

**Draft Minutes of Meeting of Charminster Parish Council held on
Tuesday 3rd November 2009 at 7.30pm Charlton Down Village Hall**

Present: Mark Simons (Chair) (MS), Tony Mackle (Vice-Chair) (TM), Keith Beeson (KB), Brian Charman (BC), Dave Gulliford (DG), Mark Ellis (ME), Claire Horne (CH), Jane House (JH) Crayston Lee (CL)

Sarah Engerran (Clerk)

Also in attendance: County Councillor Jill Haynes (JHa), District Councillor Sarah East (SE), District Councillor Fred Horsington (FH), PCSO Sarah Pilcher and 6 members of the public.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7:30pm.

2009/133 Declarations of Interest

There were no expressions of interest.

2009/134 Apologies: Phil Hanson, Peter Hopford, Mike Ostridge and Ian Vincent.

2009/135 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2009

KB proposed that the minutes be approved. All were in favour. MS signed and dated the minutes.

2009/136 Matters arising from the above minutes

ME asked if a reply had been received from Bellway following the Parish Council's letter regarding building the MUGA under licence. The clerk confirmed that no reply had yet been received.

2009/137 Public Discussion Period

MS temporarily suspended the meeting at 7.35pm and there followed a period of public discussion. The subject of communication was discussed. It was agreed that the Charminster website (www.charminster.info) was very out of date. It was agreed that the clerk would make some enquiries about building a new website that the clerk would be responsible for maintaining.

Action: Clerk to investigate costs of new website

The Parish Council were asked if a letter had been sent to Bellway regarding building the MUGA under licence. It was confirmed that this letter had been sent but no reply had been received as yet. SE confirmed that the Section38 agreement had now been signed which meant that Bellway had now handed over all the roads to Dorset County Council. MS explained that the delay in signing the S38 had resulted in the transfer of the open spaces being held up. It was agreed that SE would arrange for Vivienne Jenkins (WDDC Legal Dept) to attend the next Parish Council Meeting if things had not progressed.

Action: SE to arrange for Vivienne Jenkins to attend meeting on 1st Dec

The meeting was then reconvened by MS at 7.45pm

2009/138 PCSO Report

PCSO Pilcher spoke about starting a Homewatch scheme in Charminster and Charlton Down. She explained that she had recently set up a scheme in Martinstown. If a similar scheme did go ahead, it would require a co-ordinator from each area and then members from different roads within the two villages. It was agreed that PCSO Pilcher would put an article in the Pilot and the Parish Council would write about it on the back page of the Pilot. PCSO Pilcher will provide the clerk with figures relating to burglaries over the last couple of years in both Charminster and Charlton Down.

PCSO Pilcher to provide clerk with figures for burglary

DG asked PCSO Pilcher if it would be possible to do speed checks at Lower Burton near the Sun Inn during rush hour. BC suggested doing the same opposite Forston Clinic near where the school bus picks up children.

KB asked how many accidents there had been on North Street recently. PCSO Pilcher stated that not all accidents were reported to the police and she would encourage everyone to report accidents so they can go in the record books. It was pointed out by County Councillor Jill Haynes that the statistics that get passed to Dorset County Council only include accidents where personal injuries have occurred so are not a true reflection of the actual number of accidents.

2009/139 District Councillor's Report

SE confirmed that following the meeting of the Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan, the design of Dorchester Junctions will not take place until the designers have finished their work connected to the Weymouth Relief Road. SE stated that WDDC were still working closely with DCC in relation to the Waste Strategy which aimed to make waste collection more efficient. JH asked SE if plastic bottles would be included in kerbside recycling. SE did not see it happening in the near future.

2009/140 County Councillor's Report

JHa had nothing to add to SE's report other than decisions on revised budgets would probably not happen until February. MS and JHa informed the meeting that resurfacing work was due to take place on the A37 between Charminster and the bypass. The work was due to start on 9th November and last for 2 weeks. It was felt that these road works would possibly increase the traffic coming through Charminster so it was agreed that PCSO Pilcher would arrange for cones to be placed near the dropped kerb opposite the railings to prevent people parking too close to the crossroads. The school crossing patrol person has complained that her visibility is reduced when cars park there.

Action: PCSO to arrange for cones

2009/141 Planning Matters

There were no planning applications to discuss.

2009/142 Finance

a) Finance Statement (appendix 2)

DG stated that the £120 set aside for the removal of the tree in the Broken Cross play area could be removed as this work was now being done free of charge by SEC.

ME requested that a running total of income from the tennis courts be included.

b) Payments made since last meeting (appendix 3)

KB proposed that the payments be accepted. All were in favour.

c) & d) Precept and Audit Report

MS explained that the precept had to be applied for by 11th December and it was agreed that this was a matter for the F&GP committee to discuss prior to the next Parish Council Meeting. MS also explained that there are some issues that need reviewing following the external audit including fidelity guarantee insurance, risk assessment and review of internal audit.

MS proposed that both the precept and audit report be discussed at an F&GP Meeting to be arranged prior to meeting on 1st December. A majority were in favour.

Action: F&GP meeting to be arranged

2009/143 SWAAC Recommendations from the South Ward Amenities Advisory Committee – appendix 5

a) The revised grass cutting contracts were discussed. ME stated the contract should include the removal of rubbish dumped at any of the sites. It was agreed not to include this as contractors would have to quote for potentially removing very large amounts of rubbish which may not occur. ME questioned why it had been decided to ask for areas to be strimmed and not sprayed. It was agreed that it was a health and safety issue and spraying should not take place near where children play.

MS proposed accepting the revised contracts. All were in favour.

Action: Clerk to send out tender documents to those who have expressed an interest in the contracts.

