

**Charminster Parish Council Meeting
Charlton Down Village Hall
7th July 2015 7.30pm**

Minutes

Present: Mark Simons (MS) (Chair), Carol Matthews(CM) (Vice Chair), Keith Beeson (KB), Iain Young (IY), Peter White (PW), Crayston Lee (CL), Tom Beauchamp (TB), Sandie Woodrow (SW), Susie Pearson (SP), Caroline Elliman (CE), Richard East (RE), Sarah Hopcroft (SH), Tim Yarker (TY).

Also present: Sarah Davies (Clerk), Zoe Huckle (Clerk), Fred Horsington, PCSO Sarah Pilcher and colleague and 1 member of the public.

MS welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7.30pm.

2015/102 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

2015/103 To consider grant of dispensations

None received.

2015/104 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from County Councillor Jill Haynes.

2015/105 Fred Horsington and Jo Witherden to talk about Neighbourhood Plans

This item was moved further down the agenda as Fred was not present at this point in the meeting.

2015/106 To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd June, 15th June and 23rd June 2015

Approval for the minutes of the 2nd June was proposed by CM and seconded by TB, the majority voted in favour. Approval for the minutes of 15th June was proposed by KB and seconded by CM, the majority voted in favour with 1 abstention. Approval for the minutes of 23rd June was proposed by CM and seconded by IY, the majority voted in favour with 3 abstentions.

All minutes were signed by MS as a correct record.

MS took this opportunity to welcome the new Clerk, Zoe Huckle, and confirmed that new contact details would be sent out as soon as possible.

Action: Clerk to send out contact details

2015/107 Matters arising from the above minutes

The meeting to discuss the cycleway between Charlton Down and Charminster was confirmed as the 18th July.

IY raised the issue of Japanese Knotweed in Church Lane and asked for the following statement to be minuted;

"The invasive plant is not on land for which the Parish Council is responsible, so the PC does not have to take action. IY said he was confident that Symonds and Sampson, on behalf of their client in whose garden the knotweed was growing, and Dorset Highways Authority, would both do what was necessary to eradicate the menace."

Discussion followed regarding the responsibility for the area of the riverbank to the east of the church and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Environment Agency and Dorset Highways Authority to remind them to treat the problem as necessary.

Action: Clerk to write to both parties

At this point in the meeting Fred Horsington had arrived and the agenda item 2015/105 was returned to.

2015/105 Fred Horsington and Jo Witherden to talk about Neighbourhood Plans

Jo Witherden was not in attendance.

Fred informed the Council about Neighbourhood Plans. He stressed that Neighbourhood Plans were all about deciding where local people wanted development to take place in their community. He explained if development wasn't wanted there was no point in doing a Neighbourhood Plan. He emphasized the importance of consultation within the community and the need to consider carefully whether a plan would be necessary or not. He referred to his experience of creating a Neighbourhood Plan at Cerne Abbas, which was challenging but he felt it had been useful in that instance to protect the size of the village. He informed Councillors that a steering group made up of ordinary members of the community, not Parish Councillors, would be necessary and that to create a Neighbourhood Plan would take up to 18 months or more. Fred offered to do a full presentation to the public if required.

Discussion focused on whether Charminster, which had recently agreed 70 new homes outside the development boundary, with 25 affordable homes was really looking for any further development in the foreseeable future. After some discussion about the Neighbourhood Plan SW proposed waiting to see what the revised Local Plan proposed for Charminster Parish Council and then discuss further at that point before making a decision. CM seconded. The proposal was agreed 5 to 4 with 3 abstentions.

The meeting was suspended at 8.15pm.

2015/108 Public Discussion Period

There were no comments from members of the public.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.15pm

2015/109 District Councillors Report

TY confirmed that the consultation period for the local plan would be 6 weeks. He also went on to update the Councillors on the Charles Street Development in Dorchester, and East Hill bridge which he was able to confirm was back on schedule and the work due to be completed by the end of October 2015. Fred Horsington gave a brief update on the West Dorset Partnership whom had reported a shortfall in their budget for this year but should be back in the black next year. He also informed the Councillors that the Rampisham site had been called in by the Secretary of State and an enquiry would be held sometime in the future.

