

Minutes of the Meeting of Charminster Parish Council on Tuesday 6 March 2007 at 7.30 pm in Charminster Village Hall.

Present: Mr M Simons, Chairman (MS), Mr D Rousell, Vice Chairman (DR), Mr JR Askew (JA), Col R Brennan (RB), Ms L Clarke (LC), Mrs V Gillard (VG), Mr P Hanson (PHa), Mr P Hopford (PHo), Mrs J House (JH), Mr I Vincent (IV), and Mrs L Willis (LW).

Aileen Heckford (Clerk)

In attendance: District Councillors Sarah East (SE), and 31 members of the public.

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

The meeting was preceded by a brief introduction to Charlton Down Residents Association by Judith Spurr, new Chairperson of the Residents Association. This was followed by a short talk by Kris Hallet of Dorset Community Action. Both explained the aims of their respective organisations and how they are able to help in our community. An invitation was also issued to a meeting regarding the Open Spaces at Charlton Down on Saturday 10th February, anyone interested is welcome to attend.

2007/15 Apologies: District Councillor Fred Horsington.

2007/16 Declaration of Interests: VG declared a personal interest in 2007/20 (a) and stated that she would not be voting.

2007/17 Minutes: To confirm, sign and date the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2007. The minutes were agreed as correct and signed & dated by the Chairman.

2007/18 Clerks report on matters from the minutes of 09.01.07 meeting:

- Speed limit East Hill/West Hill –Speed Monitoring has been requested, as was confirmed at the last meeting, but there is no news of whether or not it has yet been undertaken.
- Parking next to new development site in North Street. A complaint has been received, and situation will continue to be monitored.
- Nursing Home – Still no submission of a planning application
- North Street Traffic calming –Still awaiting a date for a meeting with DCC
- Prince's Plot –Metal plates have now been purchased for the nesting boxes.
- Hedge in North Street, containing dead trees. Clerk passed information to DCC.
- Soder Lane – Re-naming to Drakes Lane. After liaison with the street-naming officer at WDDC it has been ascertained that it is not impossible to rename the road again, to revert to Soder Lane, however it would require everyone with a postal address on that road to agree. The developers have been consulted and have confirmed that the new houses involved have all been sold. It is therefore unlikely (in the opinion of the street naming officer and the developers) that the new residents will agree. The feeling is that they will prefer Drakes Lane to Soder Lane.

2007/19 At 7.45pm the Chairman adjourned the meeting for the Public Discussion period - The Chairman requested any matters other than allotments which anyone would like to raise:

Clarification of the location of the hedge in North St in 2007/18

The state of the junction of Soder Lane and North Street was pointed out.

The Chairman then explained that the Parish Council had applied for Certificates of Lawful Development for the allotments for both the Paddock Land and the Option Triangle – but to date that no reply had been received from WDDC. In addition the results of the soil testing on both sites had now been received and copies were available around the room. The Chairman then requested that there should be no repetition of points previously made.

Much discussion took place with residents taking the opportunity to raise additional points:

- Consideration of the Paddock as the entrance to CD
- Possible problems with allotment management
- The Paddock Land is already a wildlife / wild flower area which could be developed

- No change since 4 years ago
- Orchard could be extended onto the Paddock Land for new children to CD
- Consideration of the demand for allotments. High? Sudden?
- Soil survey shows both sites are suitable.
- Much work involved on both sites for allotment holders.
- Visual intrusion of allotments
- NIMBY'S outlook would be directly affected.
- Parking and entrance / ease of access to Option Land.
- No-one objecting to Option Land
- Countryside is aesthetically pleasing – allotments are not
- More land availability from adjacent farmers.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.20.

2007/20 Charlton Down

a) Allotments

The Chairman added that the approximate size of the Paddock is 3500m² and the Option Land is 8127m². It was also explained that there could be tight restrictions and higher hedging.