2009/144 NWAAC Recommendations from the North Ward Amenities Advisory Committee - appendix 6

a) The revised allotment rules were discussed. ME asked how the rules could be recommended by the NWAAC when the committee had not met. The clerk stated that as the matter had been referred back to the NWAAC at a previous Parish Council Meeting, she had believed the meeting that was arranged with the Allotment Society had been a NWAAC meeting. It was agreed that whether or not it had been a NWAAC meeting, it did not affect being able to make a decision on the document at this meeting.

MS explained that notes from the meeting with Charlton Down Allotment Society (CDAS) had been circulated by the clerk along with the suggested amendments to the rules. He also stated that since those documents were circulated KB had circulated a document which included re-written rules. MS felt that the timing of this document had been unfortunate as it would have been preferable to examine it at the meeting with CDAS. KB felt it was important not to accept the suggested amendments without reviewing his proposals as the document as it stands does not make clear the contractual relationship between CPC and CDAS. CL proposed accepting the suggested amendments and that KB's proposals should be reviewed at some point in the future. 6 were in favour. ME and TM abstained. KB was against accepting the document.

b) Greenhouses

MS explained that CDAS had requested permission to allow greenhouses to be erected on the allotment site. The Clerk confirmed she had spoken to Dorchester Town Council who allows greenhouses on 5 out of 6 of its sites. KB was concerned that the number of stones on the site would increase the chance of glass being smashed. BC felt the glass could reflect the sun in drivers' eyes on the top road. MS proposed that greenhouses be allowed on site. 3 were in favour, 4 were against. TM and CL abstained.

2009/145 Charminster

a) Village Hall Donation.

MS confirmed that last year CPC had donated £747 to Charminster Village Hall and £373 to Charlton Down Village Hall. He explained that a larger amount had been given to Charminster Village Hall due the extensive renovation work that had been needed. JH explained that Charminster Village Hall would like to raise the ceiling of the hall to allow racket games to be played and therefore increase the bookings. ME stated that £200 had been donated to Charlton Down Village Hall recently for a hearing aid loop and suggested that Charminster Village Hall may be required to install one too.

BC proposed that £1,000 be donated to Charminster Village Hall and £400 to Charlton Down Village Hall. A majority were in favour.

b) Maintenance of trees in Broken Cross Play Area

DG explained he had met with Southern Electric Contractors (SEC) on site and they had agreed to remove all the trees adjacent to the power lines for health and safety reasons. SEC will remove them free of charge. ME asked if any work was to be done on the trees and fence in the opposite corner following BC's suggestions. It was agreed that BC's suggestions would be reviewed once the initial tree work had been done by SEC.

c) Village Entrance Signs

MS explained that following the bricklayer's quote of £2,400 he had gone back to them to ask if they could do it for less and he had received no reply. BC proposed obtaining 3 quotes for concreting them in on their posts. A majority were in favour. ME stated that the posts need to go in deep enough to prevent them wobbling.

Action: BC to provide Clerk with suggested contractors. Clerk to obtain 3 quotes.

d) Speed Limit on C12

MS read out the letter from DCC stating that it wishes to increase the speed limit from 30mph to 40mph between the Sun Inn and Loders. MS stated that perhaps this was an opportunity to request the speed limit from the Sun Inn to junction with Vicarage Lane be decreased to 40mph. TM stated that the Network Traffic Management Department at DCC who is carrying out the review normally only review A and B roads. TM proposed CPC write to DCC and enquire

why it is reviewing a C Road. A majority were in favour. ME requested that we contact Highways to request the hedge between the Sun Inn and Lodgers is cut back.

Action: Clerk to write to DCC regarding Speed Limit and overgrown hedge

2009/146 Charlton Down

a) Salt Bins

The clerk confirmed she had requested the Salt Bins in both Charlton Down and Charminster be filled up. DCC is yet to provide a cost for new bins to be installed.

Action: Clerk to put Salt Bins on agenda for December meeting

b) Life Buoy and Nature Area Seats

MS explained that the seats in the Nature Area hadn't been installed by volunteers as originally planned. BC proposed obtaining 3 quotes from contractors to install them and the life buoy (if the life buoy hadn't already been installed). All were in favour.

Action: Clerk to obtain 3 quotes for installation of seats

c) Frames for Best Kept Village Certificates

CL confirmed the price for the frames for certificates would be £15. All were in favour of purchasing them.

Action: CL to purchase frames

d) Removable Centre Post – orchard gate

ME explained that vehicular access to the Orchard is difficult. BC had previously suggested putting in a removable centre post. ME had obtained a quote from CentreWire of approximately £86 + VAT. All were in favour of the clerk obtaining a quote for the installation of the socket.

Action: Clerk to obtain 3 quotes for installation of socket

2009/147 Protocol for contacting DCC, WDDC and other organisations

MS reminded all members that when they are contacting organisations they should go through the clerk or keep her informed of any conversations and correspondence in order to prevent duplication.

2009/148 Matters of Information and Interest and items for next agenda

It was noted that there is now a lot of fish in the pond in the nature area. ME suggested considering putting up a no fishing sign to prevent damage being done to the pond liner.

JH mentioned the large amount of watercress that has built up in the stream in Charminster. DG confirmed he has spoken to the Environment Agency but it was agreed the clerk would write to it again to put pressure on it to clear the stream.

Action: Clerk to write to Environment Agency

ME requested that a "Correspondence Received" list be circulated monthly by the clerk.

Action: Clerk to circulate a Correspondence Received List to all members

CH confirmed she had received several words of thanks for the bench that has been put inside the tennis courts. MS noted the lock on the gate padlock needed oiling. Clerk to oil lock.

Action: Clerk to oil padlock on tennis court gate

2009/149 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next parish council meeting is 1st December. MS declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm