

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

Minutes

Present: Mark Simons (MS) (Chair), Carol Matthews (CM) (Vice-Chair), Keith Beeson (KB), Geri Brown (GB), Peter Dangerfield (PD), Susan Frazer (SF), Ollie Greenaway (OG), Julie Jackson (JJ), Alan Rolls (AR), Louisa Swabey-Payne (LP), Richard Wareham (RW) and Tim Yarker (TY)

Also in attendance: Sarah Davies (Clerk)

MS welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7.01pm

2021/149 **Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest

2021/150 **To consider grant of dispensations**
None received.

2021/151 **To receive apologies for absence**
Apologies had been received from Richard East.

2021/152 **Co-option of North Ward Councillor**
KB proposed Ollie Greenaway (OG) be co-opted as a North Ward Councillor. CM seconded. All in favour. OG and the Clerk signed the declaration of acceptance of office. All councillors introduced themselves.

2021/153 **To approve the minutes** of the meeting held on 2nd November 2021
KB proposed the minutes be approved. PD seconded. Majority in favour. MS signed and dated the minutes.

2021/154 **Matters arising from the above minutes**
The Clerk confirmed a contractor had been appointed to carry out the BX tree work and he had added the work to his schedule.
MS will write the survey for electric charging points in the New Year.

2021/155 **Public Discussion Period**
MS suspended the formal part of the meeting at 19.10.
There were no questions from the public.
Dorset Cllr David Taylor gave an update on the Local Plan.
MS resumed the formal part of the meeting at 19.26

2021/156 **Planning Matters**

P/OUT/2021/02144 – 24A North Street, Charminster
Erection of 1 no. dwelling (outline application) – amended application.
The amendments to the plan were discussed and members concluded that the Parish Council's concerns had not been addressed by the revisions.

RW proposed the Parish Council objects to the amended application as it would fall outside the defined development boundary and would have a negative impact on the conservation area. The Parish Council still has concerns about the proposed surface water drainage impacting on properties below on North Street and still believe the development will add to the problematic amounts of surface run-off water into North Street, an area already prone to flooding. The Parish Council is also still concerned about poor visibility and access on the A352.
PD seconded. Majority in favour.

P/FUL/2021/03537 – 24A Deverel Road, Charlton Down
Change of use of existing garage to hair salon and external store.
CM and RW had visited the site and had no concerns about the proposals and confirmed that off-street parking is available. Neighbours have been informed. The applicant spoke about the proposals and explained that there would be no external signage and only ever two clients at one time. CM proposed the Parish Council support the application. JJ seconded. Majority in favour.

P/PASO/2021/05143 - -Charminster Depot, Wanchard Lane
Installation of solar photovoltaics (not a planning application).
Members noted the above.

P/FUL/2021/05066 – Frome Whitfield Farm, Frome Whitfield Farm Access Road
Erect agricultural storage barn
CM proposed objecting to the application on the grounds of the visual impact on a Grade 2 listed building. AR seconded. Majority in favour.

2021/157 **Finance**

- a) Financial Statement
MS checked the bank statements against the financial statement.
- b) Payments to be agreed
KB proposed accepting the financial statement and payments to be made. CM seconded. Majority in favour.

2021/158 **Recommendations from Finance and General Purposes Committee**

The F&GP Committee met on 23rd November 2021 and proposed the following recommendations:

- a) Grants to Local Organisations
KB proposed awarding the following grants. TY seconded. Majority in favour.

Group/Organisation	Proposed Donation
St Mary's First School	£500.00
1 st Charminster Scout Group (including Beavers & Cubs)	£300.00
Charminster Guides	£200.00
Charminster Brownies	£200.00
Total	£1200.00

- b) Clerk's salary and agreed hourly rate for new assistant clerk
CM proposed the Clerk's hourly rate increase to £15.83 per hour (SCP 26) from 1st January 2022 and the assistant clerk should be offered £10.04 per hour (SCP5). When the assistant clerk is appointed and in position the Clerk will drop her hours to 55 per month and the assistant clerk will do up to 25 per month.
- c) Purchase of a new laptop
TY proposed spending up to £500 for a new Parish Council laptop. KB seconded. Majority in favour.
- d) Renewal of Grass Cutting contracts for Charminster and Charlton Down
The F&GP committee had discussed the quotes received at length. KB proposed the Charminster contract be awarded to Steve Manuel and the two Charlton Down contract be awarded to Rolls Landscaping. Both offers would be subject to the contractors agreeing to inform the clerk each time they visit and carry out work and inform the clerk of the area of the village in which the work has been carried out. The Charlton Down contracts should also be subject to the contractor being able to provide a point of contact for a staff member who regularly attends site. CM seconded. Majority in favour.
- e) Ownership and management of Charminster Farm Allotments
KB proposed that at the appropriate time, the Parish Council offer to take ownership of the Charminster Farm Allotments from Wyatt Homes and the day-to-day management of the allotments is carried out by the Charminster Farm Allotments Society. CM seconded. Majority in favour.
- f) To agree the budget for 22-23 and agree the precept
KB explained that the budget (and precept request) for 22-23 had been discussed at length by the F&GP committee and whilst the proposal of £43,821 is a 3% increase from the 21-22 budget of £42,300, the tax base may also have increased (due to the new homes at Charminster Farm) which would result in a decrease to the amount paid by each household. The Clerk will be able to confirm this later in December once Dorset Council issue the tax bases.

KB proposed the Parish Council request a precept of £43,821 for 2022-23. TY seconded. Majority in favour.

2021/159 **Community Hall Budget 2022/23**

KB proposed a budget of £7,000 for the community hall for 22-23. This would be for regular expenditure (rather than for set-up costs) and regular income. RW seconded. Majority in favour.

2021/160 **Cemetery**

- a) Ashes Plots – exclusive rights
TY proposed the Parish Council charge £40 for exclusive rights for ashes plots (for residents) and £80 for non-residents. KB seconded. Majority in favour.
It was agreed to review the other cemetery charges at the February meeting.
- b) Kerbstones around plots
PD proposed the decision regarding allowing kerbstones be delegated to the Chair and Vice-Chair. AR seconded. All in favour. MS, CM and the Clerk will meet at the cemetery as soon as possible.

2021/161 **New Build-out on North Street – bollards**

There was a lengthy discussion about the proposal to install bollards outside the village hall to prevent cars parking near the junction and blocking the view for drivers coming up West Hill. The Clerk explained that Highways had agreed to install 6 bollards (with a gap for 2 cars to load/unload at the North Street door of the village hall) but there was an option to pay an additional £1,105 on more expensive bollards that some considered to be more attractive. These would be installed by Highways. TY proposed spending £1,105. LP seconded. 6 in favour, 3 against and 2 abstentions.

2021/162 **Matters of information and interest and items for the next agenda**

KB requested that at the February meeting, members discuss how to make the annual litter pick more effective.

2021/163 **Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is 1st February 2022 at 7pm at Charminster Community Hall.

There being no further business MS closed the meeting at 20.36.