

Charminster Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023
at Charminster Community Hall at 7pm

Minutes

Present:

Mark Simons (MS) (Chair)
Carol Matthews (CM) Vice Chair
Peter Dangerfield (PD)
Oliver Greenaway (OG)
Julie Jackson (JJ)
Alan Rolls (AR)

Louisa Swabey-Payne (LSP)
Richard Wareham (RW)
Tim Yarker (TY)
Richard East (RE)
Susan Frazer (SF)

In attendance: Michele Harding (Locum Clerk) and 15 members of the public

MS welcomed everyone to the meeting which commenced at 7pm following the APA.

2023/046. Election of Chairperson for 2023-24

Mark Simons was nominated by CM and seconded by RW all agreed MS accepted and continued to chair the meeting.

2023/047. Election of Vice Chairperson 2023-24

Carol Matthews was nominated by MS and seconded by SF all agreed, CM accepted the position.

2023/048. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Keith Beeson, Geri Brown, and Dorset Councillor David Taylor. LSW arrived at 7.10pm

2023/049. To receive declarations of interest or consider any grants of dispensation – none.

2023/050. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2023

Minutes approved, those councillors not in attendance at the meeting abstained- Proposed PD Seconded RW. MS signed and dated the minutes.

2023/051. Matters arising from the above minutes.

PD commented on the Tree officers enthusiastic report to the proposed works and hoped that the approval would be given quickly.

2023/052. Public Discussion Period- MS suspended the formal part of the meeting for public participation. No comments from public so MS resumed the formal part of the meeting.

2023/053. Planning Matters- None in circulation

2023/054. Councillors to serve on committees and working groups.

- i. Finance & General Purposes Advisory Committee: Chair, Vice-Chair, KB, RE and RW
- ii. South Ward Planning Committee: Chair, Vice-Chair, PD, JJ, LP and TY
- iii. North Ward Planning Committee: Chair, Vice-Chair, GB and SF
- iv. South Ward Amenities Advisory Committee: All members
- v. North Ward Amenities Advisory Committee: All members

2023/055. Representatives

- i. Charminster Village Hall: RE
- ii. Charlton Down Village Hall: CM
- iii. Rights of Way Officers: MS, CM, RE

Charminster Parish Council

- iv. Trees Officers: MS (South Ward), CM (North Ward)
- v. Flood Wardens: TY, CM and OG

The above groups and reps were agreed- Proposed RE Seconded CM

2023/056. Finance

- i. To consider all payments since the last meeting
A report of payments due was circulated.
Proposed CM Seconded OG -all agreed
- ii. To receive the Financial Statement
The statement was checked against bank statements and signed by MS- all agreed.
- iii. To arrange a meeting of the F & GP in May to agree the Annual Governance & Accountability return for approval in June. A date will be arranged to consider the above and make recommendations to the full Council for the June PC meeting.
Proposed RW Seconded CM

2023/057. Highways Issues- Mill Lane surface problem

The surface of Mill Lane is partly an unclassified road that being the lowest standard of road and therefore receives little maintenance from DC. It was noted that highways have carried out some repairs to potholes recently. The road will be monitored and reported as necessary.

2023/058. Charminster Fete- request for a donation towards children's activities at the fete

It was agreed to set aside up to £200 towards the bouncy castle costs for the event.
Proposed LSP Seconded TY The Fete committee to be informed.

2023/059. Charlton Down Nature Reserve Area Pond-CM spoke on the Pond project and the quote gathered with the involvement of the DWT. The pond would be divided into 2 it would be a wildlife pond and bog garden; the quote was made available at a cost of £9450.00. Due to the nature of the work and finding suitable contractors no more quotes had been collected. Many of the public at the meeting were very supportive of the project as well as 7 emails sent in support of the Pond project. Cllrs commented on the future maintenance of the pond and if this should be part of the quote or if a separate maintenance contract is gathered. Cllrs debated the quote and project. CM proposed that the PC accepts the quote for the pond project and then look at a maintenance contract for the future. This was seconded by SF. The majority of Cllrs supported the proposal.

2023/060. Coronation gifts to consider purchasing commemorative gifts for all the children in the parish.

Councillors considered gifts, although many liked the idea as had been done historically it was felt that something more lasting to commemorate the coronation was more appropriate. Comments from the floor were made and a resident suggested that families generally have plenty of mugs but possibly something environmental that children could visit or get involved with. It was agreed to gather feedback from the community on what would be suitable to commemorate the coronation.

Action LSP

2023/061. Matters of Information and Interest and items for the next agenda- TBA

Charminster Parish Council

The meeting was suspended in order to receive comments from 2 residents regarding the playground. It was reported that there had been an accident in the playground when a child fell from a piece of equipment. The child was with an adult who dealt with the fall and the child is doing well. The residents raised concerns that there is insufficient signage or a suitable net to catch any child that fell and urged the Council to re look at the safety of the area.

Cllrs commented that the equipment is inspected regularly and meets the manufacturers recommendations for fall height and safety surfacing. The PC are unable to adapt the equipment as it would make the warranty and insurance of the equipment invalid. However, the PC will re look at the equipment and see what measures can be put in place to warn users of any risks in using the equipment, also that parents are responsible for their children when using the equipment.

The Council expressed their regret at the accident and hoped that the child is doing well and thanked the family for attending and bringing this issue to the attention of the Council.

2023/062. **Date of the next meeting-** The next meeting is to be held on 6th June at Charminster Community Hall. Meetings are held in Charlton Down every 3 months.

There being no further business MS closed the meeting at 19.53.