

## Charleton Parish Council.

### **Minutes of a Meeting of Charleton Parish Council, held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010, at 7 pm., in the Committee Room at the rear of Charleton Village Hall.**

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**Present were:-** Cllr. Graham Allen (Chairman, presiding), Cllr. Anna Westlake, Cllr Claire Tod, Cllr. Debra Walsh and Cllr. Stan Parkinson.

**Also present:-** Cllr. Julian Brazil (DCC & SHDC), PC Steve Mutton and Mrs Frances Raymond (Clerk).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-** Cllr. Steve Ashley. The Chairman and Councillors expressed their sympathy with Cllr. Ashley who is currently recuperating from recent surgery, and wished him a speedy recovery.

**2. THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING,** held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, had been circulated prior to the Meeting, were taken as read, approved, and signed as correct.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING:-**

- a) **The Casual Vacancy:-** Efforts are still being made to recruit candidates to be considered for co-option to fill the casual vacancy. Fliers informing village residents of the vacancy will be circulated to every household before the next Meeting.
- b) **The hedge opposite Post Labore:-** The Chairman has discussed with Mr. Paul Rogers the work of removing the old hedge, and will complete the application for the grant when the cost of the work is known. Safety measures to control traffic will be needed while the work is in progress, and Cllr. Morgan will arrange for the use of Stop/Go signs. Mr. Rogers will dispose of the debris, and Cllr. Westlake has obtained 105 trees from the Woodland Trust, which will be delivered between 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November, together with advice about the planting and care of the new trees. The green footpath will be levelled at a later date, once the Parish Council has received the licence from SHDC for the maintenance work on the verges. This licence will cost £150. There has been no communication from Mr. Harmon of Lyte Lane concerning the hedge, and those residents whose property overlooks the site of the work may rest assured that the area will be properly maintained in future by the Parish Council.
- c) **The reported failure of buses to stop at Sicklemans Close:-** As this is not a stage stop, prospective passengers should be made aware that they should indicate to the bus driver that they wish the bus to stop. A laminated notice to this effect will be put up in the bus shelter.
- d) **Bonfires:-** The Clerk will obtain a supply of the new leaflet about bonfires.
- e) **Zurich Insurance:-** Although the cover given by this insurance is adequate for the Parish Council's requirements, the Councillors are disappointed at the length of time taken to pay the recent claim concerning the repairs to the Living Waters structure, and so the Clerk was asked to investigate a possible alternative.

**4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:-** No members of the public were present, but a request had been received from Mr. Agar, supported by an email from the chairman of the residents' committee of Curlew Dive, for the Parish Council to investigate the possibility of extending the 20mph speed limit area towards Kingsbridge, to include the section of the A379 as far as the Kingsbridge side of the junction with Curlew Drive. The Chairman will ask Mr. Halliday if this request may be met.

.....Chairman

Further complaints have been received about the overgrown foliage beside Lyte Lane steps. Since the foliage in question is growing in a private garden, its removal is the responsibility of the landowner. The matter will be checked by the Clerk, and if necessary the relevant persons will be informed of the need to take action.

**5. THE PARISH WEB SITE:-** The email address for Mrs Allen was incorrectly listed in last month's Minutes. It should be as follows:- [sueallen60@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueallen60@yahoo.co.uk)

**6. YEARLY DIARY:-** A simple list of all annual dates will be kept by the Clerk in the Minutes Book, and available at all Meetings.

### **7. CORRESPONDENCE:-**

<u>from</u>	<u>about</u>	<u>form</u>	<u>action</u>
SHDC	Public Space Strategy	booklet	note & file
DALC	Newsletter Sep/Oct 2010	2 sides A4	note & file
SW Ambulance Service	Newsletter Summer 2010	newspaper	note & file
DCC	Winter Service on Highways	3 sides A4	note & file
DCC	Map of grit bin locations	1 side A3	note & file
DCC	Travelling in Winter	leaflet	note & file
Tim Johnson	Coleridge Association	email	pass to Reps
SHDC	Executive Forward Plan	3 sides A4	display
SHDC	The Knowledge	booklet	note & file
SHDC	Saltstone Ward Profile	booklet	note & file
SHDC	Budget Consultation meeting	1 side A3	response req.
DCC	Devon Provider Services (NHS)	4 sides A4	note & file
K. J. Thulborn	Grounds Maintenance contractor	email	note & file
Andrew Gilbert	Grounds Maintenance contractor	email	note & file
DALC	Subs due	2 sides A4	Cheque to send
PCC	Request for grant	1 side A3	PC to consider

**8. PLANNING:-** There were no Applications to consider. The Chairman had written to the Planning Officer, Mr. Munday, expressing the disappointment that the Planners did not seem to consider their recommendations when giving approval to Planning Applications, as a recent Application was approved without due reference to a recommendation submitted. An explanation for not accepting the recommendation was received from Mr. Munday, together with his assurances that the Parish Council's views were always considered carefully, and followed where appropriate.

