnelly** reported Hampshire County Council's council tax precept for the financial year beginning 1 April 2023, will increase by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults' social care, in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,460.25 for a Band D property – an increase of £69.45 per year or approximately £1.34 a week.

He also said that potholes continued to be a problem but that huge efforts were being made to repair these. He said Hampshire Highways can't fix potholes unless they know about them, so PLEASE, if you see a pothole take a few moments to report it to the Hampshire County Council using their online system.

**TVBC Cllr L Lashbrook** was not present

## **7)Finance -**

The bank balance at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 was as follows:

Lloyds current £27175.93

Savings £35592.41

Cllrs to consider and approve the financial statement for the period 1<sup>st</sup> February to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**RESOLVED:** It was resolved to approve the financial statement for the period 1<sup>st</sup> February to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 as a correct record of accounts. Proposed Cllr Ward, seconded Cllr Smith. All agreed.

## **Cllrs to approve payments to be made**

H Bourner Salary £524.16

H Bourner expenses 18.20

H Bourner back pay £342.82

HMRC £85.70

Hurstbourne Forge £588.00

Cllr Smith £24.99

## **Retrospective**

Bulpitt print £585.00

Hart Industrial £2088.96

## **8) Tree by Millennium stone.**

Cllrs Smith, Ward, Smale & Wylde had visited Penwood Nursery at Highclere and Hilliers Nursery to look at tree varieties. Two were considered a *Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana* *Wisselii* which grows to 60m and an Irish Yew which grows to 8-10 m in height. After some discussion Cllr Smith proposed the purchase of an Irish Yew, this was seconded by Cllr Ward. All agreed. The tree will be purchased later in the year as come November there will be more choice and the best time to plant a tree. Once planted the tree will be properly managed.

## **9) SSEN Grant**

Cllr Ward confirmed the generator had now been ordered. Permanent storage of the generator will be in a shed which will be erected on land at the Salto Gym. Cllr Ward has identified a shed and is seeking a quote to have this installed.

## **10) Stream bank repairs-entrance to Charlies Lake**

Cllr Ward reported a local groundwork company have agreed to move the lump of concrete currently hindering the river flow, free of charge. All attempts to engage with Wessex Rivers Trust and other contractors have failed and other options will now be explored.

## **11) Siting of Beacon in Village Centre**

Cllr Ward confirmed a full planning application had been submitted to TVBC and they are now insisting work to protect trees in the location must be explained in full by a professional report before a decision is made. Concerns were voiced regarding such use of public funds and whether this was really necessary. Cllr Ward has asked TVBC Cllr Lashbrook to review

and discuss the case with the planning officer.

A quote of £850.00 net to fit the beacon, subject to planning permission was discussed. Cllr Ward proposed this was accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Smale. All agreed

### **12 Grant Application**

The Clerk provided details of a grant request from Charlton Village Community Association for £1000 toward the costs of holding a community fun day in the summer. Full details were provided. Cllr Smale proposed this grant be made which was seconded by Cllr Ward. All agreed.

### **13) Community Hall Update**

Cllr Ward confirmed he was meeting with a tree expert from TVBC soon to review the trees at the potential site for the hall to establish if these were of benefit or could be removed. The outcome would determine the next steps in this project.

### **14) Tree Survey**

Cllr Wylde was not present. This matter will be revisited at the April Parish Council meeting.

### **15) Gate onto Land near Carters Meadow**

Cllr Smith confirmed the gate in the railings had now been installed. It is hoped that some residents would like to become involved in tidying the area. The suggestion being this becomes an area to attract insect life by encouraging grasses and wild flowers. Paths can be mown to allow visitors to wander and a bench and bin could be installed. Any residents who would like to help should contact The Clerk on [clerk@charltonvillage.org.uk](mailto:clerk@charltonvillage.org.uk)

### **16) Coronation Volunteers Day**

The proposal to hold a community volunteer day on Monday bank holiday 8<sup>th</sup> May was discussed. It was proposed a working party to clear and tidy the green space by Carters Meadow that is now the responsibility of the Parish Council should be created-see paragraph 15 above. A litter pick could be arranged for the same day and Cllr Ward will ask TVBC for equipment.

The possibility of cleaning the bus shelter was discussed, Cllr Smale will ask a window cleaner if he were able to wash down the whole bus shelter.

### **17) Planning**

The following decisions by TVBC were noted –

23/00174/FULLN-replacement solid roof and glazing to conservatory, 11 Foxcotte Road-permission

22/01622/VARN- variation of conditions regarding drainage, land at Goch Way- permission

23/00129/FULLN- alterations to roof structure, 48 Foxcotte Road, Charlton-permission

22/00583/FULLN-lighting at BMX track-permission

23/00081/FULLN-single storey extension, 25 Foxcotte Road-permission

The following applications received-

None

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

**Traffic Liaison**-See Clerks report regarding informal crossing

**Speed awareness cameras**- Cllr Ward had nothing to report.

**Lengthsman scheme**- see Clerks report

**Community Hall Feasibility**- see item 13

**Environment & Rights of Way**– Cllr Wylde was absent. Cllr Ward said approx. 15-20 trees between Armstrong Rise and the Flats at The Green have been removed. It had been established this was done by Aster Housing. The Clerk will write to find out why the trees were felled and whether they will be replaced.

**Charlton Lakes**- Cllr Ward said concern had been raised about the site of a swan's nest, he will pass the details to TVBC.

**Carters Meadow-** see item 15

**19) Correspondence**

The Clerk highlighted several items of correspondence as follows

Information Commissioners renewal notice

Email regarding traffic speeding at night

Email regarding advertising boards

Information regarding HCC & TVBC local cycling & walking infrastructure

March report from HCC Donnelly

Information regarding upcoming events in Test Valley.

**20) New items proposed for future agendas were:**

Councillor responsibilities

Purchase of bench & bin for area by new gate onto land in front of Carters Meadow along with a new name for area

Details for Annual Parish Meeting

**21) Close of Meeting** –The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 7.45pm, in the Foxcotte room at St Thomas Church, Charlton**