

CHARMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 3rd March 2009 in Charlton Down Village Hall at 7.30pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Mr M Simons (Chair), Mr I Vincent (Vice-Chair), Mr K Beeson, Mr M Ellis, Mr P Hopford, Mrs J House, Mr P Hanson, Mr M Ostridge, Mrs C Horne, (from 8.30) Mr D Gulliford,

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr F Horsington (District Councillor), and 10 members of the public.

Councillor Keith Beeson volunteered and was appointed Minutes Clerk for the meeting.

2009/020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for lateness had been received from D Gulliford.

Apologies for absence had been received from District Councillor Sarah East.

2009/021 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Peter Hopford proposed and Mike Ostridge seconded that the two current vacancies in North Ward be filled by Mr T Mackle and Mr B Charmin, and that the vacancy that will arise from the non-attendance of Keith Bendall will be filled by Crayston Lee once the protocols have been completed by WDDC and no call for an election made. This was agreed unanimously.

Tony Mackle was given the appropriate documentation to sign and joined the council.

Brian Charmin will be sent the documentation.

ACTION: Clerk to send

2009/022 RECRUITING NEW CLERK

Following the resignation of Julia Gear, Peter Hopford proposed and Mark Simons seconded that Sarah Engerran, a previously interviewed applicant, be offered the post at £10.07 per hour, but with additional flexibility in terms of hours so that an additional 20 hours per month can be worked with the prior agreement of the Chair, with a review of pay and conditions after 6 months, and with the opportunity of a detailed briefing from the Chair, Peter Hopford and Aileen Heckford before signing the contract. Agreed unanimously.

ACTION: Chair, Peter Hopford and Aileen Heckford

2009/023 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Peter Hopford and Keith Beeson declared an interest in 025 North Street.

2009/024 MINUTES

The minutes were confirmed and signed after amending 2009/005 to delete the word "committee" (proposed by Keith Beeson and seconded by Mark Ellis).

2009/007 to replace the words "assist the Chairman by setting this meeting up" by the words "take the lead" (proposed by Keith Beeson and seconded by Mark Ellis and carried by 2:0.)

2008/025 MATTERS ARISING

Matters arising from minutes of 2nd January 2009, as advised by the Clerk, not appearing elsewhere on the agenda.

Charlton Down nameplates: still awaiting response from statutory undertakings.

Herrison Road and C12 signs: still await action by DC Highways.

Finger Post at Broken Cross: still await action by DC Highways.

VAT: outstanding reclaimable VAT has been actioned.

Broken Cross football nets: have been ordered.
Oak Tree in Conservation Area: has been purchased.
Bench for Tennis Court: agreed that it should be purchased.

ACTION: Clerk to issue order

1. Bollards at CD Village Hall

It was agreed that the Chair should write to Bellway requesting action.

ACTION: Chair to write

2. North Street Update

The Chair elaborated on his email note and the disappointment that DCC Highways is not to carry out the previously advised routine maintenance through the village and refused to accompany councillors in an inspection of the road.

Peter Hopford proposed and Keith Beeson seconded the proposal that the Chair should write to DCC Councillor John Peake asking him to join councillors in an inspection with a view to putting pressure on officers to apply resources to North Street.

ACTION: Chair to contact John Peake

2009/026

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Claire Williams spoke to councillors having previously circulated a document on a proposed Group to be based at Charminster Village Hall every Thursday (10-1), as from 18th March 2009.

Mark Ellis and Phil Hanson proposed a one-off grant of £100 to fund initial expenses. Agreed unanimously.

ACTION: Acting Clerk to issue cheque immediately

2009/027

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

It is thought that new posts outside CM Village Hall are associated with a new school crossing sign.

Details of the Clerk and frequency of meetings were incorrect in the last recent issue of The Dorset Echo

ACTION: Chair to contact Barbara Phillips.

It was agreed that the maintenance and location of Salt Bins be reviewed at a subsequent meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to note

It was reported that the road surface in parts of North Street, particularly in Higher Charminster, is now posing a hazard. This was agreed and will be included within the council's action plan for North Street.

The Council was advised that the public meeting to set up a youth group is planned for 6th March at the Cricket Club.

2009/028

PCSO SARAH PILCHER'S REPORT

No report or apologies

2009/029

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Councillor Horsington)

WDDC Council Tax increase has been reduced from the original planned 3.89% to 2.5%. WDDC is seeking more financial information before deciding which of two sites should be selected for its offices.

