

CHARLTONPARISH COUNCIL  
Chairman's Annual Report for the year to 31st March 2011

The full Council met 6 times during the year, and there were 7 meetings of the Planning Committee, and one meeting of the Finance Committee.

The Councillors during the year were:

Cllr. Brian Browne (Chairman)  
Cllr. Steve Eggleston (Vice-chairman)  
Cllr. Ted Grazier  
Cllr. Mrs Freddie Jack  
Cllr. Mrs Frances Wilkinson  
Cllr. Mike Wood  
*from 8 July 2010: Cllr Roger Davies*

### **Planning Committee**

The Parish Council Planning Committee has met 7 times and responded to WDC Development Control Committee on 12 applications, expressing no objection to 7 of these. In addition the Parish Council was represented at the Appeal hearing on 24<sup>th</sup> August, and gave objections to the appeal. The appeal was however granted by the Planning Inspector.

### **Flooding**

At a meeting in Charlton with the Environment Agency on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010, the EA advised that they had analysed the Pond Storage scheme and found that the scheme was not viable. The reason for abandoning the pond scheme was that their analysis showed that a significant proportion of the flood water came off the land and ponds sited upstream of the village would not capture that. Hence there would still be a flooding risk to properties in the village. They proposed to survey individual properties for flood protection and that grants would be available for residents to take up their proposals, to advise landowners to minimise water run off their land, and. to improve maintenance of the Merry Brook. They also proposed that the Parish Council appointed a Flood Warden. The Parish Council appointed Cllr Roger Davies as Volunteer Flood Warden from 13<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Ryden Lane & Brook Lane Highway Drainage**

WCC Highways are proposing to install a new highway drainage system along Ryden Lane and Brook Lane between Whitehouse Farm and the Merry Brook. The scheme is due to start in May 2011 and will last for up to 6 weeks. Due to the nature of Ryden Lane, WCC Highways will not close the road but are asking residents to keep vehicular movements to a minimum between 8.30am and 4.00pm. A letter is being sent to residents in Ryden Lane. The drainage works will have to be split in that the outfall to the downstream side can not be carried out until the end of the Nesting season, ie. the end of June. A plan is available from WCC Highways or the Parish Council.

### **Telephone Kiosk.**

The Parish Council considered maintaining the empty kiosk was unsupportable and have asked for it's removal by WDC.

### **Trees on The Green**

Following the fall of a large branch of a chestnut tree on The Green, a survey of the trees was made, and all 3 chestnut trees and a birch tree were found to be diseased and were removed. The Parish Council invites views on whether to replace these trees. Following lopping of the large willow tree near the footbridge by the electric power supplier, the Parish Council decided to trim the tree to retain balance.

### **Cemetery Hedge**

The hedge along The Strand is being replaced with new hawthorns. It will take a while until it matures.

### **Sheppey Play Scheme.**

The Parish Council supported this scheme in principle and hope that Charlton residents will find the equipment useful.

### **Precept for 2011 – 2012**

The precept is remaining at £10 560, which is £39.85 for a band 'D' property. Your Council Tax demand shows an increase of 1.5%, due to the local tax base for 2011-2012 being £265.00, a reduction from £268.97 for 2010-2011, but the total precept is unchanged.

### **The Localism Bill**

This bill which is going through Parliament encourages local initiatives, and some of the key measures are:

- Significant new powers for local councils.
- Radical reform of the planning system.
- Housing decisions will return to local councils and communities.
- Powerful incentives for economic growth.

### **Elections – May 5<sup>th</sup> 2011**

- Parish Council (as only 7 nominations were submitted for the 7 seats, those nominated are elected unopposed, and there will consequently be no election)
- Wychavon District Council Fladbury Ward (1 seat)
- Referendum on a change from First Past The Post (present system) to the Alternative Vote for all future Parliamentary elections.

Please remember to vote on May 5<sup>th</sup> .

### **Our Thanks to:**

- Roger Gurney, Clerk
- Flooding Working Group
- Parish Plans Group
- Clive Bostle, Footpaths
- Steve Gwillam, Lengthsman
- Brenda Bowley, Flower tubs
- Betty Waterman, Public Notice Board
- Tom McDonald, District Councillor
- Liz Eyre, County Councillor
- and all who have helped the Council in the past year.

Brian Browne  
Chairman.  
6<sup>th</sup> April 2011