

Charminster Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th November 2023 at Charminster Community Hall at 7pm

Present:

Carol Matthews (CM) Vice Chair
Peter Dangerfield (PD)
Alan Rolls (AR)
Oliver Greenaway (OG)
Louisa Swabey-Payne (LSP)
Sue Frazer (SF)

Tim Yarker (TY)
Richard East (RE)
Keith Beeson (KB)
Richard Wareham (RW)
Julie Jackson (JJ)

In attendance: Michele Harding (Clerk) Ward Cllr David Taylor and 5 members of the public.

- 23/11-1. Welcome and Chairman's address.** CM welcomed everyone to the meeting, as the Chair is absent the vice chair took the meeting.
- 23/11-2. To receive apologies for absence-**Mark Simons
- 23/11-3. To receive declarations of interest or consider any grants of dispensation** – none received.
- 23/11-4. To approve the minutes of the PC meeting held on 3rd October 2023 and sign the same.**
Minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed.
Proposed PD Seconded JJ. All agreed.
- 23/11-5. To receive matters arising from the above minutes (for information only).**
None that are not already on the agenda for discussion.
- 23/11-6. Public Discussion Period-** CM suspended the formal part of the meeting for public participation.
A resident reported on the meeting at Charminster Farm with the management company First Port. The meeting raised the following items, changes in the management company from Blenheim to First Port, maps needed to highlight those areas of the development under the management company and those of Dorset Council. There had been discussions on the supply of grit bins on the site, the management company installed yellow bins, but these were rejected by residents and removed, the resident explained that the PC should supply grit bins. He also reported that residents can become directors of the management company. There had been an issue with the adopted roads, this has now been updated with the support of DT and the Clerk.
The resident asked who the flood wardens are and what is their role. TY explained that he is a flood warden for Charminster and CM is the flood warden for Charlton Down. The role of the Flood warden is a point of contact, keeping up to date with the issues of the village, making sure sandbags are available.
DT explained that there was a major pull on the Dorset Councils highways and flood teams following this biblical event.
Applicants attended to listen and comment on their planning application if required that is currently out for consultation.
LSP asked DT if there are any long-term plans for the A37 under the bridge as this is a major issue with flooding, it was reported that the pump had been replaced, the issues are the silt and mud and a natural spring. Also, that the closure of the A37 was longer than necessary and created traffic issues in the village.
- 23/11-7. To receive an update from the Charminster Movement Strategy working group.**
TY reported that following the recommendation of the last meeting New Master Planning were invited to attend a meeting with the working group, notes had been circulated on the meeting to Cllrs. TY recommended that the PC goes ahead with the next staged 3 and 4. LSP

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explained that she was reassured after the meeting and if we were to stop now it would be a waste. JJ agreed with this. DT commented that we do need to ensure that all correspondence with Dorset Council is on a formal basis. TY went on to explain that there has been 9 months of inactivity, so we now need to pick up the pace. NMP have been very professional, and it is essential that a creditable report is produced for the good of the parish given the costs of the project so far and for the next stages. PD commented that what was proposed was good value for money as the PC did not have the skills to carry out such an extensive consultation.

It was proposed that NMP was to be engaged for stages 3 and 4 of the movement strategy.
Proposed TY Seconded OG 9 For, none Against, 2 abstentions - motion carried.

23/11-8. To receive a report for the EV charging points in Charlton Down and Charminster

CM reported that MS had met with the DC rep at the Community Hall, it is proposed to create two charging spaces near the road on the school side, the spaces would still be available to park in. The installation would include two medium power chargers, all costs would be met by Dorset Council, but agreement would be between CPC and the charging company. The charging would cost 75p unit whereas at home they would probably pay 7p. The higher price is about the price of running a petrol or diesel car. All new homes with a dedicated parking space have to have an electrical vehicle charging point but the output is not specified.

CM reported that due the land ownership in Charlton Down this is still work in progress, an area around the village hall could be a potential site.

Cllrs supported the installation at the Community Hall as and when the proposal is presented. Proposed KB Seconded TY All agreed.

23/11-9. To consider the play inspection reports and how to manage the actions going forward.

RW commented that the most urgent items are the signage for each of the play areas, the Clerk has them on order pending the new telephone number for the PC.

The floor of the shelter at Broken Cross was discussed as this is reported as a trip hazard, several suggestions were made, slabs, turf or decking, it was felt decking would become slippery, quotes will be gathered for the various options for December.

23/11-10. To discuss the cutting of the boundary hedge at North Street Play area.

A site meeting was held with the landlord of the pub, he agreed to cut back the brambles behind our boundary fence that requires repair, also he asked about cutting down the boundary hedge to the pub garden, this is growing up and blocking light to the back of the property. The access was discussed to and from the pub garden via the play area.