The members discussed the comments that had already been made. Considering:

- The topsoil has not been removed from the Option land
- The costs involved combined with natural aspects such as site size, drainage and exposure
- Further option of compulsory purchase
- Visual intrusion of allotments, screening taking time to grow.
- Water retention on chalk
- Increase in numbers on waiting list
- Swell of opinion against paddock
- Soil analysis shows both sites potentially productive, with individual gardeners adding nutrients/compost
- Estimates of prices.
- Bellway have served 6 months notice on Option land
- Public Opinion

The following motion was proposed: ' The Parish Council rules out developing allotments on the Paddock Land': 8 voted in favour, 3 Abstained. Therefore motion carried.

A second motion was then proposed ' The Parish Council will proceed with the purchase of the Option Land for allotments, subject to the approval of the Allotment Society'. 5 voted in favour, 3 against and 3 abstained. The motion was carried.

b) Tennis Courts – Andrew Martin, Principal Planning Officer of WDDC had forwarded on a letter from Charlton Down Developments to him, asking for the Parish Council views on the matters raised. The letter was read out. It was agreed that the PC was happy in principal, especially with proposals for better management of the courts. However the proposed charges are not detailed, and it is felt that these need to be at acceptable levels for the whole community. The PC would like to have details of the proposed charges before expressing their agreement to the proposals.

c) Orchard – Trees have been pruned and replaced as necessary. To be noted for future reference that some posts are beginning to rot.

d) Herrison Road – Road markings have now been re-instated. This has lead to an improvement from the road safety point of view. Drain near cottage on bend to be reported to DCC.

e) Bus shelter – new position on Sherren Ave, to right hand side of Gym entrance explained. Still awaiting necessary permissions. It was proposed to spend up to £2,700 on the new shelter. The majority were in agreement.

Also to be noted that there is currently a problem with children waiting for the school bus. Suggestions to be considered at future meetings.

f) Incinerator site and Option Land sites - After discussion on the two sites it was proposed and agreed to pursue buying/ownership of the Option Land but not the Incinerator site.

2007/21 Charminster

a) North Street Traffic calming – Still awaiting meeting date from DCC

b) Broken Cross Play Area – There is no development on the legal case – it could (according to the insurance company) take 18 months to resolve. Bin to be repaired. Company that installed play equipment to be consulted concerning the rust on zip wire.

c) North Street Play Area – Report on Independent Safety Check has now been received (both play areas have been checked, at a cost of £140. This replaces the need for the annual ROSPA check, which is normally done in May at a cost of £150. It was proposed and the majority were in agreement to this change) Small jobs to be undertaken as soon as possible. Second meeting for working group to be arranged. Hope to re-open as soon as possible.

d) Prince's Plot – One of the two picnic benches needs replacing. LC is aware of possible source of replacement bench – will contact clerk with details within the week. It was proposed and the majority was in agreement to spend up to £150 on a new bench.

e) The Square – Nothing to report.

f) Orchard – All okay

g) Best Kept Village / Community Village competition – LW to again complete forms on behalf of Charminster, for which many thanks were expressed. IV to complete Best Kept Village form for CD.

2007/22 Village Entrance Signs – MS has met representatives from Highways, and received guidance from AONB. Agreed to placement of two signs at CD and one at Charminster. Each to be one panel only. Some grant funding available from AONB. To be cast signs on brick panels, with brick laying by Weymouth College as a community project. PC agreed in principle to go ahead.

2007/23 Speed Indicator Device -

In January, the County Council circulated a booklet to all Parish Councils about a new scheme, which offered neighbouring councils the opportunity to jointly purchase and operate a SID device, following suitable training. Joint ownership would not only result in cost sharing, but would also ensure that machines were moved around the area. Although SID machines do result in the lowering of average car speeds, similar variable message devices, when permanently located, have been shown to be far less effective, as motorists get used to them

Clerk has been involved in discussions with clerk of Cerne valley, and a Cllr from Cam Vale PC, regarding joint ownership of a machine that DCC has offered to supply, without charge to the 3 PC's (due to the machine provided by Ironman having been stolen). This would involve a rota between the three PC's for use, and equal division of all repair / maintenance costs if any arose.

