

CHARLTONPARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Annual Report for the year to 31st March 2010

The full Council met 6 times during the year, and there were 6 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 Diane Barlow (resigned 23rd March 2010).
Cllr. Mrs Freddie Jack
Cllr. Mrs Frances Wilkinson
Cllr. Mike Wood

Housing Needs

A survey of Housing Needs is being initiated. An advertisement in Five Alive asking for those with housing needs to contact us has so far met with no response.

Planning Committee

The Parish Council Planning Committee has met 6 times and responded to WDC Development Control Committee on 9 applications, expressing no objection to 8 of these.

Flooding

The Environment Agency held a meeting at Charlton on 23rd July and outlined their proposal for a series (2 or 3) ponds upstream of the settled area of Charlton which would hold back flood water to limit the flow in the Merry Brook to within its banks. The Parish Council was asked to identify the possibly affected landowners and to support the EA by a donation. The Parish Council have offered £2500 to EA, WDC have pledged £5000 and WCC £40000, but we understand it may not all be required. At a meeting of the PC's Flooding Working Group on 6th August (with EA's Rob Millar in attendance) the Flooding Action Group undertook to produce a newsletter (to see it go to www.charltonparishcouncil.org.uk and follow Flooding), and to raise donations from the public.

The PC agreed to hold and bank donations, and the fund stands at £270, with £50 pledged.

The West Midlands Regional Flood Defence Committee were asked by EA to fund the Charlton Scheme, and Councillors from Parish, District and County together with a member of the Charlton Flooding Action Group attended a meeting on 16th September at Solihull at which the Committee provisionally included Charlton in their programme for 2011 – 2012. This committee met again on 20th January, attended by a Charlton Parish Councillor and a member of the Flooding Action Group, to hear the Committee confirm that, subject to available funding, the Charlton Scheme was to be carried out in 2011 – 2012.

Flooding in Ryden Lane and Brook Lane is being investigated by WCC Highways, but to date no remedial work other than gully cleaning has been carried out.

Grants

The Parish Council granted £40 to the PCC for the maintenance of the Church clock.

In 2004 the council agreed to grant £2000 to Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall Committee for development of the hall at the Sheppey. Until now it has not been called for, but following major funding, we expect the committee to require the grant in the near future.

Parish Plans

It is very pleasing to report that a new Parish Plan Group has been formed by Elaine Hawley after she advertised in "Five Alive". The Group has met 4 times. Reports and available minutes are on the web site www.charltonparishcouncil.org.uk /Parish Plan, and a comments box invites you to input your views.

Street (Footway) Lighting

WCC had offered to take over Charlton's lights, but after due consideration the Council decide to retain ownership and responsibility.

Light number 2 in Cherry Orchard is being replaced due to deterioration of the concrete pole.

Lights numbers 3 and 4 in Top Street were not functioning for a period, but have now been repaired.

It should be noted that the lights in The Hollies, and in Top Street adjacent to The Hollies are WCC owned.

The Green

A new bus stop pole with timetable extract has been installed.

New planters have been obtained..

The demarcation between The Green and the private road to properties is to be discussed with residents.

A new bus shelter was considered but deferred due to insufficient funds at present. A cleaning contractor was hired to clean the bus shelter.

The telephone kiosk has been transferred from BT ownership to Wychavon District Council.

The Cemetery

Three headstones are leaning and a firm is being instructed to re-set them.

Footpaths

The Footpaths Warden, Clive Bostle, is co-operating with WCC to produce a leaflet guide to Charlton footpaths.

The Sheppey

Cllr Mrs Jane Segar of Crophorne Parish Council has proposed recreation equipment for children 10 to 16 years. For details see www.charltonparishcouncil.org.uk /About Charlton/ Recreation.

PACT (Partners and Communities Together)

The Police brought their mobile police station to Charlton Green on 30th November and 15th

February to enable villagers to raise any community issue with them. Remember that

Neighbourhood Watch still exists in Charlton, but has only two active members. More are needed.

Precept

The precept for 2010/2011 has been set at £10560, an increase of £500, to increase the reserve to cover support to the Environment Agency Pond Scheme. The precept will be £39.95 on a band 'D' property, which is an increase on last year is 4.97%

Web Site

The Parish Council web site has been visited over 2200 times since it's inception in January 2007, this averages 57 times a month. A new web site www.five-alive.co.uk for the five parishes has been set up by Five Alive and has links to the parish councils of Charlton and Crophorne, as well as much local news and information.

Elections May 2011.

Next year is an election year for parish councils. Let us make sure that Charlton's parish council is fully democratic by having at least 8 candidates, it's up to you to complete a nomination form next April. Think about it.

Thanks

Your parish council especially thank the following for help and support during the year:

Roger Gurney for his work and excellent advice

Brenda Bowley for the flowers on The Green

Betty Waterman for maintaining the public notice board

Elaine Hawley and all the Parish Plan Group

Brian Clements, Roger Davies, Derek Arnold and all the Flooding Action Group

Clive Bostle, Footpaths Warden

Steve Gwilliam, the Lengthsman

Tom McDonald

Liz Eyre

and as Chairman I thank all my colleague councillors.

Brian Browne

15 April 2010