

CHARMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **2 September 2008** in Charminster Village Hall, at 7.30pm.

PRESENT Mr M. Simons (Chairman), Mr I. Vincent (Vice Chairman), Mr M. Ellis, Mr D. Gulliford, Mr K. Beeson, Mrs J. House, Mr P. Hanson, Mrs C. Horne

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs P. Parker (Clerk), Mr F. Horsington (District Councillor), Mrs S. East (District Councillor) and 8 members of the public.

2008/156 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Mr Ostridge, Mr Hopford and Mr Bendall

2008/157 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Beeson – North Street (Min 159.2), Mr Gulliford-North Street (Min 159.2), Mr Ellis – Grasscutting (Min 168)

2008/158 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2008 had been circulated. They were confirmed, signed and dated as a correct record, including the following amendments:

Min 144-The changes brought Standing Orders into line with current practice, introduced two monthly meetings and created a Planning Committee with delegated powers.

Min 148(2)-KBe proposed that all donations of items (for example, benches) must meet CPC's specifications, must become the property of CPC, and CPC would be responsible for all maintenance and health and safety issues, and for safe disposal of items.

2008/159

1.Bollards at Charlton Down: Mr Simons had contacted Andrew Martin (WDDC) for advice but was still awaiting a reply. As no other problems had arisen it was decided to monitor the situation in the meantime.

2.Update on North Street traffic calming: Both the Clerk and Mr Simons had spoken to Andy Brown (DCC). Bearing in mind that their answers had been slightly inconsistent, the news was fairly positive. Following the departure of the people in charge of the scheme, some disorder had resulted, but progress is being made towards finalising drawings and cost. No specific date has been made, but work will start as soon as possible. The Clerk was requested to write back to confirm the PC's satisfaction at this news.

2008/160 PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD -The following points were made:

Charlton Down nameplates- Mr Simons confirmed that these were ready to be delivered but permission is needed from DCC for their installation, and utility searches are necessary. The electricity company has been approached but the other utilities need to be contacted.

Overgrown hedges covering road signs to Dorchester -Mr Simons reported that he would be attending a site meeting with the engineer from DCC to discuss hedge cutting on the A352 Cerne road up to Godmanstone. Mr Simons will also assess the need for hedge cutting and re-surfacing on the cycle path from the junction with the Charminster turn to the roundabout.

Village website -Mr Vincent reported that the site is, at present, off line while a new website is prepared. A new package from the service provider is needed and there is a delay in obtaining this.

Public attendance at Planning meetings -Mr Simons confirmed that some planning applications are discussed at full PC meetings. Others are dealt with at North or South Ward Planning meetings. These are advertised in the usual way and are open to the public.

Hazardous manhole cover -Mr Morris had unfortunately needed hospital treatment after tripping over an uneven manhole cover outside the vicarage in Mill Lane. The Clerk was asked to report this to DCC.

Acquisition of land - Mr Simons expressed the hope that there would be good news on obtaining the land for the Multi-Use Games Area at Charlton Down. It may be that our local MP, Oliver Letwin, may need to be asked to intervene. This subject would be raised again later in the meeting. (See Min173)

English Partnership Land at Charlton Down -Mr Simons informed the meeting that the land known as the Sewer Field owned by this organisation had been put forward for consideration to WDDC as potential development land in the SLAA process. Along with other pieces of land in the county, it would be assessed for suitability.

Dog fouling at Charlton Down -There was a suggestion that another invitation could go to the dog warden, and Mr Beeson commented that photographs of offending dogs are useful.

Access to Tennis Courts -The current sign at this location indicates use of the lower path but doesn't make clear its whereabouts. Contact needs to be made with Herrison House management to clarify the necessary signing.

Use of car park at Herrison House -The point was made that use of the residents' private car park, especially by builders, is not acceptable.

Pound Close Grass triangle -Mr Simons will follow up the progress of the erection of a low, wooden bollard fence.

Nature Area -Reference was made to the poor appearance of the site. Work needs to continue and allocated money should be spent by January.

2008/161 Report from Police Community Support Officer, Sarah Pilcher -Ms Pilcher was not present at the meeting.