There are uncertainties over an opening date for a new pool at Thomas Hardy School.

2009/030

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT .

No report or apologies

2009/031

CHURCHYARD FOOTPATH

The Chair has been delayed in drawing up plans and Peter Hopford proposed and Claire Horne seconded that a budget of £200 be made available so that the Chair can commission someone to carry out this work and hence avoid further delays.

ACTION: Chair to commission

2009/032

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. The Financial Statement showing a balance of £38,505.58 was noted.
2. Payments made since the last meeting (cheques 1581 to 1612) were noted and their approval was proposed by Phil Hanson and seconded by Dave Gulliford. Agreed.
ACTION: Mark Ellis agreed to install the new winder for the tennis nets.
3. Donations. Claire Horne proposed and Mark Ellis seconded that the draft list of donations for 2008/9 as proposed in the documentation but amended as follows be approved. Agreed unanimously.

Grants and Donations 2008/9

	£
Village Hall Charminster	747.00
Village Hall Charlton Down	373.00
Charlton Down Brownies	100.00
Charminster Pre-School	200.00
Charminster Brownies	100.00
Charminster Scout Group (Beavers)	100.00
Charminster Scout Group (Cubs)	100.00
St Marys School Charminster	400.00
1 st Charminster Guides	100.00
1 st Frampton Guides (Charm Rainbows)	100.00
S137 Donations (orgs outside Parish)	
Dorchester CAB	175.00
West Dorset Women's Refuge	110.00

ACTION: Acting Clerk to issue cheques

4. Auditor advice on banking. Advice is awaited. Keith Beeson proposed and Mark Ellis seconded the proposition that any advice to move any of the parish council's funds from any of the existing accounts to one or more alternative accounts be acted on immediately.
ACTION: Clerk to note
5. Finance & General Purposes. The Advisory Committee has not met since the previous meeting. Keith Beeson proposed and Mark Ellis seconded that it should meet to provide recommendations on the 2009-10 budget (including donations), member expenses and file types. Agreed unanimously.
ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

2009/033

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE SOUTH WARD
Nothing to report

2009/034

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE NORTH WARD

1. Pub application. It was noted that although there were concerns, approval was registered on the basis that it was probably the only viable option
2. An application has been received in relation to conservatory at 14 Mulberry Road. Ian Vincent proposed and Mark Ellis seconded that "no objection" be registered. Agreed unanimously.
ACTION: Clerk to note

- 2009/035 **BUS SHELTERS**
 1. Broken Cross. The vandalism damage debris was removed and made safe thanks to DCC. Keith Beeson proposed and Dave Gulliford seconded-that the quote from Queensberry for £200 to supply and fit replacement glass be accepted.
 ACTION: Clerk to issue order
2. Sherren Avenue. Mark Ellis proposed and Ian Vincent seconded that a £2812 quote for a 3 metre shelter coloured black with back and half end panels be accepted. Agreed. It was noted that a DCC grant of £800 applies.
 ACTION: Clerk to issue order
3. North Street (by Telephone Box) . It was agreed, after a proposal from Jane House seconded by Claire Horne, that the South Ward Amenities Advisory Committee should make recommendations on the refurbishment of this shelter and the shelter in Upper Charminster, and any other shelter requirements in Charminster. It was further agreed that the Chair should write to BT with regards to the condition of the Telephone Box in North Street.
 ACTION: Chair to write.
- 2009/036 **TENNIS COACH**
 It was proposed by Peter Hopford and seconded by Claire Horne a) that the tennis coach be provided with a key to the courts and b) that anyone using the courts, including those receiving coaching, must pay the full fee. Agreed.
 The Chair advised that he had had sight of a satisfactory CRB document and insurance.
 ACTION: clerk to provide duplicate key and advise
- 2009/037 **VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN**
 1. It was proposed by Dave Gulliford and seconded by Jane House that Chair should write to WDDC to request that North Street through Charminster be swept to make it safe. Agreed.
 ACTION: Chair to write.
2. It was proposed by Mark Ellis and seconded by Jane House that the parish join the campaign with a day on Saturday 18th April (10-12), supported by the two Amenity Advisory Committees and advertised in the Pilot. Agreed.
 ACTION: Chair to include an item in the Pilot Chairs of the Amenities Committees to plan local activities.
- 2009/038 **WIER VIEW TRAFFIC SURVEY**
 A letter has been received from DCC indicating that as only 69 heavy vehicles were recorded in a 7 day period, no action was planned.
- 2009/039 **NWAAC MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR ORCHARD AND WILDLIFE AREA**
 Both proposed plans were agreed with an amendment concerning the frequency of hedge cutting so that the Herrison Road hedge be cut every year and elsewhere in the orchard be cut every two years. Two quotes had been received that deliver these management plans and it was proposed by Mark Ellis and seconded by Mark Simons that the quoted costings from Wessex Garden Services be accepted within a maximum total overall budget of £2000 pa (including Herrison Road hedge cut). Agreed.
 ACTION: Clerk to issue order
- 2009/040 **AMENITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE SOUTH**
 Nothing arising from the minutes of 18th February 2009.
- 2009/041 **AMENITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE NORTH**
 1. When the orchard signs are being rounded up the contractor should be asked to check the security in the ground and install deeper if necessary.

