

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF CHARLTON,
HELD ON THURSDAY, 12TH APRIL 2007 IN THE OLD SCHOOL ROOM,
CHARLTON**

PRESENT 2 Parish councillors
5 parish residents
County Cllr Liz Eyre
PC Julie de Paris, Beat Manager
Clive Bostle, Parish Paths Warden
R D Gurney, Clerk to Charlton Parish Council

OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr B B Browne, chaired the meeting. He welcomed those present and introduced PC Julie de Paris, Clive Bostle, County Cllr Liz Eyre and Roger Gurney, who will take the minutes of this meeting. The Chairman explained that an annual meeting of the Parish is required to be held and the Parish Council Chairman must chair the meeting. It is a opportunity to hear the views of residents and a report will be made to the next Parish Council meeting for any action on matters raised to be discussed and/or acted upon.

Cllr Browne explained that there are seven seats on the Parish Council: five nominations had been made for the forthcoming Parish Council election. These five will be parish councillors for the next term and there remains two vacancies, which can now be filled by co-option.

APOLOGIES

These were received from Ruth Owen (Charlton Scout Group) and Howard Heath (Joseph Workman Trust).

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 6th APRIL 2006

Copies of the Minutes were circulated before the meeting and the Chairman read out a precis of the topics discussed during the Open Forum, namely highway maintenance concerns and provision of a play space. These items had been discussed at Parish Council meetings, the former being a continuing topic of discussion.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2006/7

Cllr Browne reported on the main issues considered by the Parish Council during the previous and successful year. These were:

- Clive Bostle was appointed as the Parish Paths Warden and he has surveyed the footpaths in the parish and has carried out some minor repairs.
- Steve Gwilliam was appointed as the Lengthsman for the Parish. He works half a day each week on minor maintenance of footways and ditches.
- The Parish Council has set up a web site, which will be developed during the next year
- A Litter Pick was arranged by the Scout Group and a grant of £500 was received from WDC for the job well done. Some has been given to the Scouts; the remainder was put towards a new notice board on The Green.
- The new notice board on The Green replaced the one which was damaged during bad weather in 2005/6
- A broken drainage pipe in Ryden Lane and blocked gullies resulted in some flooding of the roadway. The gullies have been cleared; WCC have the repairs in hand.
- Merry Brook is now "managed" by the Environment Agency and considerable clearance work has been carried out downstream. Further work will be done through the village.
- The precept for 2007/8 was not increased above the £9,600 figure set in 2006/7. The

anticipated costs to fund the village hall grant, lengthsman scheme for the year and Parish Plan projects did not fully materialise.

The Chairman thanked those who had helped the PC during the past year, Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council; Charles Tooby, the Internal Auditor and Brenda Bowley for continuing to provide planters in the village.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2006/7

The Parish Council Clerk submitted draft accounts for the year. He explained that there is an increase of over £2,000, due to grants from WCC for verge cutting and the lengthsman, a grant from CALC for IT, and increased VAT refunds. Payments show a corresponding increase, resulting from work at the Cemetery, the new notice board, the lengthsman, and two years street lighting and maintenance charges. The £2,000 commitment to Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall remains. It is likely that some £8,800 will be carried forward, a reasonable sum for the commitments and possible contingencies.

POLICING

PC Julie de Paris explained that she has only been in post for two weeks. She stated that Charlton remains a low crime area, although minor burglaries have increased slightly. Her aim during her expected 3 year stay is to build up relationships with the community and hopes for improvement in the channels of communication. She should have a CSO assistant in June.

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

No organisations were represented, but the Chairman had received written reports from The Workman Trust and Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall Committee.

OPEN FORUM

Parish Paths Warden. Clive Bostle informed the meeting that he had surveyed all the footpaths in the Parish and had almost completed the waymarking. He does make reports to WCC and notes that a new footbridge has been erected across the brook off Haselor Lane. He enquired whether there was a possibility of beating the bounds: it was noted that there is a difficulty with the Parish boundary and this suggestion was left for consideration in the future.

Grants. County Cllr Liz Eyre told the meeting that grants are available for Young Persons projects, which need to be submitted by young persons organisations.

Highway concerns. Several matters of concern were raised, in addition to those referred to by the Chairman. These included: (1) the need for cats eyes and central lane markings on the bends at Yessell Lane/Boston Lane; (2) the overgrown signs on the B.4084 coming up the hill from Evesham; (3) the general state of the roads, especially potholes on Canada Bank.

Abandoned vehicles. Several old cars appear to have been dumped adjacent to the stables opposite Top Street.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.