2008/162 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Request for speed restrictions in Charminster -Mrs East had received a letter from Tony Mackle indicating that it was unlikely that further speed restrictions would be implemented.

Dorchester Traffic Scheme -Mr Horsington reported that no funding was available until 2012 for the wider town centre scheme. He hoped that the pedestrianisation of the lower part of South Street would be implemented sooner. However, levels of nitrous oxide in High West Street and High East Street may bring forward the need to put into place some traffic reductions, to comply with EU standards.

2008/163 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT -None available.

2008/164 COUNCILLOR VACANCY -Mrs Blizzard has now resigned as a PC Councillor, and a notice will be displayed regarding the vacancy. This means that two councillors are now needed for the North Ward. Mr Bendall has not attended recent full PC meetings, and

has indicated that, if someone can be found to replace him, he is happy to resign. The Chairman felt that, in view of the significant issues which face the PC, it is important to attract new members.

Mr Simons undertook to compose a flyer advertising a cheese and wine evening. The object would be to create an opportunity for the public to meet Parish Councillors and find out more about topics relating to Charlton Down. All members were in favour of spending up to £100 on this event. Another suggestion was that 'The Echo' could be approached to include an article on the work of parish councils.

2008/165 CLERK VACANCY-Mr Simons informed the meeting that Mrs Parker's brief period as Clerk to the Council would come to an end on 22 September. Her decision to resign was based on the perceived difficulties of running council affairs from a distance of fifteen miles. The Clerk made clear her commitment to the job for its short duration and confirmed that she had carried out much work on re-organising paper and computer files.

When advertising the vacancy, it should be made clear that the post is paid and not voluntary. Mr Beeson will word the advertisement and send it to Mr Simons as soon as possible. The Clerk will email the current job description to Mr Beeson. It may be that the post is advertised in 'The Echo' and Dorchester job centre. In the first instance notices will be displayed on parish notice boards. A budget of £400 was agreed.

2008/166 REPORT FROM FLOOD SEMINAR- On 4 July, Mr Hanson and Mr Beeson had attended the Flood Seminar. They had been informed that, in view of increased risk, DCC requires parishes to be more active in preparing for flooding. A response plan needs to be developed which utilises local people's knowledge about hazards and vulnerable residents. Mr Beeson said that, as flood warden, he would form a database of people for contact, and devise a map of properties liable to flood. It may be a good idea to check whether there are any areas of special need in the parish. A flood warden is needed for Charlton Down. Although seminar leaders had advised local storage of sandbags, this was rejected as they are known to disintegrate after a fairly short time.

2008/167 PCC/FOOTPATH THROUGH THE CHURCHYARD IN CHARMINSTER - Mr Simons reported that, whilst DCC is happy to take on construction, design is expected to be undertaken locally. Mr Simons will draw up plans within the next two months and pass them on to the PCC.

2008/168 REPORT OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE-

The Clerk presented the following Financial Statement which was then accepted unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2 September 2008

Cheques paid since last meeting.

WDDC – Street light loan repayment	1006.00	*
Zurich Insurance	989.60	
Blanchards Solicitors- Open Spaces	150.00	*
Charminster Village Hall	5.00	
N.Barrow- Allotments/Wood	48.54	*
A.Heckford-Expenses for WL area	45.71	

M.Simons	286.64	*
M.Ellis-CD orchard weedkiller	38.19	
J.Moger-N/S Play area work	285.00	
D.Gulliford- cemetery paint	340.81	
C.Davison-June salary & expenses	277.28	
A.Heckford-June salary & expenses	437.28	
P.Blizzard-Expenses WL area	51.49	
G.Crook & Sons-WL area	235.48	
D.Mackle-WL area plants	40.00	
I & I Internet	42.23	*
S. Manuel-Grasscutting	290.00	
CD Hall hire	22.50	
The Pilot	240.00	
The Pilot	240.00	
Petrol- Paddock grass cut	24.19	
David Shaw Partnership	673.04	*
Tina Davison- July salary & expenses	364.04	
A.Heckford-July salary & expenses	538.04	
R.J. Andrew – Prince's Plot	162.00	*
Mrs K. White- deposit refund	5.00	

