

MINUTES OF CHARLTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held on Saturday 2 April 2022 at 11am in Charlton Village Hall

Present: Cllr Anne Hodgkins (Chair), M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; and 23 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Parish Cllrs Liz Garforth-Bles, Viscount Andover.
2. Minutes of Last Annual Parish Meeting. The Minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting had been available at the back of the Village Hall for members of the public to read before the meeting started; they were proposed, seconded and signed.
3. Chair's Report. Cllr Anne Hodgkins reported on behalf of the Parish Council.
 - PC met 7 times in past year – the usual 6 every other month plus an additional meeting to consider the planning application 'Barns south of B4040'.
 - Local Elections in May 2021 – 10 candidates for 9 seats. There are currently 5 Cllrs from the wider Parish outside the village, 4 from the village.
 - 19 planning applications in 2021/past year. These have included:
 - 'Five Lanes' 50MW solar farm, 2nd solar farm in the area (Minety Solar Farm from June 2020 is still undecided by Wilts Council but we understand officers are recommending approval.)
 - another Battery Energy Storage System connected to Upper Minety Electricity Sub-Station. This on Pond Lane, coincident with another just in Minety Parish at Dog Trap Lane. Already 6 BESS around Sub-Station not counting these. PC has objected.
 - PC objected to 4 applications – Conigre House on Conservation Area grounds (but permitted by Wilts Council), an Outline application to build a barn off Bullocks Horn Lane, a partial objection to the Village Farmhouse application and the Pond Lane BESS (the latter 3 not yet decided by Wilts Council).
 - The PC did not object to an application to build cattle barns in fields just south of the village roughly opposite the pub. This despite strong resident opposition. The PC looked at it in great detail and took an evidence-based decision not to object but requested some conditions.
 - PC meetings with Solar Farm/BESS applicants to raise subject of Community Benefit.
 - Precept for 2022/23: the PC maintained the precept this year at last year's reduced £9872, which with a favourable tax base means a small reduction in householder bills.
 - All PC agendas, Minutes and end-of-year accounts are published on PC website - website address published in Chat monthly.
 - Horse and Groom – established as an Asset of Community Value.
 - Improved signage at Charlton Bridge achieved this year.
 - Community Environmental Toolkit from Wilts Council – no volunteers so shelved for now.
 - Electric car charging in village – started thinking, awaiting Malmesbury Area ideas.

Chairman – signature and date

- The defibrillator remains ready for emergency use outside the Village Hall, now a little over 2 years old. A training session has been scheduled for Sat 7 May at 9.30-1130.
- The BT phonebox/book exchange seems to be well-used. The PC does intend to replace or at least repair the door, Tom Blanden has found a very reasonable quote from a local carpenter to repair it and the PC has given the green light. After the door repair re-painting will be considered.
- The PC hope to plant a tree alongside the B4040 through the village, to replace one lost last year and under the Queen's Green Canopy banner, but still awaiting Highways authority.
- Traffic:
 - CSW – 2 more volunteers have joined recently.
 - Police and Crime Commissioner has made speeding one of his priorities.
 - We record 9.2% speeders – higher than county average. Police are taking an interest.
 - SID – some evidence that % speeders is reducing (9% - 6%). So does this mean the SID is working?
- BKV – judging mid-May to mid-June, best efforts by all please.

4. Finances. Marion Adkins handed out and explained details on a detailed summary of the 2021/22 accounts. She forecast an end-of-year balance of unallocated reserves of £12,394.

5. Proposed Increase in Size of Charlton Parish. Anne Hodgkins briefed on the background (Wilts Council Community Governance Review into Malmesbury Town, implications included proposal that Charlton should expand to take on Milbourne, Filands and ground between. PC meeting Thu 7 Apr to decide the response. Residents' views were expressed on both sides of the argument. All noted and would be taken account of in the PC decision.

6. Short Report from Wiltshire Council. Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall gave a brief report from Wiltshire Council. On Malmesbury Area Board she would have the Highways brief – speeding, CATG chair. Also part of Wilts Council Strategic Planning Committee.

7. Recreation Centre Report. Dorian Janes, Chairman of the Recreation Centre Committee, reported.

- Village Hall well-used, daily events also birthdays, anniversaries, weddings.
- Good finances, helped by some Covid grants from Wilts Council.
- Recent improvements – Air Source Heat Pump heating, 5-year fixed electrical wiring inspection renewals. For future looking at replacing tables/chairs, cosmetic repairs to parts of roof, possible hearing loop, re-furb of some play equipment, further wildflower planting, possible work on trees.
- Sports – football coaching and full cricket season planned.
- Zipwire up and in full use.
- Facebook page continues.

Chairman – signature and date

8. Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Jane Tsabet outlined the plans. The PC would support it financially, final figure tbc. Planning for event inside Hall therefore limited numbers, if weather good could open doors. Memories linking residents with the Queen. Red/white/blue clothing. No alcohol provided – bring your own. Finish with Village photograph. Dorian James paid tribute to Jane Tsabet/Hannah Piet work on the event.

9. Improving Community Comms.

- PC had various comms methods – website, Parish Chat magazine (50:50 funded by PC and church), noticeboards x3.
- Email list – but very few signed up.
- During the pandemic used the Village Hall facebook page (with permission). Useful, and PC grateful, but doubt whether a long-term solution.
- Other parishes have websites but this needs someone to set it up and run it, and this item is about PC comms not eg a village website.

Resident responses included:

- Chat is superb but only 2-monthly.
- Some risk that residents think Chat is all about the church.
- Difference between FB sites that anyone can post to and sites where only Admin can post.
- Need fresh drive on email system. **Afternote:** was done, too few people wanted it, so folded.

10. Any Other Business.

- Did the meeting like the Saturday morning or prefer a weekday evening?
Reaction in the meeting was a strong preference for Saturday morning.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 1.11pm.