

**Charminster Parish Council meeting Tuesday 6th December 2022
at Charlton Down Village Hall at 7pm**

Minutes

Present: Carol Matthews (CM) (Temporary Chair), Keith Beeson (KB), Geri Brown (GB), Peter Dangerfield (PD), Susan Frazer (SF), Oliver Greenaway (OG), Julie Jackson (JJ), Alan Rolls (AR), Richard Wareham (RW), Tim Yarker (TY)

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

CM welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7.05pm

2022/264 **Declarations of Interest** – to record declarations of interest in any item on the agenda.
None

2022/265 **To consider grant of dispensations**
None received.

2022/266 **To receive apologies for absence**
Apologies had been received from Mark Simons, Louisa Swabey Payne and Richard East

2022/267 **To approve the minutes** of the meeting held on 1st November 2022
RW proposed the minutes be approved. AR seconded. Majority in favour. CM signed and dated the minutes.

2022/268 **Matters arising from the above minutes**
The Clerk informed the meeting that she is meeting with a contractor next week to discuss the winter cut for Princes Plot.

2022/269 **Public Discussion Period**

CM suspended the formal part of the meeting at 19.08

The residents of Ivy Cottage thanked the Parish Council for installing the new screening in the Broken Cross Play Area.

CM resumed the formal part of the meeting at 19.10

2022/270 **Planning Matters**

P/HOU/2022/07192 – 3 Old Vicarage Close, Charminster
Create new opening and fit new window to existing WC

PD proposed the Parish Council raises no objection to the application. KB seconded. Majority in favour.

P/VOC/2021/03213 – Chestnut House Nursing Home, Charlton Down

To amend approved plans to allow for a flat roof

JJ proposed the Parish Council raises no objection to the application. RW seconded. Majority in favour.

2022/271 Finance

- a) Financial Statement
CM checked the bank statements against the financial statement.
- b) Payments to be agreed
KB proposed accepting the financial statement and all payments including the additional payment to New Masterplanning (£3100 + VAT). TY seconded. Majority in favour.
- c) Recommendations from F&GP Committee

Grants to Local Organisations:

TY proposed awarding the following grants. OG seconded. All in favour.

Group/Organisation	Proposed Donation
St Mary's First School	£600.00
1 st Charminster Scout Group (including Beavers & Cubs)	£300.00
Charminster Guides	£500.00
Charminster Brownies	£500.00
Charlton Down JellyTots	£200.00
Charminster School after school gardening club	£80.00
Total	£2180.00

To agree the budget for 23-24 and agree the precept

RW explained that the budget (and precept request) for 23-24 had been discussed at length by the F&GP committee and whilst the proposal of £45,496 is a 3.8% increase from the 22-23 precept request, 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. TY requested the Clerk contact Dorset Council and request the information sent out to Parishes in January about tax bases is in fact circulated earlier to help Parishes make decisions about their precepts.

KB proposed the Parish Council request a precept of £45,496 for 2023-24. JJ seconded. Majority in favour.

Review of policies

PD proposed the amendments that had been circulated prior to the meeting be accepted. SF seconded. Majority in favour. The Clerk will put the revised policies on the website.

CM reminded members to be mindful when posting on facebook and when using their personal profile they do not make reference to the Parish Council or any decisions made by the PC.

2022/272 Charlton Down Gym Signage

The Clerk explained she had received numerous complaints (including a petition) from residents about the signage for the gym that residents feel is not in keeping with the conservation area. CM has spoken to the new owners of the gym who were unaware of the conservation area. The owners have moved the signs from the railings to the building. OG proposed the Clerk explain to the owners that due to the number of complaints, the Parish Council will be contacting planning enforcement about the signs. This will give the owners the opportunity to remove them if they wish to. RW seconded. Majority in favour.

2022/273 Community Hall

- a) TY proposed spending up to £80 on shrubs for the flower beds in the car park. OG seconded. Majority in favour. SF to purchase the shrubs and deliver to the hall.
- b) TY proposed spending £170 on Blink outside security cameras and signage. PD seconded. Majority in favour.
- c) Members discussed the criteria for hirers benefiting from the community discount. KB proposed that the following policy be adopted:
"If the community hall is being hired and the event is not open to all residents of the Parish or the intention is to make a profit, the hirer will not be eligible for a community discount except with the prior agreement of the Parish Council"
RW seconded. Majority in favour.

2022/274 Raised pavement – Lower Burton

It was agreed the Clerk will find out who owns the raised pavement as it is in need of repair.

2022/275 Charminster Tree Survey

KB proposed spending up to £1,000 on a tree survey for Charminster. OG seconded. Majority in favour.

2022/276 Proposal for planters for outside the phone box on North Street

The Clerk explained the group managing the phone box would like to install 6 planters on the phone box. Some members were concerned about the planters detracting from the iconic nature of the phone box itself. TY proposed spending up to £100 on the planters, compost and flowers. OG seconded. 3 in favour, 4 against and 3 abstentions.

2022/277 Matters of information and items for the next agenda

TY informed the meeting that he had recently attended a North Dorchester Garden Community Meeting. He had stressed the point that the gap between the proposed development and Charminster should be kept as wide as possible.

AR requested the grass and brambles in the perimeter fencing in the North Street and Broken Cross play areas be cut.

SF requested the Charlton Down Orchard be put on the February agenda.

CM requested the Nature Area pond be put on the February agenda.

PD requested Millers Orchard be put on the February agenda

It was agreed the next litter pick will take place on Sunday 12th March and publicity be carried out in advance.

2022/278 Date of the next meeting

7th February 2023

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