*Not included in bank statement at 31.07.08

FINANCIAL REPORT 2 September 2008 -Bank statement at 31.07.08 Bank balance
£11,760.19 Less unrepresented chqs: (at 31.07.08)

WDDC street light loan repayment-1006.00	1006.00
Blanchards	150.00
N. Barrow	48.54
M.Simons	286.64
I & I Internet	42.23
David Shaw Partnership	673.04
R.J. Andrew	162.00
TOTAL	£2,368.45

Bank total	9,391.74
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PO Account	19,361.42
Unclaimed VAT	1,835.81
N/S new dev	5,000.00
Precept, due in October	19,542.00
Money available (at 2 September 08)	£55,130.97

Payment of the following was authorised by the PC: **2 September 2008 Cheques to be paid**

Mrs P. Parker	Salary (21 July – 31 Aug)	372.80
Mrs P. Parker	Expenses (21 July – 31 Aug)	41.36
BDO Stoy Hayward	Audit Fee	334.88
CD Village Hall	Hire of Hall (15/07/08)	22.50
S. Manuel	Grass cutting (July)	290.00
M. Ellis	Expenses	73.19
Key Industrial Eqpt	Noticeboard	90.42
Mr McLuckie	Creosote (minus 10% disc)	6.30
Rs A. Heckford	Salary & expenses	73.27
TOTAL		£1,304.72

2.Grasscutting fuel- It was reported that Mr Ellis had undertaken grass cutting in The Orchard and the Wildlife Area, claiming only fuel. Consequently, over £500 had been saved for the PC. It was agreed that money be set aside to cover the cost of 20 litres of fuel for each future, voluntary cutting of the Orchard and the Wildlife area. However, for the final cut of the season, it was recommended that a contractor be employed. All were in favour of £400 being allowed for this. Also, the PC approved £60 to be spent on the purchase of a weed killer sprayer and goggles. Mr Ellis has a certificate to use a sprayer.

2008/169 PROPOSAL TO AMEND FINANCIAL REGULATION 6.4- All were in favour of allowing immediate payment of bills by the Clerk, providing that expenditure has been previously agreed by the PC.

2008/170 REPORT OF PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STH WARD)

1/D/08/001601 1 Laurel Way, Charlton Down- Erect utility room to west elevation and garden room to south. It was agreed that an objection would be made to this application on the grounds that the plan is incomplete; the north elevation is not shown.

1/D/08/001287 Trinity Lodge, Main Rd, Godmanstone - Replace metal windows with timber windows All were in favour of approving this application. (Comments from the Conservation Officer will be available on 27 Sept.)

1/D/08/001202 25 Meadow View, Charminster - Erect two storey side extension (Amended plan and photographs) All were in favour of approving this application.

1/D/08/001561 The Wagon House, Main Rd, Godmanstone - Erect extension. All were in favour of approving this application.

The following applications had received planning permission from WDDC:

1/D/08/001173 6A North St, Charminster - Demolish house & outbuildings (Con. Area consent)

1/D/08/0011202 25 Meadow View, Charminster (Original plan)

1/D/08/001321 St Mary's First Sch Erect open sided shelter

1/D/08/001086 The Lower Field ,adj. Herrison Rd - Construct fenced multi-use games area

2008/171 REPORT OF PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NTH WARD) - Wessex Water have been asked to remove the redundant bus shelter and its base, then grass over the site. It is hoped that this will be done free of charge, but a risk assessment has to be carried out first.

2008/172 REPORT OF AMENITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STH WARD)- Minutes of the meeting held on 17 August had been received.

Mr Gulliford confirmed that the Committee had been continuing work on risk assessment. At Broken Cross, it was considered that children were in danger of harm from low branches. Therefore, a quote of £240.00 had been obtained, to prune trees and tidy up the area. This would reduce the risk to 'low'. This was agreed.

Cemetery - Mr Gulliford had arranged a meeting with a contractor to identify graves which need in-fill. He will discuss with a local mason what to do about gravestones which are falling over. If it is possible to find relatives, they will be consulted.