2015/110 County Councillors Report

County Councillor Jill Haynes was not in attendance.

MS asked PCSO Sarah Pilcher if she had anything to add. She had nothing to add except to congratulate CM on continuing with the community speed watch. SP mentioned an incident she had witnessed on the C12, PCSO Pilcher would email traffic colleagues.

2015/111 Planning Matters

**WD/D/15/001424 – Shire Cottage, Charm Valley Cottages, Wolfeton, Eweleaze Road
(Single storey side and rear extension)**

PW and IY felt the impact on neighbours would be low, however they confirmed that they had not had time for consultation.

After some discussion, PW recommended the Parish Council raises no objection. TB Seconded and the majority agreed.

At this point PCSO Sarah Pilcher and colleague left the meeting.

WD/D/14/002611 Land Adjacent to Slyers Lane (Erection of 6 wind turbines)

TY spoke about the report. KB proposed the Parish Council offer no further comment. SW seconded. 7 voted in favour with 6 abstentions.

2015/112 Finance

a) Financial statement – appendix 2

MS signed the bank statements.

b) Payments made since the last meeting – appendix 3

CM proposed the financial statement (appendix 2) and the payments made (appendix 3) be accepted. SH seconded. Majority in favour with 1 abstention.

c) DAPTC Annual Subscription

KB proposed continuing the subscription to DAPTC at a cost of £717.45. SW seconded. All in favour.

d) New Clerk's course in September

CM proposed to allow up to £50 to cover the cost of the new Clerk's course. CE seconded. All in favour.

e) Mobile Phone for Clerk

TY proposed contract up to £30 a month. CM seconded. The majority agreed.

f) Printer for Clerk

SD suggested the Clerk should have a laser black and white only printer. The Clerk would look for the best deal. CM proposed expenditure up to £100, KB seconded and the majority agreed.

2015/113 Charlton Down

a) Maple Drive hedge

CM proposed that Maple Drive hedge be added to Land Products contract and to get a quote from them for the future. SW seconded and the majority voted in favour with 2 abstentions.

b) Proposed Bike Track for MUGA field

The District planners had requested a three dimensional plan and a full survey in addition to all the plans supplied with the pump track planning application. The pump track designers and builders were unable to provide this. This had led the council to consider not pursuing the pump track but looking to create alternative facilities for biking on the Lower Field. CM had contacted Fenland Leisure. They were able to provide low wooden apparatus (jumps, balance beams etc.) that could be spread around the perimeter of the Lower Field without the need for planning permission. CM proposed consulting the community over the coming weeks with a view to the equipment being installed during the third week of August. She also proposed the scheme should go ahead, subject to a satisfactory public consultation, at a cost no more than £15,000. TY seconded. All in favour.

c) Sail Canopies for tables on MUGA field

It was agreed to consider this option at a later date.

d) Grass verge adjacent to Herrison Health Club

As with Maple Drive, this verge would be added to the Land Products contract.

2015/114 Charminster

a) Charminster Farm site

MS was able to confirm that the draft 106 had been sent to developers by our solicitors and that he was awaiting a response. It was agreed that a meeting would be called to discuss any changes when the document arrives.

b) Dog fouling

CM proposed obtaining 'Keep Britain Tidy' posters and spray as previously discussed up to the value of £50. SH seconded. The majority agreed.

2015/115 Matters of information and interest and items for next agenda

SH mentioned the nets at Broken Cross Play Area were really badly damaged. CM confirmed that agreement to go ahead on replacing them had already been agreed. SH asked about safety issues and was informed that she should liaise with the Clerk regarding these issues. It was agreed that MS would look at the damaged matting under the swings at the North Street Play Area.

SP informed the Parish Council that the tree obstructing the view up the road near Burn View had been removed.

CM informed the Parish Council that the 2nd Apple Pressing would take place on the 27th September. She would create posters to advertise the event.

2015/116 Date of next meeting

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 1st September at Charminster Village Hall at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

After the meeting MS took the opportunity to thank SD, the outgoing Clerk, for her hard work and dedication over the past 6 years. She would be missed by all. SD was presented with flowers, a gift and card.