As the machine is mobile, it has to be clamped to a suitable post- there is already one in North St, but liaison would be needed with WDDC for a post in Charlton Down. Persons designated by each Parish Council, who have been suitably trained, must do this. The machine operates off two batteries, and these need re-charging weekly. They can be removed from the machine without the need to take it down.

It will be the responsibility of the receiving Council to arrange collection and installation.

The risk of loss must be borne by the three Parish Councils.

Those involved in moving the machine would be covered against personal injury under the Parish Councils' personal injury insurance. Those using their vehicles to transport the machine will need to ensure that they are covered under their own vehicle insurance. The County Council would be responsible for any insurance claims arising out of the provision of suitable post and training, and existing public liability insurance would cover any claims against the Parish Council.

It was agreed that this is an excellent opportunity and that the Parish Council should take up the offer of the SID machine, and accept joint ownership of it. IV and MS volunteered to be trained in the machine's use and installation. It is hoped that this will be operational from May 2007, with frequent reviews of success, future use and necessary replacement.

2007/24 Annual Litter Pick – It was agreed to take part in the West Dorset Spring Litter Pick on April 21st in both Charminster and Charlton Down. Notices advertising this to be put up on notice boards and in Pilot.

2007/25 Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan - Still awaiting possible meeting dates from Tim Westwood and David Clarke. Informed that they are speaking at Charminster Residents Association AGM on 25th April. DCC to be contacted with regard to meeting dates for joint Parish Councils.

2007/26 Poundbury Development Consultation - Nothing to report

2007/27 Election – Election of Parish Councillors is to be held on Thursday 3rd May. Papers for prospective cllrs are available from the clerk or the Elections Office at WDDC. Nomination papers must be submitted to the Returning Officer at WDDC by noon on Wednesday 4th April. Notices to go in Pilot.

2007/28 Annual Report - It was agreed that the Parish Council should produce an Annual Report. This to be undertaken in April / May, and circulated to all households in the Parish through via the Pilot and the website.

2007/29 Report of the Burial Committee –

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Memorial x1 | £ 40 |
| Interment | £ - |
| Graves Purchased | £ - |
| TOTAL | £ 40 |

2007/30 Report of the Planning Committee

Applications received and Decisions of Local Planning Authority

| Number | Property | Parish Council | WDDC |
|--------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 000408 | 1/E/2006/ Land to the south of Summerhill House, Hawthorn Rd, Charlton Down Modification or discharge of an area of land from Structural Open Spaces | Object | |
| 001785 | Land adjacent to the rear of 9 North Street, Charminster Erect two dwellings and garages. | Objection | Refused |
| 002289 | 13 East Hill, Charminster Construct new vehicular access | Objection | Refused |
| 002316 | Land at North Street, Charminster Erect dwelling and garage and new vehicular access | No objection Comments made | Approved 8 conditions |
| 002340 | 13 Charlotte Close, Charminster Erect garage, driveway and Porch. Modify driveway | No objection | Approved 3 conditions |
| 002323 | 4 Poplar Drive, Charlton Down Erect conservatory | No objection | Approved 2 conditions |
| 000066 | 1/E/2007/ 7 West Hill, Charminster Install replacement wooden windows & carry out internal Alterations | | |
| 000212 | New Buildings, Wolfeton Farm, Charminster Erect agricultural workers dwelling. Erect building as garage, office, egg packing and store. Provide new access drive. | | |

