

Minutes of Charminster Parish Council Meeting on 4th March 2008 at Charlton Down Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Mr M Simons, Chairman (MS), Ian Vincent, Vice Chair (IV), Paula Blizzard (PB), Mark Ellis (ME), Dave Gulliford (DG), Peter Hopford (PHo), Mike Ostridge (MO), Jane House (JH) , Claire Horne (CH) and Phil Hanson (PHa).

Sarah East (SE) District Councillor, John Peake (JP) County Councillor
Aileen Heckford (AH, Clerk), Tina Davison (TD, minutes)

In attendance 19 members of the public

Abbreviations: CPC – Charminster Parish Council
WDDC – West Dorset District Council
DCC – Dorset County Council
PCSO – Police Community Support officer

Prior to the meeting was a brief public discussion with Mr Rob Coulthard regarding the development of a pub at Charlton Down. There were no new issues raised except the plan has been revised to include 5 flats instead of 10. Mr Coulthard's contact number is available from the Clerk and he invited residents to contact him with ideas and concerns.

2008/44 **Apologies** were received from Judith Spurr, Keith Bendall, Keith Beeson, Fred Horsington District Councillor and Sarah Pilcher (PCSO).

1935 - At this stage the Chair adjourned the meeting to address the public regarding the issue of Magna Housing development at Pound Close, Charminster. MS had attended a meeting with residents and had subsequently written to Magna individually expressing his concern. This letter was circulated. A 'holding letter' reply has been received. Residents were most grateful for MS letter. Council agreed to reiterate MS views formally. All in favour. The meeting reconvened at 1942.

2008/45 **Declaration of interest**
PB declared an interest in items 2008/54 (a), (h) and (l).
DG and PHo declared an interest in 2008/53 (f).

2008/46 **Minutes** – There was one amendment to the minutes of 5th February 2008. ME proposed that SE words in item 2008/30 be quoted verbatim to additionally read –SE said 'You will have to put up with it'. Majority in favour. The minutes were amended and signed by the Chair.

2008/47 **Clerks Report** on items from the minutes of 5th February not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:
a) Parish Plan – No Councillors have come forward as interested or wishing to be involved.
b) Best Kept Village –ME and IV to draft an application for best Kept Community Village for Charlton Down. All in favour.
c) Flood alleviation, Charminster –MS has had a meeting with an engineer from the environment Agency. New details were revealed and a cost benefit analysis for work on the bridge near to the church is to be undertaken. Oliver Letwin MP is to meet with MS to review the plans.

2008/48 **Public Discussion Period**
The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1955.
• It was requested that if meetings were in Charlton Down that the agenda be structured that these items come before Charminster and vice versa. Clerk to action.
• Two inspection covers on drains at Upper Herrison Road beyond Forston Clinic

have cement coming adrift. Clerk to report to Wessex Water for repair.

- It was suggested that the Parish Plan for Charlton Down perhaps needs revisiting when the community has settled a little more. It needs support but not necessarily be run by a Councillor.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 2000.

2008/49 **PCSO Sarah Pilcher** via an email was read out by MS.

- The Land Rover parked at the Three Compasses with no tax is on private land and so the police are unable to take action. The owner is not resident locally but PCSO will contact them and get back to CPC.
- Green Triangle – Weir View/Pound Close -It was agreed to ask DCC again for wooden bollards around the triangle to prevent dangerous parking. All in favour.

2008/50 **District Councillor's Report**

SE reported that the street soccer in Charlton Down had been very successful with 35 young people taking part.

2008/51 **County Councillor's Report**

- Parish plans are becoming increasingly important and can be used in some instances e.g. planning, as a tool of persuasion and affect funding decisions.
- DCC statistics - JP praised the booklet on as very helpful and interesting.
- Cycleway/Footpath Charlton Down to Charminster –DCC Transport Policy Manager is considering this and needs to know who owns the land. Clerk to ascertain.
- 4.5% increase in Council Tax – Dorset has the lowest funding per capita in England. DCC is investing in technology to gain savings.
- Adult Services in the county are being reviewed.
- Sign- fingerpost Westleaze - JP to apply more pressure to reinstate.

2008/52 **Speed Indicator Device –**

This is broken again. Repaired recently with cost split between 3 Parishes. It continues to be unreliable. It will cost £3000 to replace. The modern SID is smaller and easier to erect. The highest cost of repair appears to be delivery costs.(£90 out of £150). It was agreed to obtain an estimate for repair in association with the other PC's. It was agreed to approach Iron Man for a grant to replace SID.

2008/53 **Charminster**

- a) Play areas – Broken Cross ok. Work in progress at North Street regarding the safety report. Several quotes had been received - To remove the arch frame and concrete and move the see saw - £605. To remove the frame and make the matting good - £245. (However this does not solve the problem of the see saw being too close to the roundabout.) A safety surface under the see saw in new position is quoted at £1635. Replacing the cradle swings rubber tiles - £875. Extension of the surface around the roundabout - £1975. It is not envisaged doing all this work in one year. The safety surface under the large swings is too short and need to be replaced - £7300. DG and the Clerk to investigate how council can proceed with this.
- b) Parking Charminster Cross-. PCSO presence regularly. MS to pursue with DCC. AH to ask for report from PCSO.
- c) Orchard –The pruning has been undertaken.
- d) The Square – AH to investigate which parts CPC own.

