



CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16th NOVEMBER
2021**

Present: Cllr J Smith (Chairman), Cllr C Ward (Vice Chairman) Cllr I Smale, Cllr A Rogers,
Cllr P Wylde & Cllr B Hodgson

In attendance: Mrs H Bourner – Clerk
4 Members of public

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr C Mills, PCSO Hills, HCC Chris Donnelly & TVBC 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 October 2021 as a correct record of proceedings.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 19th October were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chairman. Proposed Cllr Hodgson, seconded Cllr Rogers. All agreed.

4) Public participation

A member of public present asked the Parish Council for clarification on several issues surrounding the work proposed at the river banks at the entrance to Charlies Lake. See agenda item 9.

5) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on several items as follows: -

Disabled parking -Armstrong Rise

A resident from Armstrong Rise has asked for further help with parking issues resulting from the refused application for a dropped kerb at number 40 Armstrong Rise. Apparently, Aster Housing have permitted the installation of an electric charging point at this property so cars are being driven over the kerb anyway creating a mess and causing traffic safety problems. The Clerk confirmed she had encouraged the resident to speak to both TVBC and Aster.

Land at entrance to fishing lakes

The lengthsman has agreed to carry out the work to fit railings at the end of November. The Clerk reported she had met with Charlotte Rimmer (TVBC Environmental officer) to discuss planting shrubs where the trees had been removed. She advised not to plant anything too close to the river except some flowers in the spring next year. She also advised the large laurel overhanging the river be crown lifted. The residents were keen to plant some shrubs for screening, she recommended native species in particular dogwood and identified an area where screening could be created but was far enough away from the water so as not to cause an issue.

Max Dacre Bench

The Clerk confirmed this bench is the property of the Parish Council. The bench is now showing signs of wear. It is really the front plank only and a repair may be possible. The Clerk was asked to gather quotes to carry out this work.

Problem Tree-Mercia Avenue

TVBC Linda Lashbrook has made some enquires regarding the problem tree and the owner of the land. TVBC have confirmed the land is unregistered with land registry so they are unable to give any further information.

Broken Glass at bus shelter

One pain of glass in the bus shelter has been damaged. Cllr Hodgson believes this is

vandalism and occurred at some point on Sunday 14th November. The Clerk was asked to obtain some quotes to repair and depending on the sums involved consider an insurance quote.

6)HCC & TVBC Report-

HCC Cllr Chris Donnelly was not present.

TVBC Cllr L Lashbrook was not present but had sent a report highlighting the antisocial use of motor vehicles, in and about the Charlton area, this is the subject of an ongoing police operation. She confirmed Test Valley Borough Councillors have passed a Motion to deal with the antisocial use of pedal cycles in Andover Town Centre to which Hampshire Police have responded positively.

The hedges at Wetherby Gardens that have been such a bone of contention have received a cut, courtesy of Test Valley Borough Council. This is despite the hedges and their maintenance being the responsibility of Hampshire County Council. TVBC is seeking to secure an arrangement whereby this authority will be able to maintain the hedges into the future. Finally, she confirmed Test Valley Borough Council still has a few Oak Trees available to be planted within local communities, any trees that are planted will be the responsibility of the local Parish Council going forward.

PCSO Conor Hill had sent his apologies, he was unable to attend the meeting due to work pressures. He had sent a report providing crime statistics in Charlton from August 16th to November 16th 2021. Of note were four reports of anti-social behaviour relating to youngsters drinking alcohol in the area and three reports of public order offences relating to door-to-door sales persons becoming aggressive when refused entry to homes, or the occupants refusing to buy goods. Police advise is never to buy goods on the doorstep, and any incidents of this nature should be reported to them.

7)Finance -

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

Lloyds current £21801.25

Savings £35540.31

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

RESOLVED: It was resolved to approve the financial statement for the period 1st October to 31st October 2021 as a correct record of accounts. Proposed Cllr Ward, seconded Cllr Smale. All agreed.

Cllrs to approve payments to be made

H Bourner Salary £499.89

H Bourner expenses £18.20

Barry Notley £190.00

Retrospective

Sally Brewer(wreath) £25.00

Budget 2022/23

The Clerk had circulated a spreadsheet with some projected expenditure figures. Cllr Smith had also circulated figures of her review.

After some discussions which suggested funds would be required for additional traffic calming measures, village hall consultations, work to the stream bank at the entrance to Charlies Lake & work to the railings at Carters Meadow, it was agreed the precept needed to rise. It was noted that it had not been increased for three years. Based on the budget workings it was agreed to increase the precept to £25000.00 Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Ward, all agreed.

8) Climate Change

Cllr Ward had circulated a climate change challenge document highlighting many things individuals could do to help with this initiative. These ideas are being circulated in newsletters and on social media.

Cllr Rogers had circulated a draft one-page strategy document that will be shared with the community in due course.

9) Stream bank repairs-land opposite Carters Meadow

Member of the public present said they wished to understand what the Parish Council were proposing for the site and asked to be kept informed of all matters and meetings regarding this area in line with the agreement signed by residents and the Parish Council. In particular they asked if railings were to be fitted soon and why these were not going to be metal as the agreement had proposed. Cllr Ward said installation of metal railings was not possible as drilling into the bridge was not safe. A wooden solution was considered to be the next best option. Cllr Hodgson reported that wooden railings will be installed shortly. He said the contractor may need to close the footbridge for a short while to ensure cement is set. The Parish Council will let all residents know the dates of closure before the work is carried out.