Tree Applications

| | | | |
|-------------|--|---|----------------|
| TP/06/00354 | 5 Westleaze Close, Charminster Raise crown of Chestnut, & reduce height of Lime tree | No objection | Granted |
| TP/07/0007 | 4a WestLeaze Close, Charminster To shape/prune Ash tree, and to fell Horse Chestnut and replace with Magnolia | No objection re Ash Comments made re Horse Chestnut. | |
| CA/07/00009 | Oak House, East Hill, Charminster To clear branches of Oak tree, cut back Prunus, and reduce & reshape Beech tree | No objection | Granted |
| CA/07/00033 | Nursing Home Site, Charlton Down To fell 5 Horsechestnut trees, 1 Sycamore tree & 20 Ash/Maple trees. To remove large limb from 1 Beech tree | Objection | |
| TP/07/00067 | 4 Westleaze Close, Charminster To reduce the crown of 1 Hornbeam by approx. 40% | | |

2007/31 Finance Report

a) Payments made since the last meeting for confirmation.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| A Heckford (Mr McLuckie – Thank you gift) | 9.99 |
| A Heckford (Stationary) | 4.48 |
| A Heckford (Dec salary) | 360.64 |
| S Manuel (Grass cutting) (Dec payment) | 290.00 |
| I & I website | 42.23 |
| D Rousell (CD orchard – replacement trees) | 44.00 |
| A Heckford (Jan salary) | 364.67 |
| DCTP (clerk training) | 25.00 |
| WDDC (Allotments – Paddock , Cert of Dev) | 132.50 |
| WDDC (Allotments – Option land , Cert of Dev) | 132.50 |
| S Manuel (Grass cutting) (Jan payment) | 290.00 |
| | |
| Total | £1,696.01 |

Payment received: Tax Refund

£4437.70

All in agreement that the above payments be accepted.

| | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Balance as at 27 th February 2007: | £18,218.21 | Post Office Account |
| | £ 3,511.01 | Lloyds Account |
| | £ 18.88 | Petty Cash |
| | £21,748.10 | |

This amount includes £5,318.00 which has already been allocated:

Money Already Allocated:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| North Street tiles | 400.00 |
| Clerk | 730.00 |
| Grass cutting | 580.00 |
| Hall Hire | 20.00 |
| Quality Council work | 195.00 |
| Basket Ball Hoop | 150.00 |
| Replacement Trees | 50.00 |
| Waste bins | 400.00 |
| BX bus shelter | 2668.00 |
| Play Area Safety Insp | 100.00 |

Nesting Box plaques 25.00

- b) Costs Agreed: Clerks DAPTC training - £25.00.
 Clerks overtime for January and February – 20 hours each month
 Clerks pay rate increase from 1st April to SCP
 Donation to CD Brownies £110
 Allotment expenditure – 2 x Certificate of Lawful Development - £265
 Soil analysis - £380

All costs listed were agreed.

A Finance Committee meeting to be arranged.

- c) Renewal of Grounds Maintenance 3 year contract – Three tenders have been received and were discussed. It was proposed that Steve Manuel, the existing contractor, continue undertaking the work. This was agreed with the majority in favour.

2007/32 District Councillor's Report

SE confirmed that the secretary of State had signed the papers, but they had not yet been received, regarding the MUGA. District Cllrs are currently involved in the battle to keep rural Post Offices. It was also explained that it was election time for District Cllrs in May: Sarah wished to thank MS the chairman, DR the Vice chair, and JA the former PC chairman for all their hard work and involvement, and that hopefully they would be able to continue working together.

2007/33 County Councillor's Report: None

2006/104 Reports of Representatives

- a) Village Halls: C/D: AGM is on 14th March.
 Charminster: Funding still needed
- b) Transport Representative – Door to door service due to start soon
- c) Rights of Way Officer – Nothing to report
- d) Ancient Monuments Liaison Officer –Nothing to report.
- e) St Mary's First School – Report was circulated to cllrs. Copies available from clerk.

2006/105 Matters for Information and Items for next agenda.

- WPC Rhian Toms, to attend Annual Parish Meeting
- North St development legal agreement has now been received
- Flood warning received. Information pack to go to LW
- Tree splitting, into river, at higher Charminster. Environment Agency to be informed.

2007/16 Date of next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 3rd April
Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 8th May
Both to be held at Herrison Hall, Charlton Down.

Meeting closed at 10:15pm

Date:

Chairman: