

## **CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Chairman's Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2007**

#### **Council**

The full Council met 6 times during the year, and there were 7 meetings of the Planning Committee. Cllr Mrs Ooi resigned in September. The Council thank Mrs Ooi for her service and contribution over 3 years. We began the year with one vacancy, and have tried to fill the current two vacancies by co-option so far without success.

The current Councillors are:

- Cllr. Brian Browne (Chairman)
- Cllr. Ted Grazier (Vice-Chairman)
- Cllr. Steve Eggleston
- Cllr. Mrs Freddie Jack
- Cllr. Michael Wood

#### **Footpaths**

Mr Clive Bostle was appointed Footpaths Warden in July and has been active in walking the footpaths, reporting on their condition, and in many cases doing minor maintenance work.

#### **Parish Plan**

The Parish Plan Group have not been able to complete their work, but with the information they have put together should enable the new Council to proceed.

#### **Lengthsman**

Steve Gwilliam took up the post of lengthsman in September, working half a day per week for us. He has actively worked on minor maintenance of footways and ditches.

#### **Web Site**

The Parish Council web site went on-line in November. It can be accessed at [www.charltonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.charltonparishcouncil.org.uk)

#### **Litter Pick**

Wychavon D.C. Again offered grants of £500 to Parish Councils arranging a litter pick, and again the Scouts did this for Charlton, for which we are very grateful.

#### **Public Notice Board.**

This notice board on the Green by the telephone box was damaged in a high wind. We decided to replace it, and the new board is being maintained by John and Betty Waterman to whom we owe thanks.

#### **Road Drainage**

A broken drainage pipe in Ryden Lane and blocked gulleys in Brook Lane caused flooding of the roadway. The gulleys were cleared, and repair of the broken pipe by the W.C.C. Highways is in hand.

#### **Merry Brook**

The Environmental Agency now covers the Merry Brook, and has been carrying out clearance work from the Jubilee bridge the Strand. More work is to follow.

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### **Parish Precept**

The Council had raised the precept for 2006-2007 to £9,600 (which is an amount equivalent to £36.14 for a band 'D' property) in anticipation of (i) the possibility of the grant for the Lengthsman being discontinued, (ii) a commitment to assist the Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall with their refurbishment project, and (iii) funding projects arising from the Parish Plan. None of these in the event arose in the year, and so the precept for 2007 - 2008 has been set at the same level as last year, at £9,600.

### **Police**

Our local policeman Stuart Toms was replaced by P.C. Peter Davy, and now again by P.C. Julie De Paris. She too is available to us by e-mail which we find very useful and helpful.

### **Flower tubs**

Our thanks to Miss Brenda Bowley for maintaining the flower tubs on the Green and by the Cemetery.

### **The Future**

The year ends with the prospect of elections on May 3rd and a new Council that first meets on May 17th. The old Council has been ably assisted by our Clerk, Roger Gurney, and the new Council can begin with confidence under his guidance. We are very grateful to Roger for all the work he undertakes for our village.

Brian Browne  
4th April 2007