### **9. REPORTS:-**

**a) SHDC and DCC:-** Cllr. Brazil reported that both Councils are still considering their budgets, awaiting the news of what grants will be available from central government next month. The possibility of using shared services with West Devon, to save some £50,000, is being considered. Increases in costs of parking, together with the introduction of parking meters will take place as soon as the relevant Traffic Orders are obtained, without further consultation. Buses Route 93 are to be cease running on Sundays very soon. Kingsbridge Community College has applied to become an Academy, and will receive extra funding of about £500,000, but will have to take on the responsibility of funding pensions of about £50,000 per annum, with no guarantee that the extra funding will continue indefinitely. The grant form provided by Cllr. Brazil, to fund the Parish Council's work on replacing the hedge, will be completed and

.....Chairman

sent to him as soon as possible, when the question of the cost of insurance cover has been answered.

- b) **Police:-** PC Mutton reported that he has had a very busy summer, and so has been unable to attend many Parish Council Meetings. There have been five reported crimes within the last 120 days, compared with 6 in the same period last year, and all were fairly minor, mainly being boat crimes little affecting residents. Since he spoke to some youths, there have been no further incidents of damage in the Bird Hide on Charleton Marsh. In future PCSOs are to be funded by the local Police Authority, and so despite the splendid work done by the PCSOs in this area, their future is uncertain. Cables have been placed across the main road, which will measure the frequency and speed of traffic through the village. The Parish Council may be able to use the evidence recorded to induce Mr. Halliday to take further measures to reduce speeds.
- c) **Village Hall:-** The Committee Room has been painted, and is now very bright and clean. The dishwasher has been replaced by a commercial machine, which is very fast in operation. A request for help towards the cost of the dishwasher may be made to the Parish Council. Application has been made to another body for a grant towards the cost of new stage lighting. Four sets of keys will be made available throughout the village, for the convenience of hall users. There will be a fund-raising Quiz Night on 26<sup>th</sup> November. The AGM of the management committee will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm.
- d) **St. Mary's Church:-** Cllr. Tod reported that the present Vicar retires at the end of the year, and thenceforth services will be conducted by lay preachers and retired clergy as available. There are now 11 churches in the benefice, reflecting the shortage of clergy now being experienced nationwide. The Harvest Festival supper was held last week, and a Quiz Night will be held at the Village Hall, tomorrow, 8<sup>th</sup> October, at 7 pm. The Rectory is let on a six months short term tenancy, and the present tenant is clearing the garden. The Parochial Church Council has no choice in the use of the Rectory, which belongs to the Church Commissioners, not to the parish.
- e) **Footpaths:-** Tenders are being sought by the Footpath Warden, Cllr. Allen, for the repairs to the stiles.
- f) **Events Committee:-** No report offered.
- g) **Allotments:-** Cllr. Allen reported that one tenant has relinquished his plot, which is now being used by new tenants from East Charleton. Another tenant is in hospital in Truro, so is presently unable to work his plot, but his tenancy will not be terminated while he is unable to work it.
- h) **Coleridge Association:-** Cllr. Parkinson reported that there was little to note from the proceeding of the recent Meeting which concerned Charleton directly. The newly- built affordable homes in Portlemouth are all occupied; the pilot scheme in Stokenham has been completed, and a report is awaited. The next Meeting will be held at Chivelstone on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30. The Chairman asked that his apologies for absence be given to that Meeting, as he will be unable to attend it.

**10. FINANCE:-** The Clerk reported that there is presently some £3500 in the Current Account. The claim for the repayment of the VAT will be submitted as soon as the form is received, which will result in the receipt of some £840.

Cllr. Walsh proposed that a grant of £250 should be made to St. Mary's PCC towards the maintenance of the burial ground. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Morgan, and approved unanimously.

The following cheques were approved for payment:-

Cheque no.100683, £40.00 to G. Allen for flowerbed maintenance in September

Cheque no. 100684, £24.00 to G. Allen for purchase of snowdrop bulbs.

Cheque no. 100685, £250.00 to St. Mary's Church PCC towards the maintenance of grounds

**11. HIGHWAY AND COMMUNITY:-**

- a) **Bonfires:-** New copies of the Environmental Health’s advisory booklet on bonfires will be circulated to the Councillors by the Clerk, as soon as these are available.
- b) **Winter bedding plants:-** Cllr. Allen will spend the remainder of the £80, approved by the Parish Council last month, on compost and other soil improvement items for the village flowerbeds.

**12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:-**

- The Casual Vacancy**
- The green footpath and hedge clearance**
- The permissive footpath**
- Extension of the graveyard**

**13. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010.**

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

F.R. 9/10/10

Signed as a true and accurate record of the Meeting,

Signature.....

Date.....

.....Chairman