



CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th MARCH 2020

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

In attendance: Mrs H Bourner – Clerk
HCC Mrs Zilliah Brooks

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from TVBC Linda Lashbrook, & Cllr J Mulberry.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Minutes

Cllrs to approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th March 2020 as a correct record of proceedings.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March were confirmed as a correct record proposed by Cllr Ward & seconded by Cllr Smith.

4) Public participation

A member of public had sent a report thanking the Parish Council for the support it has provided to parishioners throughout the Covid-19 crisis. Thanks were echoed by the Chairman. The same member of public had also raised a point regarding reporting on the Neighbourhood Plan in the Village Newsletter. The newsletter suggested the NP would hold considerable weight however as there has been no referendum the plan may not be made and this could therefore not be certain. Cllr Ward said the words used in the article had been taken from TVBC frequently asked questions and were not his words. (See separate report regarding the neighbourhood plan)

5) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on several items as follows: -

Clearance of stream bed

This item will be carried forward until the Covid 19 situation eases.

Village gateway sign

HCC have been instructed to replace The Village Gateway sign on Goch Way. The insurance claim has been paid but the £250 excess will not be recovered

A second sign was destroyed on Sunday 1st March an insurance claim has been agreed and work requested. Payment from the insurance company is awaited.

Disabled Parking Tesco

This item will be carried forward until the Covid 19 situation eases

Railings at Charlies Lake entrance

The dangerous bridge has been reported to TVBC however this item will be carried forward until the Covid 19 situation eases.

Audit

The internal audit with Eleanor Greene is booked for 3rd June however this may have to be changed

Telephone box

The Clerk confirmed a sign for the BT box saying this was a library could be purchased for approximately £20.00. Cllrs agreed the Clerk should proceed with the purchase.

Website Upgrade

The Clerk shared detail regarding the possible upgrade of the current website at cost of £19.99 per month which would provide a blog page for daily events. The matter was considered however Councillors did not feel this website was used enough to justify the expense. It was agreed a survey of village communication should be carried out later in the year.

6)HCC & TVBC Report-

HCC Mrs Z Brooks reported that there may be some change in the rights of way hedgerow cutting this year. The Clerk confirmed details from Countryside access had been received to say that no cutting would take place this season.

She went on to say she had received a letter from a lady concerned about overgrown trees on route 745. The trees are on the household boundary site and should therefore be cut back by the householder. This is not a Hampshire County Council responsibility.

She further reported that HCC has seen a huge problem with queues at recycling centres with up to 400 people trying to visit on one day. Only one person allowed on site at a time and staff cannot help customers which adds to the delays. They request that people only visit the recycling centre if they really cannot store rubbish for the time being.

Finally, she reported that central government have given 19 million pounds to HCC for Highways maintenance however the overall HCC budget has a 21-million-pound shortfall which will have to be met from reserves.

Cllr Smith said she was aware that local street lights went off overnight coming back on at 4am until 5am. This was even happening now even though it was light enough to see and she suggested there could be a cost saving if the timings were adjusted. Cllr Brooks agreed to investigate.

7)Finance -

Cllrs to consider and approve the financial statement for the period 1 April to 12th May 2020

RESOLVED: It was resolved to approve the financial statement for the period 1st April to 12th May 2020 as a correct record of accounts.

Cllrs to approve payments to be made

H Bourner Salary £411.29

HMRC £63.40

H Bourner expenses £24.82

ICO £35.00 (DD)

HALC £562.62

Came & Co £607.84

HCC £3663.15

Bluestone Planning £714.00

Retrospective Payments April

H Bourner Salary £411.29

HMRC £63.40

The accounts for year ending 31/03/2020 and Agar audit return had been circulated to all Cllrs and after a short discussion Cllr Smale proposed these be agreed. This was seconded by Cllr Smith. All in favour.

8) Cllr Ward to report Charlton Covid 19 initiative

Cllr Ward reported the local volunteer group were looking after about 20 residents. He said there was very good support in the community by several volunteers and lots of residents were being looked after by friends and family. All parishes in Test Valley are supporting their communities and he said Charlton Parish should endeavour to keep up the community spirit engendered in the face of adversity, once the crisis is over. He gave particular praise to a local professional chef who delivers homemade meals to doorsteps when ordered which has been very popular. Finally, he said the volunteer group had received a grant from TVBC for £150 which had purchased hi viz vests.