- e) Princes Plot – ok.
- f) North Street Traffic Calming –Letter from DCC stating taking into account CPC suggestions and now awaiting a start date.
- g) North St Developers – CPC had previously agreed the developers would provide a Building Control certificate to certify the wall has been properly built before taking on ownership & management. This is not available but the builders will give a warranty for the wall and the footpath. CPC agreed to accept an insurance backed warranty. This needs to be resolved before transfer. It is noted that the hedge has been substantially removed and a wooden fence erected. Re-instatement of hedge also to be resolved.

2008/54

Charlton Down

- a) Allotments – Notes of the meeting held on 16th February with the Allotment Society and Councillors were discussed. CPC needs to agree management. Examination of Dorchester Town Councils allotment agreements has raised some issues. The appearance was felt to reflect on the Council especially at the entrance to the village. Water bills and the letting arrangements were also highlighted. In Dorchester the annual charge to allotment holders is £26.70 including water. Inspection of the allotments takes place in June, with 4 weeks allowed to rectify faults. MS stated the need to protect CPC from liability for water costs. AH to seek information from Dorchester Town Council on their water costs. Additionally it was felt that the information on availability for allotments to residents throughout the Parish has been patchy. It was agreed to advertise in the Pilot. However it was acknowledged that it is complicated to advertise something which does not yet exist.

It was agreed to allocate £3,000 to the project. All in favour.

Guideline expenditure is:

- Grass cutting - £90
- Water connection approx. £1500
- The hedge has already been cut due to DEFRA regulatory deadline.
- Gates – replace with a field gate and a pedestrian gate - £300 plus labour.
- Trough instead of a water tap -£40 to £500.

MS to devise a proposal for agreement between the Allotment Society on management and responsibilities.

It was agreed that the allotment fees per plot would be £20 per half plot and £30 per plot for the first year. This would include £5 per plot to be retained by CDAS. All in favour.

- b) Tennis courts –Notes on a Public Meeting which took place on 26th February were circulated. It was agreed to bring the items which would incur expenditure to the next meeting of CPC as they were not yet costed. It was agreed that a booking system be used as described. The cost will be £1 per adult and 50p per child up to 16 years for one hours use with a deposit of £5 for the key. It will be reviewed after one year. All in favour. AH to check out insurers about inspections.
- c) Open Spaces - MS has discussed with WDDC and they have suggested a surveyor to amend the plans for the MUGA on CPC behalf. It was agreed to apply for planning permission at the current position and the current ground level where it has already

been started. Majority in favour.

- d) Bus shelters – DCC have agreed to extend the footpath to the bus shelter to be situated in Sherren Avenue. AH to liaise with DCC on grant funding and ordering of the bus shelter. No funding is available for the bus shelter for school children in the square.
- h) Orchard – The hedge has been cut and the trees pruned. Labels need reaffixing to the posts and some posts need moving as they are damaging the trees. The weeds are not currently controlled and need more weeding/mulching. It was agreed in item 2007/52 that Roundup be used when necessary. PB suggested volunteers to weed would be preferable and this will be reviewed to see if it has been successful after a month. If treatment is still necessary Roundup will be used. IV volunteered to plant the replacement tree.
- i) Wildlife area –Notes of a meeting which took place on 16th February were circulated. MS updated meeting on progress. It was agreed that the deer fence be moved to allow a gate from Herrison Road and a compacted gravel path from the highway to the pond. All in favour.
- j) Dog control – It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting.
- k) Urban Design Case study report – ME appraised the meeting. It was noted that there is no disabled access to the Village Hall. CPC to write to Bellway, to support the Village Hall Committee, if necessary.

2008/55 **Report of the Burial Committee**

- a) Interments, memorials and graves purchased –none.
- b) Progress on work – work continues.

2008/56 **Report of the Planning Committee**

Applications received and recommendations to date- report received

Consideration of the following planning applications

- a) 1/D/07/0023 -3 Herrison Cottages, Charlton Down – Demolition of outbuilding, internal alteration, garden room extension and erection of a single garage. Concerns about road safety .It was agreed to match Highways Dept. decision
- b) 1/D/07/002325 – 4 Herrison Cottages, Charlton Down –Demolition of outbuilding, internal alteration, porch, two storey and garden room extension. Erection of single garage and new vehicular access. Concerns regarding road safety. It was agreed to match Highways Dept. decision.

2008/57 **Finance Report**

- a) Financial statement corrections were made to the date and the donations quoted to the Guides, Brownies and Scout groups to read £100 each.
 - b) Payments made since last meeting – confirmed.
- Cost to agree – none.

2008/58 **Clerical working terms and conditions.**

It was agreed to hold a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to address this issue. All Councillors will be invited to attend. Date and time to be advised.

2008/59 **Connecting Dorset** – It was agreed to sign the Service Level Agreement. All in favour.

2008/60 **West Dorset Spring Clean** –It was agreed the date for this be Saturday 26th April meeting at the Village Hall Charminster and the shop at Charlton Down at 1000. It was agreed to purchase 3 litter pickers for Charlton Down at a cost of up to £12 each. All in favour.

2008/61 **Matters for information and items for next Agenda**

Correspondence list circulated. Additionally

- Note regarding refuse collection and recycling changes. No details available

yet.

- Charminster Village Hall has increased their hiring costs
- Letter from James Young regarding lack of affordable housing and a request to address CPC. Letter to be circulated and decision to be considered at next meeting.
- The village entrance signs are being constructed.
- Debris on open spaces in Charlton Down – MS to inspect.
- The bin at the Cricket Club is now missing entirely. AH to contact WDDC.
- IV has now simplified the website.

2008/63

Date and time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 1st April 2008 at Charminster Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.10

Date:

Chairman: