

**Charminster Parish Council meeting Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
held virtually online via Zoom at 7.00pm**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Mark Simons (MS) (Chair), Carol Matthew (CM) (Vice-Chair), Keith Beeson (KB), Peter Dangerfield (PD), Richard East (RE), Sue Fraser (SF), Alan Rolls (AR), Richard Wareham (RW) and Tim Yarker (TY)

**Also in attendance:** Sarah Davies (Clerk) and 2 members of the public

The Clerk welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7.03pm

2021/057 **To elect a Chairman**

CM proposed Mark Simons as Chair. PD seconded. Majority in favour.

2021/058 **To elect a Vice-Chairman**

MS proposed Carol Matthews. KB seconded. Majority in favour.

2021/059 **Declarations of Interest** – to record declarations of interest in any item on the agenda.

2021/060 **To consider grant of dispensations**

None received.

2021/061 **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Geri Brown and David Taylor.

2021/062 **Co-option of South Ward Councillor**

MS informed the meeting that he, PD, TY and CM and the Clerk had interviewed two excellent candidates for the South Ward Vacancy. As the North Ward has had three vacancies for several months now and only 1 position has been filled CM suggested co-opting both candidates, one to South Ward and one to North Ward. The Clerk confirmed she had checked with the Elections Department at Dorset Council that this is allowed.

PD proposed co-opting Louisa Payne to South Ward and Julie Jackson to North Ward. CM seconded. Majority in favour. KB abstained.

2021/063 **To approve the minutes** of the meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

KB proposed the minutes be approved. AR seconded. Majority in favour. MS signed and dated the minutes.

2021/064 **Matters arising from the above minutes**

The Clerk confirmed she had received a reply from a Planning Officer working on the Local Plan about the size of the proposed wind turbines. Her reply stated that COM11 relates to the possibility of small-scale wind development. Whereas figures 6.5 and 6.6 were potential areas for large scale wind energy developments. CM proposed our response to COM11 be amended to read that although there are no real concerns about small wind turbines, the Parish Council would have concerns over large scale turbines on this site due to the visual intrusion. A recent planning application for wind turbines on this site was rejected by West Dorset District Council. PD seconded. Majority in favour. 1 abstention.

2021/065 **Public Discussion Period**

MS suspended the formal part of the meeting at 7.25pm. There were no questions or comments from the public. MS resumed the formal part of the meeting at 7.26pm

2021/066 **Councillors to serve on Committees**

Finance & General Purposes Advisory Committee: Chair, Vice-Chair, KB, RE and RW

South Ward Planning Committee: Chair, Vice-Chair, PD, TY and Julie Jackson

North Ward Planning Committee: Chair, Vice-Chair, GB and SF

Community Hall Committee: Chair Vice-Chair, TY, Louisa and Julie + 4 members of the public

South Ward Amenities Advisory Committee: All members

North Ward Amenities Advisory Committee: All members

CM proposed the above list be accepted. KB seconded. All in favour.

2021/067 **Representatives**

Charminster Village Hall: RE  
Charlton Down Village Hall: CM  
Rights of Way Officers: MS, GB, RE  
Trees Officers: MS (South Ward), CM (North Ward)  
Flood Wardens: TY, CM, Bob Brinton  
Charminster Fete: PD/TY

CM proposed the above list be accepted. KB seconded. All in favour.

2021/068 **Annual Cemetery Report**

<b>Income</b>	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Interments	3	8	8	5
Ashes only	3	1	3	3
Advance grave purchase	3	0	5	1
Memorials placed	6	6	9	12
Total	£1,840	£3,355	£4,960	£2,860

<b>Expenditure</b>	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Grass Cutting	£2544.00	£2544.00	2544.00	1908.00 *
Other maintenance	£62.50	£1124.36	0.00	65.00
Wheelie Bin Costs	£299.06	£323.00	340.80	355.00
Total	£2905.56	£3,991.36	£2,884.80	£2,328

\* grass cutting costs for 2021-21 are lower due to invoices not being submitted

The annual cemetery report was noted. Members agreed that the cemetery needs some improvements e.g. gates and railings need painting, pathways need tidying. MS, CM and the Clerk will meet at the cemetery to decide on works needed.

2021/069 **Planning Matters**

P/HOU/02021/00129 – 12 Vicarage Lane, Charminster (erection of single storey rear and side flat roof extension)

RE proposed the Parish Council raise no objection to the application. TY seconded. Majority in favour.

P/VOC/2021/00267 – Land Adjacent to Linch Close

Members agreed not to comment on the application.

2021/070 **Finance**

a) Financial Statement

MS confirmed he had seen sight of the bank statement and it matches the figures provided by the Clerk in the financial statement.

b) Payments to be agreed

CM proposed accepting the financial statement and all payments. KB seconded. All in favour.

c) Agree insurance renewal

RE proposed the Parish Council continue with its Long-term agreement with Zurich Insurance. AR seconded. All in favour.

d) F&GP Committee to meet in May

KB proposed the F&GP committee meet after 17<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the annual governance and accountability return and also an investment policy. CM seconded. Majority in favour.

**Action: Clerk to arrange meeting**

2021/071 **Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

Proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations had been circulated to all members by the Clerk prior to the meeting. They included changes to the wording in Section 5 (Banking Arrangements) to reflect the Parish Council's adoption of online payments. KB proposed the amendments be accepted. PD seconded. All in favour.

2021/072 **Charminster**

a) North Street Play Area – refurbishment

There was a detailed discussion about the two play areas in the village and the proposed area in Phase 3 of Charminster Farm. MS explained the Clerk had worked with a few companies and had circulated a proposal for the refurbishment of the North Street Play Area. In addition to the proposal was the re-painting of the existing swings and roundabout and the replacement of the baskets on the toddler swings.

KB proposed accepting the quote from Creative Play for £41,000 + £5,000 for refurbishment of existing equipment. TY seconded. All in favour.

b) Broken Cross – purchase of basket swings

It was agreed to hold a meeting with children and residents before deciding on new equipment.

**Action: Clerk to arrange meeting**

c) Add Higher Charminster Footway to maintenance contract

Item for June agenda once it is established where the wild flower sections will be.

CM requested that thanks be sent to Bob Brinton and Judy Bird for watering the new hedge plants.

**Action: Clerk to contact Bob and Judy**

2021/073 **Charlton Down**

a) Addition of play equipment suitable for toddlers on the MUGA field

Item for June agenda

2021/074 **Dorchester Civic Society Position Statement**

TY proposed that the Parish Council respond to say it fully supports the investigation and look forward to reading the results. RE seconded. All in favour.

2021/075 **Matters of information and items for the next agenda**

TY informed the meeting that owners of The Three Compasses have asked permission to place tables outside the front of the pub to enable more people to be served outside. There was discussion about the possibility of nuisance to neighbouring properties and Parish Council liability. TY proposed allowing tables to be placed outside until the end of September but if any issues arise permission will be withdrawn. CM seconded. Majority in favour.

**Action: Clerk to contact owners**

2021/076 **Date of the next meeting**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (due to the Clerk's holiday). Further government guidance is awaited regarding face to face meetings so the venue will be advised nearer the time.

There being no further business MS closed the meeting at 8.45pm