9) Lengthsman

The Clerk confirmed funding for this initiative has been agreed for 2020/21 and that she has discussed with the lengthsman what work will be required. Funding carried forward from the previous year amounted to £1058.75. It was agreed the Clerk should sign the necessary contract with Monxton cluster. All councillors will report footpath clearance required to the Clerk in order that she can ensure work is carried out.

10) Community Hall Initiative

Cllr Ward reported the possibility of using the extension at the Salto Gym as a community hall is now unlikely as this may need to be extra gym space following the covid-19 social distancing guidance. It is unlikely that the situation will for many months if not years. He suggested the idea of building a new hall on the corner of the car park should be revisited. It

is now clear Salto can sub-let to Charlton Parish Council although the costs are unknown, however as Salto pay TVBC a peppercorn rent for the land it would presumably not be a large sum. Some discussion took place about whether it was the correct time to carry out a parking feasibility study and which of the three quotes previously obtained was preferred. It was agreed that Cllr Ward would revisit the quotes obtained and circulate details with a view to getting the required study done.

11) Green Space in front of Carters Meadow

Cllr Smale reported that HALC have been approached to provide legal advice regarding the agreement between the Parish Council and Anchor in relation to land in front of Carters Meadow. A response is awaited.

Cllr Ward reported that HCC have reviewed the register of common land and confirmed the green space in front of Carters Meadow has never been registered as a village green or common land.

Cllr Smith said she has received an e-mail from Carters Meadow after details were highlighted in the newsletter. It was agreed a response would be sent once legal advice has been received. It is hoped an open discussion between parties can take place.

12) Neighbourhood Plan Resolution

Cllr Ward said the plan has now been submitted to the examiner and he has asked some questions. Further questions asked about the Solent Nitrate issue are being reviewed by the NP consultant. Other questions may well have been raised by other interested parties. A referendum will have to wait until May 2021 but if the plan is agreed in principle before then it will carry weight if planning applications are submitted.

17) Planning

i) Cllr Wylde to report on the following planning applications: -
The following decisions by TVBC were noted –

19/02664/FULLN- erect shed in car park St Thomas Church- permission
20/00607/CLPN- certificate of lawfulness, 82 Hatherden Road- issued
20/00758/FULLN-single storey extension 9 Foxcotte Close- permission

The following applications received-

20/00745/FULLN- installation of floodlights BMX raceway, Charlton Park -withdrawn
20/00971/HSCN – hazardous substance (LPG gas) storage consent- no objection
20/00901/FULLN- replace crazy golf course- Charlton Park- support and comment to ask for better signs to overflow car park to prevent excess and dangerous parking on Foxcotte Road

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

Traffic Liaison – nothing to report

Community Hall Feasibility- Cllr Bonarius & Ward -see full report above.

Environment & Rights of Way– Cllr Wylde said all footpaths are currently being well used and are walkable, however footpaths 50, 743, & 727 will need to be strimmed in 2-3 weeks' time.

He said bridleways in the parish were quite overgrown and could only be walked in single file. It was agreed these will be looked at later in the year with a view to clearing.

Community emergency plan – Cllr Ward is re writing the plan which will be co-ordinated by Cllr Mulberry

Lengthsman scheme- See above separate item

19)Correspondence-

The Clerk confirmed she had received no items of correspondence other than those previously discussed.

23) Items proposed for future agendas were: -

Tree planting and removal of temporary access at Goch Way new housing area

Traffic Survey - propose conducting a simple traffic Survey on Hatherden Road (when the

weather improves) with the aim of confirming the types of traffic transiting at different times of the day.

Open up discussions around the south east corner to the village (Charlie's lake) to become a conservation area to protect the diverse wildlife that live there.

Reopen bridleways which are now only footpaths.

Close of Meeting – The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 16th June 2020

The meeting closed at 09.30pm