

Charminster Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Held at
Charminster Community Hall
on
Tuesday 2nd May 2023

Minutes

Present: Mark Simons (Chair), Carol Matthews, Peter Dangerfield, Oliver Greenaway, Julie Jackson, Alan Rolls, Louisa Swabey Payne, Richard Wareham, Tim Yarker, Richard East and Susan Frazer.

Also in attendance: Michele Harding (Locum Clerk) and 12 members of the public

MS welcomed all to the Annual Parish meeting, this is an informal meeting of the parish reporting on the years events and to discuss any parish matters This will be followed by the Annual Parish council meeting.

1. To receive apologies for absence

MS opened the meeting. Apologies had been received from Keith Beeson, Geri Brown, and Dorset Councillor David Taylor.

2. To approve the minutes from the meeting on 3rd May 2022

All agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting. MS signed and dated the minutes. Proposed CM Seconded RW

3. Report from Mark Simons, Chair of the Parish Council Farm.

So, another year has passed by so quickly and there has been significant change in the parish. This has mainly been in Charminster rather than Charlton Down.

Charminster Farm has grown again over the last 12 months with what is probably been the most visual phase of the development so far. The first houses have been occupied with new residents moving to the village. Again, the development has 1/3 of the dwellings as affordable homes hopefully bringing a good mix to the community. At this very moment the new allotments and being completed and hopefully this element will prove a popular asset to the community.

Further development pressures exist all around the parish, with appeals both on the Strawberryfields and the site at Charlton Down. These unplanned and generally unwelcome proposals continue to put pressure on the local area. Meanwhile the huge development proposed north of Dorchester continues to threaten the very future of Charminster as a village. Whilst a certain level of development maintains our village facilities like the bus service, pubs and shop, larger development over burdens our local infrastructure.

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This brings me on to roads and highways as generally. This constant source of concern in our communities brought the parish council to employ consultants to work up a study with local residents to fight back and put pressure on the highway authority to take account of resident's views.

Things at Charlton Down have generally been quieter with occasional issues arising rather than larger issues.

The last 12 months have seen the late queen Elizabeth's jubilee, which was marked in style by the parish council. A circle of engraved stone seating was installed at Charlton Down and a fine commemorative stone and bench at Charminster.

So, all is well in Charminster, with continued pressures and issues. Hopefully this will continue over the next 12 months too.

Mark Simons
Chairman, Charminster Parish Council

4. Comments, observations and suggestions from electors to the Councillors.

AR commented on the Allotment bases being installed the wrong way around so the new sheds do not fit the concrete pads and need to be re done.

Residents spoke in support of the Nature reserve and the reworks for the pond. This is to be discussed further at the Parish Council meeting.

A resident asked about the future plans for Charlton Down and is the Forston clinic being knocked down. Cllrs commented that this is a long-term ambition of the local plan and as this has not yet been adopted by Dorset Council it will be some time before this will be further discussed. Residents raised concerns about the patients, it was noted that the re locating of any patients at the time will be considered but this is a long way off at present.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.54pm