2. A cheque has been received from the Allotment Society and clarification of the justification of the amount has been requested. It was agreed that the Allotment Society should provide the Clerk with contact details of the Committee Members and that the Clerk be routinely advised of allotment vacancies so that all residents of the parish can be made aware.

ACTION: Clerk to make contact with the Society
Clerk to put Allotments on the next agenda

3. New padlocks have been obtained for the deer gate and the orchard.

4. Keith Beeson proposed and Jane House seconded that KB should meet Don Rousell with a view to inspecting the orchard trees' pruning and making a recommendation as to the continued use of Mr Squirrel or the acceptance of Mr Rousell's offer to prune free of charge. Agreed.

ACTION: KB to liaise with JH to make an appointment with Mr Rousell

5. Mark Ellis proposed and Mike Ostridge seconded that 30 - 36"x 2" x 2" Oak Stakes be purchased for the labels identifying each tree in the Orchard within a budget of £600. Agreed by a majority.

ACTION: Clerk to issue order once specifications are clarified

6. Mark Ellis proposed and Jane House seconded that spiral rabbit protectors be purchased for the orchard within a £60 budget. Agreed.

ACTION: Clerk to issue order.

2009/042

OPEN SPACE NEGOTIATIONS

A letter from the Senior Legal Executive of WDDC of 3rd March 2009 explicitly refusing to fund any works on the junction of the access road to the Cricket or the road itself was noted.

The three basic options were discussed, with the Chair allowing members of the public to contribute: not accepting any of the open spaces, the access road and other footpaths; accepting the green spaces alone; accepting the green spaces together with all or some of the WDDC owned roads and paths.

In view of a wide range of views being expressed, and because WDDC was still not in a position to transfer any of the green spaces to the parish council, Peter Hopford proposed and Phil Hanson seconded that an extraordinary council meeting be arranged at the earliest possible convenient date at Charlton Down Village Hall at which the options, possible costs and impacts on Council Tax can be discussed with the widest range of local residents, and following which the Parish Council would make a decision on the issue. Agreed.

It was further agreed that the agenda should be limited to the issues of acquiring the open spaces, the access road and other WDDC assets, and improvements to the junction, and would not include uses that could be made of the land and capital assets should the parish council acquire them.

ACTION: Chair to arrange date with the clerk

Chair to liaise with Tony Mackle to obtain some ballpark figures for improving the junction with Herrison Road, for improving/maintaining the access road, for improving/maintaining the pathways to Charlton Down Village Hall and for associated lighting (as far as the proposed MUGA).

2009/043

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

Volunteers are required to assist Ian Vincent

ACTION: clerk to have SID as an agenda item for the next meeting

2009/044

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

1. The Chair had correspondence available councillors to read.

2. Chair advised of vandalism at Princes Plot and of the large quantities of debris that he has had to remove and seats that needed to be replaced/repared.

3. Charlton Down Village Hall is applying for a grant to improve the lighting/sound and Keith Beeson proposed and Peter Hopford seconded that the Chair should write a letter in

support of the application. Agreed. 1 abstention

ACTION: Chair to write as appropriate

4. A meeting to discuss options for parking and parking control in Charlton Down has taken place. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item at the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to note.

2009/045

NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting will take place on Tuesday 5th May at 7.30pm at Charminster Village Hall (Annual General Meeting).

Cllr Jane House apologised in advance for absence.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm