

**Charminster Parish Council meeting Tuesday 8th June 2021
at Charminster Community Hall at 7pm**

Minutes

Present: Mark Simons (MS) (Chair), Carol Matthews (CM) (Vice-Chair), Keith Beeson (KB), Richard East (RE), Sue Fraser (SF), Julie Jackson (JJ), Alan Rolls (AR), Louisa Swabey-Payne (LP), Richard Wareham (RW) and Tim Yarker (TY)

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

MS welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7.02pm

2021/077 **Declarations of Interest** – to record declarations of interest in any item on the agenda.

2021/078 **To consider grant of dispensations**
None received.

2021/079 **To receive apologies for absence**
Apologies had been received from Geri Brown and Peter Dangerfield

2021/080 **Co-option of South Ward and North Ward Councillors**
CM proposed co-opting Louisa Swabey-Payne to the South Ward and Julie Jackson to the North Ward. RE seconded. All in favour. LP and JJ and the Clerk signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

2021/081 **To approve the minutes** of the meetings held on 4th May 2021
KB requested the minute 2021/064 be amended to clarify that the Parish Council has not agreed to object to wind turbines. The Clerk confirmed she had received multiple phone calls and emails from people following the article in the Pilot magazine that they misinterpreted to mean a new planning application for wind turbines had been submitted and rejected by the Parish Council. MS suggested he write something for the back of the Pilot magazine explaining that the Parish Council had been discussing the local plan and not a specific planning application. CM proposed the minutes be amended to “a recent planning application for wind turbines on this site was rejected by West Dorset District Council” and MS write something for the back of the Pilot. RW seconded. Majority in favour. MS made the amendment and signed and dated the minutes.

2021/082 **Matters arising from the above minutes**
None

2021/083 **Public Discussion Period**
No comments from the public

2021/084 **Planning Matters**

WD/D/20/003004 – Land South of Westleaze, Charminster

MS explained an amended plan had been submitted for the above planning application. RE proposed the Parish Council respond to say that the amendments have not dealt with any of the Parish Council's concerns and we still object to the plans. TY seconded. Majority in favour.

P/HOU/2021/00861 – 2 Herrison Road, Charlton Down

CM proposed the Parish Council support the application. SF seconded. Majority in favour.

2021/085 **Finance**

a) Financial Statement
KB proposed accepting the financial statement. CM seconded. Majority in favour.

b) Payments to be agreed
The Clerk added a payment to be made to Zurich Insurance. KB proposed accepting the payments. CM seconded. Majority in favour.

- c) F&GP recommendations including approval of Annual Governance and accountability return
KB explained the year end accounts and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been discussed by the F&GP committee and approved by the internal auditor. MS read out the Annual Governance statement and members answered yes to all questions that were applicable. KB proposed the Parish Council accept the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/21. CM seconded. All in favour. MS and the Clerk signed the relevant forms.

KB explained that the Parish Council should have an investment policy and the F&GP committee had looked at the one circulated prior to the meeting. He explained the policy can be amended but only by full council, it adopts a safe, low risk approach and should be reviewed annually. CM proposed accepting the policy. KB seconded. All in favour.

Amendments to the Financial Regulations:

KB explained the proposed changes were mainly relating to the switch to online payments. KB proposed accepting the amendments that had been circulated prior to the meeting. RW seconded. Majority in favour.

Assistant Clerk:

KB explained the Clerk had put forward the suggestion of employing an assistant clerk to ensure cover at all times and continuity if the Clerk was unwell. RW proposed the Parish Council agree in principle to the employment of an assistant clerk within the current financial provision in the budget. The process of advertising and confirming a job description should be delegated to the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk. TY seconded. Majority in favour.

2021/086 **Charminster**

- a) Nesting Boxes at Princes Plot
MS explained an opportunity had arisen to purchase 8 nesting boxes priced at £5 each. He has purchased them and put them up in Princes Plot. KB proposed reimbursing MS £50 to cover the cost of the boxes and fixings. CM seconded. All in favour.
- b) Broken Cross Play Area
The Clerk informed the meeting she had held a follow up meeting with a group of Over 11's who use the BX play area. Several requests had come out of the meeting including a shelter for them to sit under (near the fence by the road), to be allowed to create bike ramps out of mud near the play trail, more seating and to have the football area marked out with white paint. Other requests included larger goals and a in-ground trampoline. CM proposed a new recycled plastic bench is purchased at a cost of £550, the Clerk investigates costs for a shelter, the white lines can be painted for the football area and the young people be allowed to create their own ramps near the play trail. LP seconded. Majority in favour.

2021/087 **Charlton Down**

- a) Request for a memorial bench to be purchased and installed by a Charlton Down resident
Members asked the Clerk to clarify how the bench would be installed to ensure cutting the grass is not made more difficult. CM proposed that if the proposed installation is satisfactory the PC allow a recycled plastic bench (similar to the one purchased recently for Princes Plot) to be purchased and installed by the resident on Parish Council land at the back of Greenwood House (near the fence adjacent to Herrison Road). SF seconded. Majority in favour.

2021/088 **Charlton Down Allotments Society Constitution**

CM proposed accepting it with the amendments circulated prior to the meeting and with the removal of 4.1. RE seconded. Majority in favour.

2021/089 **To consider communal electric charging points**

It was agreed the Clerk should find out more information

2021/090 **To consider our response to the future of chalkstreams consultation**

All agreed liaison was needed with Cerne Valley Parish Council, Minterne Parish Council and Dorset Wildlife. Members agreed we should inform them that we are in favour of the proposals in the consultation. TY proposed we reply to the consultation saying that we strongly support it and are in favour of chalkstreams being given statutory protection. KB seconded. All in favour.

2021/091 **Matters of information and items for the next agenda**

CM proposed the Clerk respond to the Working Together Protocol consultation from Dorset Council. JJ seconded. All in favour.

The Clerk will add "Code of Conduct" to the July agenda.

2021/092 **Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is 6th July 2021 at 7pm. It was agreed that due to covid restrictions and the need to hold meetings in large rooms with good ventilation the meeting will be held at Charminster Community Hall again as the Ballroom at Charlton Down Village Hall is not available.

There being no further business MS closed the meeting at 8.15pm