Waste bins - The cost of purchasing and emptying wheelie bins at the Cemetery and the Play Area had been investigated. Such waste is classed as trade waste and therefore incurs a removal charge. Mr Gulliford proposed that the PC purchase two wheelie bins for each site, including locks and chains, at a cost of £104.62 plus VAT. The PC should further enter into a contract with WDDC to have these emptied every two weeks, on Wednesdays, at a cost of £155.48 plus VAT per annum. All were in favour.

Tennis Court proposal - Mr Simons referred to the positive response from the public on the spending of PC money for amenities in the South Ward. A tennis court, being a facility for all ages, was seen as a good idea. Mr Simons will approach the land owner as a starting point. Further suggestions for development of amenities may be forthcoming from The Women's Institute.

Princes Plot - A joiner will be asked to look at the bench at the top of Prince's Plot to check its safety.

North St Playground - Mr Gulliford proposed that two benches, on gravel bases, be purchased to replace the present, eleven year old ones. The PC approved this, along with funds up to £600. The playground advisor will probably need to be consulted.

2008/173 REPORT OF AMENITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NTH WARD)

Open Spaces and Section 106 monies – update - Mr Simons has been in discussion with WDDC who have asked if the PC is happy to take on responsibility for the contract with Dorset Works for grass cutting when the land is handed over. Trees have been inspected but this will be done again before handover. The cost of using Dorset Works for maintenance would be £6,000 for grass cutting, and about £600 for other work. The PC approved the continuing use of Dorset Works in the first instance.

Open Spaces - Blanchards Solicitors had provided a map provided by WDDC, highlighting the areas which are likely to pass to the PC. Mr Simons will copy this and send it to other Councillors for their comments. Before the next PC meeting, Mr Simons will pass these to

WDDC via the solicitors. £65,000 is the amount provided for on-going maintenance of the land. The Clerk was requested to find details of contacts for provision of equipment for the MUGA..

Proposal to employ a fencing contractor to mend gate posts in Wildlife Reserve-It was agreed by all to allow up to £300 for this repair. A further picnic bench was not considered necessary for the Nature Reserve. An 'uneven ground' sign was not considered necessary, but a majority agreed that a 'deep water' sign and a life buoy were needed. It was agreed that, due to the danger of dogs ripping the pond liner, they should be banned from the Nature Reserve. Councillors agreed that sand from the Orchard can be taken away by anyone who wants it.

Weed control - It was agreed that spot treatment, using 'Pastor', should be implemented, prior to a scheme being developed for 2009 weed treatment.

2008/174 TENNIS COURTS-CONSIDERATION OF PROBLEM RE.REMOVAL OF PADLOCKS - A notice would be displayed asking the public to remove privately owned padlocks from the back dates by 30 September, or they would be disposed of.

2008/175 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE - Mr Horsington informed the meeting that the SID is at Godmanstone and working well.

2008/176 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION -Mr Simons explained that elderly neighbours in bungalows in North Street have been maintaining a piece of land which belongs neither to them or DCC. There is now concern that the height of trees and shrubs is becoming a problem, and Councillors were asked their thoughts on whether the PC should provide trimming. A contractor (Mr Andrews) had been found who could do the job for about £100. After discussion, it was decided that, whilst sympathetic to the problem, as the land is not in the ownership of the PC, a precedent should not be set by offering maintenance free of charge. The Clerk was asked to inform the residents and to also pass on to them the details of the contractor.

Mr Ellis informed the PC that a volunteer day at the orchard and wildlife area would be held on either 21 or 28 September.

Mr Gulliford reminded those present of the importance of using the Post Office if it is to stand a chance of survival in the next round of cuts in three years time.

Mrs House drew attention to a hazardous hole at the bottom of Prince's Plot, Mill Lane . It has been unevenly filled in with rubble. The Clerk will report to DCC.

Mr Horsington reminded everyone of the Ironman Triathlon on 6 September.

Members were reminded of the meeting about the Charlton Down bus shelter on Friday 13 September. All are invited.

2008/177 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4 November 2008 at 7.30pm at Charlton Down Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10pm.