

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011,  
at 7.30 pm, in the Old School Room, Charlton

**PRESENT** Cllr B B Browne  
Cllr R L Davies  
Cllr E G Grazier (until Item 11, minute no. 98/11)  
Cllr Mrs B W Jack  
Cllr M P Wood

In attendance: County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre (from Item 4(8), minute no 95/11(8) to Item 5, minute no. 96/11)  
District Cllr Tom McDonald (for Item 5, minute no. 96/11)  
Clive Bostle, Footpath Warden  
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

**ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM**

*(No members of the public were present).*

**92/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received from Cllr Eggleston (holiday).

The Chairman reported that he had been notified that Cllr Mrs Frances Wilkinson had resigned from the Parish Council, owing to her impending move from Charlton. The Chairman agreed to reply the Mrs Wilkinson, thanking her for her work with the Parish Council. The Clerk will inform WDC of the casual vacancy.

**93/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**94/11 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011**

The draft minutes had been circulated previously. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Davies, and resolved that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

**95/11 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**1. Footpath Warden.** Clive Bostle was invited to speak. 18 people had joined the Parish Walk on 30<sup>th</sup> July, a very good response, probably due to wider advertising in Five Alive. He reported that the problems on FP 502 have not yet been resolved, but new posts have been installed and the waymarking can be done, now that the crop has been harvested. Paths parallel to Boston Lane have been worked on and some stile steps need attention. Clive Bostle noted that the concerns registered with WDC on the planning application W/11/01101 in Boston Lane, by both the PC and Ramblers, had been ignored.

Mr Bostle reported that the footpath parallel to Haselor Lane has been fully restored.

**2. Lengthsman.** Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance and there was no specific report.

**3. Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall.** The Chairman had attended the Opening of the refurbished Hall and commented that it was impressive. With the resignation of Cllr Mrs Wilkinson there is a vacancy for a Charlton PC representative on the Committee.

**4. Workman Trust/Old School Room.** There was nothing to report. With the resignation of Cllr Mrs Wilkinson there is a vacancy for a Charlton PC representative on the Trust.

**5. Parish Plan Group.** Cllr Eggleston has resigned from the Parish Plan Group and Cllr Davies agreed to take over as the Parish Council representative. He reported that the local questionnaire is almost complete.

**6. Street light no. 6, Merryfield.** This has now been installed.

**7. Planning complaints.**

**(a) Land at Fenn Croft, Boston Lane.** The Enforcement Officer has informed the Clerk that the Planning Officer is discussing the matter of the non-compliance of the access condition with the applicant with a view to a new application being submitted.

**8. Proposed cycle path, Jubilee Bridge to the cemetery bridge.** County Cllr Liz Eyre reported that there has been negligible co-operation with the adjoining landowners and, therefore, the scheme will not be proceeding.

#### 96/11 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

**District Cllr Tom McDonald** was invited to speak. He referred to his previously submitted written report, which the Chairman will put on the web site. The report referred to the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership, youth development schemes, Neighbourhood Plans and New Homes Bonus scheme.

**County Cllr Liz Eyre** was invited to speak. She reported that County assets are now on the web site and that each County Councillor has been allocated £10,000 for projects in their wards.

The Chairman explained that residents were pleased with the way that the contractors working on the drainage scheme in Ryden Lane and Brook Lane had progressed and how helpful and co-operative they had been. However, at the first heavy rainfall, on 26<sup>th</sup> August, there was still a considerable volume of water flowing down the roadways, particularly Brook Lane. A subsequent inspection found that there were plugs on the new drains, which prevented the drains from taking surplus rainfall. These were removed and, with the heavy rainfall on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, the system worked as was hoped for. The Clerk will send details to County Cllr Liz Eyre.

#### 97/11 FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Cllr Davies reported on the action that had taken place since the July meeting. First, arrangements have been made for a Householder Protection meeting with the EA to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011, at 3.30 pm in the Old School Room. A letter will be sent to all affected householders. Brian Smith from the EA will also be in attendance to explain the responsibility of riparian owners. Second, there has been another Walk along the Brook with the EA: some blockages and growth of woody weeds. There is a need for the areas around the bridges to be kept clear, including the footbridge across the Green, although it seems that WCC is not convinced about its replacement and the shelf near the Cemetery bridge may be removed. The EA team is scheduled to clear Merry Brook during October/November. Third, the EA has suggested that a Community Flood Plan is drawn up.

The Clerk reported that the WDC funding for flood alleviation will continue to be held, to assist in the implementation of work, although the original flood scheme is not proceeding.

The Chairman reported that he attended a meeting with researchers from Oxford University regarding "Project Foster", which is looking at all aspects of the flooding in 2007 and had responded with information from Charlton.

**98/11 HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS**

The result and concerns with the drainage improvements in Ryden Lane and Brook Lane had been discussed earlier in the meeting with County Cllr Liz Eyre. It was agreed that this be brought to the next meeting of the PC.

It was noted that the land between The Dovecote and the church had been cleared by the lengthsman, and it was agreed that future work on this be discussed at the next meeting.

The Clerk reported an email from WCC asking for any further sites for grit bins to be sent to them and for information regarding possible snow contractors in the parish. The Clerk will send tender documents to Cllr Grazier and Cllr Wood.

**99/11 FINANCE****1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.07.11 – 03.08.11**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

**2. Accounts for Payment**

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Wood, and agreed that the following accounts be paid:

R D Gurney	net salary, 01.08.11 – 30.09.11	<b>£394.48</b>
	expenses, 01.03.11 – 31.07.11	<b>£ 75.00</b>
HMRC	(July-September 2011)	<b>£169.20</b>
Staples UK Ltd	- photocopying, stationery (July/August)	
	(4 invoices) £39.80 + £5.66 VAT	<b>£ 45.46</b>
Steve Gwilliam	(August)	<b>£176.00</b>
Limebridge Rural Services Ltd	(July) £264.00 + £52.80 VAT	<b>£316.80</b>
	(August) £270.00 + £54.00 VAT	<b>£324.00</b>
Clement Keys	£135.00 + £27.00 VAT	<b>£162.00</b>
Charles Tooby		<b>£ 65.00</b>
Prysmian Cables and Systems Ltd	£524.74 + £104.95 VAT	<b>£629.69</b>
Wychavon DC	(election costs)	<b>£ 25.00</b>
N Power		<b>£ 50.56</b>
<u>Confirmation of payments made 11.08.11:</u>		
Steve Gwilliam	(July)	<b>£176.00</b>

**100/11 AUDIT REPORT**

The written report of the External Auditors was reported and was noted. The notice of closure of the accounts will be advertised in the coming week.

**101/11 BUDGET STRATEGY**

This will be considered by the Finance WG, after the next meeting.

**102/11 GRASS CUTTING TENDERS**

Suggested details of the specification for the tender invitation, prepared by Cllr Davies, were circulated with the agenda. After some discussion Cllr Davies agreed to revise the schedule and to send this to the Clerk for distribution to at least three contractors during October.

**103/11 CEMETERY MATTERS**

Cllr Mrs Jack commented that sub soil and currogated tin sheets have been deposited under the tree next to the area for cremated remains. She had spoken to Hill and Son,

funeral directors, and the tin had been removed. The Clerk was asked to speak to Hills for the subsoil to be removed from the area.

Mrs Jack confirmed that she is awaiting a second quotation for the painting of the lychgate.

**104/11 NEW SIGN ON THE GREEN**

The Clerk is waiting for a quote for the possible sign. The Clerk was asked to find out when WDC is proposing to remove the kiosk.

**105/11 LAND OPPOSITE THE CEMETERY**

Consideration of any action on this land was deferred to the next meeting.

**106/11 REPORTS OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The reports of the meetings of the Planning Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011 and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2011, which were enclosed with the agenda, were noted.

**107/11 ITEMS FROM CALC**

The Chairman reported that the discussion at the recent meeting related to the problem with the number of vacancies on parish councils across both WDC and the wider area. The matter is to be sent to NALC for consideration.

**108/11 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC – invitation to Local Communities Energy Events
2. Local Council Review magazine
3. WDC – Village facilities survey, update

**109/11 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**

1. Resurfacing of The Bight and Ryden Lane

**110/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This is agreed for Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011, at 7.30 pm

10<sup>th</sup> November 2011