Cllr Ward said he had still not received any response to his requests for help from the Wessex River Trust he had however been discussing solutions to the bank repairs with the TVBC environmental officer and also seeking advice from other Parish Councils who had faced similar issues. An environmentally friendly solution to repair the eroded banks was to install specialist bags which fill holes but allow plants to grow. He has asked the TVBC environmental officer for her views and details of available products so costings can be established. It is hoped the work can be carried out by volunteers. The residents will be informed of any advice received regarding this initiative.

The Clerk reported on a meeting she had with a TVBC environmental officer regarding the possibility of planting new shrubs. (See Clerks report) The residents only want evergreen shrubs to provide a shield against lights and traffic noise from Tesco. If a shield is planted, they will cut back the laurel which is situated on land subject to a lease held by one of them. Cllr Smith agreed to meet with the residents on site to discuss locations and plant varieties. She also proposed £500.00 budget for this planting which was seconded by Cllr Ward. All agreed.

10) Traffic speed advisory signs

Cllr Ward had obtained quotes for the cost of a further speed advisory sign. The best value quote was for a battery powered sign £1833.00 net. Moving current signs was discussed however it was agreed that purchasing another sign was the best option and installing this would address the concerns raised by residents in Goch Way and Wetherby Gardens. Purchase of the sign was proposed by Cllr Smale and seconded by Cllr Smith. All agreed. Cllr Ward will arrange for the sign to be ordered.

11) Hedges on Peake Way

Cllr Smith confirmed discussions between Vivid and Foreman homes about what needs to be done to put right the planting at Peake Way are continuing. Once they have agreed the solutions, they will give details to the Parish Council. Cllr Smith will contact the TVBC enforcement officer to ask him to press for a positive outcome soon.

12) Queens Jubilee & Community Day Celebrations

Cllr Smith reported she has a meeting with TVBC soon to discuss the Parish Council proposals for use of Charlton Lakes for these celebrations. She will circulate a report to all councillors following this.

13) Sign for entrance to Carters Meadow

Cllr Smale provided details of the sign to install at Carters Meadow entrance along with costs to purchase. He will present this to the new Estate Manger and residents association and ask for feedback. Cllr Smith proposed a spend of £500 for this project, this was seconded by Cllr Ward. All agreed.

14) Bus Shelter refurbishments

The lengthsman has provided a quote to repaint the bus shelter at a cost of £300. The Clerk has approached two other contractors for quotes both have said now is not the right time to carry out the work, this is a job for the spring when any paint, wood stain etc would dry properly. They will be happy to quote in the spring. After some discussions it was agreed to form a working party to carry out this work in the Spring of 2022.

14) SHELAA Sites

A report recently circulated showed two earmarked areas of land one belonging to HCC and

one to a private owner as potential housing sites should there be a change in planning legislation. There was a suggestion that the Parish Council should approach HCC via Cllr Donnelly, to see if they would give/lease/sell some of this plot for a Climate Change/Ecological area.

The sites will be researched on land registry to establish ownership. Cllr Ward will check Parish Online and pass the necessary details to The Clerk who will contact the Land Registry.

15) Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted –

ANB.04769/NMA1- conversion of garage into habitable space, 14 Sunnyside Close- approved

The following applications received-

21/02961/FULLN- single storey extension-Jasmine Cottage – no objection

21/03107/TPON- tree works The Royal Oak – concerns were expressed by Cllrs Wylde and Hodgson both of whom had tried to discuss this application with a TVBC tree officer without success. The Clerk will email the planning department and ask them to make contact.

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

Traffic Liaison – Cllr Smith had been given an indicative date for the bollards to be installed by the bridge in the week commencing 13th December 2021. The works for the informal crossing has been accepted by the contractor but no start date has been given as yet.

Cllr Smith also confirmed she had asked again for 30 MPH signs to be placed on the entrance gates in the village. The response was this cannot be done in a street light area, and would have no benefit as the police would be unable to enforce the limit.

She also established 20 is plenty signs are no longer installed by Hampshire Highways.

These used to be installed near schools during this particular campaign. These signs can no longer be used as this could compromise the legal speed limit. Hampshire Highways could help with a poster campaign asking vehicles to slow down.

Cllr Ward confirmed the new Police & Crime Commissioner is working on empowering parishes to selectively introduce 20mph limits.

Community Hall Feasibility- Cllr Ward said the Parish Council will be manning a stall at Christmas Fayre where several Parish Council initiatives will be highlighted including the possible new Community Hall.

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

Community Emergency Plan – Cllr Ward had nothing to report

Lengthsman scheme- Cllr Hodgson discussed the need to put the lengthsman work out to tender. Work to gather new quotes before next season will begin now.

Charlton Lakes- Cllr Ward had nothing to report.

Carters Meadow- Cllr Smale confirmed the only outstanding item was that detailed at item 13.

18) Correspondence-

Items of correspondence noted were:-

An email with report of current SHELAA housing sites

An email regarding a Community Governance review for Romsey and surrounding areas.

An email regarding a planning consultation for the New Forest

An invitation from HCC to attend a teams meeting regarding The Greening Campaign on 25th November between 5 7 6pm

TVAPTC meeting teams 7.30pm 25th Nov

19) Items proposed for future agendas were: -

Hedging at Peake Way

Review of neighbourhood Plan (April 2022)

20) AOB

Cllr Ward suggested Cllr Rogers would benefit from new Councillor Training. The Clerk will arrange this.

It was announced that the Charlton News had been awarded 'Runner up' in the best local

council newsletter 2020, decided by an external judge on behalf of HALC. Many congratulations to the Editor, Gilly. Great job!

Close of Meeting –The meeting closed at 10.30 pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 18th January 2022, 7.45pm, in the main church hall.