

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF CHARLTON,  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008 IN THE OLD SCHOOL ROOM,  
CHARLTON**

**PRESENT** 4 Parish councillors  
16 parish residents  
District Cllr Tom McDonald  
Roger 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 District Cllr Tom McDonald and Roger Gurney, who, today, is the Clerk to the Parish Meeting and will take the minutes of this meeting. The Chairman explained that the Annual Meeting of the Parish is required to be held and the Parish Council Chairman must chair the meeting if he is in attendance. It is an 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 all seven seats on the Parish Council have now been filled, with Mrs Diane Barlow and Mrs Frances Wilkinson being co-opted during the year.

**APOLOGIES**

These were received from Cllr Mrs Diane Barlow, Elaine Hawley, Mark Jackson, Howard Heath (Joseph Workman Trust), PC Julie de Paris and Cllr Mike Wood.

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2007**

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 public footpaths. The highway issues had been discussed at Parish Council meetings on several occasions.

**PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2006/7**

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

- The impact and repercussions of the severe flooding in the village on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007, when some 29 properties in Charlton were badly affected. A Flood Group comprising village residents and two Parish Councillors has been formed to keep the pressure on the Environment Agency (EA). A public meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> February with officers of the EA, WCC, STW and WDC. WDC has given a grant of £2,000 to the PC and Cllr Tom McDonald has given £50 of his allowance towards the alleviation of flooding.
- Clive Bostle, the Parish Paths Warden, has continued his work in improving the footpaths and has waymarked the Shakespeare Avon Way through the Parish.
- Following its early success the Parish Plan has not progressed and it is hoped that the Working Group will be reconvened shortly
- Steve Gwilliam, the Lengthsman for the Parish, continues to work in Charlton each Wednesday morning, dealing with problems of clearing ditches and gullies. He has planted a new hedge at the Cemetery, to the west of the lychgate.
- PC Julie de Paris has responded as necessary to calls made.
- A Litter Pick was again arranged by Ruth Owen and 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 has been given to the Workman Trust (towards draught excluding in the Old School Room) and to the

PCC (towards clock maintenance).

- Two seats have been donated for the Cemetery; one is already installed.
- Flower tubs have been provided and maintained by Brenda Bowley
- The web site contains the PC minutes and other information, and receives about 100 visits a month
- New security latches have been fitted to the new notice board on The Green.
- The precept for 2008/9 was increased by £300 to £9,900.

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 2007/8**

The Parish Council Clerk submitted draft accounts for the year. He explained that Receipts had increased by over £2,500, due to grants from WDC for flood alleviation and a full year's grant from WCC for the lengthsman. Payments had decreased, mainly due to the additional street lighting electric bills in the previous year and the cost of work on the willow tree on The Green. The PC is holding a £2,000 commitment to Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall and £2,000 for flood relief and it is likely that some £12,200 will be carried forward, a satisfactory amount for the existing commitments and possible contingencies.

### **REPORTS FROM GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS**

**Flood Action Group.** Brian Clements reported that the Committee had met 5 times, there had been a public meeting in February and meetings with officers of the EA. He thanked Roger Davies for keeping pressure on the EA via his emails. The Group had circulated riparian owners about the need for action to be taken along Merry Brook; this may have been hasty and he asked if a letter could be sent to such owners from the PC: this would be for the PC to consider. It was noted that no letters had been sent to riparian owners by either EA or WDC. Cllr McDonald confirmed that the Charlton Flood Action Plan should be completed soon. Cllr Ted Grazier, who had done some work on his land, reminded the meeting that the village community needed to be kept informed. Work commenced this week on The Green, but no trees will be cut until the autumn. A work schedule has been sent by the EA, but this could change, eg with the footbridge on The Green. It was felt that another meeting with the agencies would be useful, once the work has progressed.

**Policing.** The Chairman read from a written report from PC Julie de Paris, who reported that there were no incidents reported during the past 6 months, other than 2 vehicles broken in to. Mrs Fowler commented that Neighbourhood Watch in Charlton is not working and asked whether an appeal for more co-ordinators.

**Charlton Old School Room.** The Chairman read from a written report from Howard Heath who reported that users are still the main source of income; Pre School is now open on 2 afternoons; charges are unaltered for the coming year and some £3,000 was held at the end of the year. The windows had been draught proofed during the year.

### **OPEN FORUM**

**Highway concerns.** Several matters of concern were raised, including: (1) problems with heavy tractors in the village; (2) why have minor roads in Fladbury been resurfaced when Charlton's roads have been deteriorating?; (3) excessive speeding down Canada Bank; (4) missing 30 mph sign at top of Canada Bank; (5) why no extension to 30 mph limit on Yessell Lane nor replacement of road markings on the bends?; could the highway authority come to a meeting?

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.16 pm.