MS offered to cut back the boundary hedge so there is more light into the property. The PC contractor has been asked to cut back the hedges as per his grass cutting contract. There is an issue with access via the gate between the pub garden and the play area which needs to be confirmed but in the meantime the gates will be locked and if access is needed the PC will be contacted to open them.

The goalposts are still ongoing, and the old goal post will be removed once the new ones have been installed.

23/11-11. To consider the costs of the new hedge to be placed at Broken Cross play area.

This is to be deferred as no contractors returned quotes in time. It was noted that any planting should be carried out between November and March.

CM also reported that during the high winds the screening on the roadside of the hedge was flapping about as all the cable ties had been cut, this has been repaired with new cable ties thanks to CM and AR.

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23/11-12. To agree to draft a spec for the zip wire repairs for consideration at the December meeting.

The Clerk had supplied the Cllrs with the quote from a zip wire repair company who carries out works for other play areas in the County, the clerk has attempted to obtain quotes from other contractors but there are no companies who carry out this work available. Cllrs had asked questions of the spec and costs these were answered for the meeting. The costs to replace all parts on both zip wires were as follows £2774 plus vat for Broken Cross and £2642 plus vat for the Olympic Park. MS had offered to carry out some of the repairs to the board at BX. CM was looking into the rope at the Olympic Park. Cllrs discussed the quotes and further information and proposed to go ahead with the repairs on this basis.

Proposed TY Seconded RW All agreed.

23/11-13. Finance and General Purposes

a. To consider the options for broadband and mobile phone provisions.

The Clerk reported that in looking at the current contracts that the hall Tel and Broadband contract is due for renewal. A report of the options for renewal was provided to include a mobile phone for the PC office/Clerk similar to the contract for the Hall bookings and assistant clerk. Cllrs proposed that the PC stays with BT on a better contract, cancel the cloud voice phone and purchase a mobile contract to include a phone. This would be on a 2-year contract.

Proposed KB Seconded JJ All agreed.

b. To consider a donation towards the costs of transport for extracurricular school trips.

LSP provided a presentation on the proposal to make a donation to the School Association not the school directly. (The School Association (Registered Charity 1032979) are working alongside the school to try and find support as more and more families are struggling with the basics) for the cost of trips for 2024-25 based on the costs incurred in the 2 previous years. LSP reported Charminster School have previously relied heavily on parents' voluntary contributions to subsidise school trips. Cllrs discussed the proposal but want to ensure this is not an annual grant but can be applied for as with any community organisation through the grant awarding policy. LSP asked that the Parish council consider funding transport for the children for 2024 / 2025 for £ 2550 - this will enable the school to plan for 4 -5 school trips where buses are required.

Proposed LSP Seconded OG 6 For, 2 Against 3 abstentions – motion carried.

RW commented that the donation amount discussed in regard to the school outings is substantially disproportionate to other grants and donations previously given to other causes.

c. To receive the monthly finance reports and check bank statements- completed by CM.

d. To approve all payments due and those paid since the last meeting.

Proposed RW Seconded RE All agreed.

e. To arrange an F & GP meeting to prepare a proposed budget for consideration at the December meeting. RW will contact members with suitable dates.

23/11-14. To consider any Planning Matters-

a. P/FUL/2023/05221 Proposal: Extension to existing residential garden for creation of outside swimming pool & conversion of existing barn to form guest annex Location: Manor Cottage-
no objections

b. P/CLE/2023/06059 Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for repair works carried out following storm damage, including installation of steel portal frame and concrete block walls erected inside outer skin of building Location: Hintock Farm, Wolfeton Eweleaze Road- Cllrs were

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mind to object based on the fact it was only a temporary chicken shed and not an agricultural building. Proposed KB Secoded LSP 10 For -1 Against

- c. P/FUL/2023/05692 Proposal: Erect dwelling within the side grounds Location: 6 Westleaze Close- Cllrs were aware of some opposition to the application but on material considerations could not find a reason to oppose the application.
Proposed KB Secoded PD 10 Votes For -1 Abstention

23/11-15. Matters for information and Interest-

Cllrs commented on the recent flood issues, particularly York Close which was affected due to run off from the fields, also the issues on Mill Lane. A discussion on the cultivations on the field and perhaps a conversation with the landowner, the field had been recultivated following maize, but the main run off was coming from a well-used path off the official right of way. The Dorset Council flood team would be contacted for advice on future management of this area.

The drains, sand bins need to be checked going forward. A sand store was suggested at the Sun Inn, CM will enquire.

PD asked for input for the Pilot- LSP will write a piece on being a Cllr, the clerk will do a piece on the elections for Feb or March.

23/11-16. To confirm the date and items for the next meeting on 5th December 2023 at Charminster Community Hall.

There being no further business CM closed the meeting at 20.42.