

The Charltons Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Rebecca Carter, Portman House, North Barrow, Somerset, BA22 7LZ

Tel: 01963 240226

e-mail: charltonsclerk@outlook.com

<http://www.thecharltons.org.uk>

“Draft” Minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell
On Tuesday 18th February 2020, commencing at 7.30pm

Councillors Present:

Nick Blackledge (Chairman)

Richard Montagu (Vice-Chairman)

Bob Adams

Tamzin Elliott

Peter Moulding

In Attendance: C.Cllr D Ruddle, the Clerk and six members of the public.

Public Session

Members of the public wished to comment on PA 19/02412/OUT, which was on the agenda for consideration at item 20/18.a. The Applicant was also present and following a brief discussion, members of the public were advised that further comments would be allowed at the invitation of the Chairman.

Reports from County and District Councillors

C.Cllr Ruddle reported that Somerset County Council (SCC) would hold its Annual Budget meeting on 19th February 2020 at which the net revenue budget for 2020/21 of £338million was recommended for approval. It was also recommended to increase the level of general Council Tax by 1.99% to provide a further £4.6m to support SCC's expenditure on services. An additional increase of 2% was proposed for the Adult Social Care precept, which would provide a further £4.9m to support the growth in demand for services. It was also recommended to continue the Council Tax precept to raise £2.5m for the shadow Somerset Rivers Authority, representing no increase. However, there would still be a £9.5m shortfall in 2021 due to the level of funds required for Adult Social Care services, despite £9.5m raised through projects. The proposed total precept requirement for the whole of Somerset was £257m. This would set the council tax for a Band D property at £1,289.20 for 2020/21, a rise of £0.95 per week.

Councillors asked C.Cllr Ruddle if he knew the latest position on the five-year housing land supply for South Somerset District Council (SSDC); he understood the current level stood at approx. four years and seven to eight months, however, he was unsure when the figures would be re-set.

20/14. Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given

Council to receive apologies for absence and, if appropriate, to resolve to approve the reasons given.

RESOLVED: Apologies received from Cllrs Crawley and Powell. D.Cllr Hull also tendered his apologies.

20/15. Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Local Authority (NALC Model Code of Conduct 2012) adopted July 2012. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

RESOLVED: None.

20/16. Minutes.

To approve the Minutes Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 21st January 2020.

RESOLVED: Minutes were confirmed and signed as a true record.

20/17. Parish Council Vacancies.

To advertise two vacancies on PC following resignation of Cllrs Densley and Hilborne to be filled by co-option at the PC meeting on 17 Mar 20.

RESOLVED: The Clerk advised that the notice of vacancies was published on 13th February 2020 with a closing date for applications of 16th March 2020.

20/18. Planning.

a. To consider the following planning applications (PA):

i. **PA 19/02412/OUT.** Amended plans for the outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of 2 new houses (reduced from 4) with associated accesses and garages on land south of Somerton Lane, Charlton Mackrell. Residents present at the meeting expressed their concerns on the detrimental impact the proposed development would have on highway safety and reduced visibility lines of the revised application. Although residents welcomed the reduction in number of dwellings from four to two, they still felt the proposal would harm the residential and visual amenity of the residents and users of Somerton Lane, whose open outlook to the south and west would be lost.

The PC's comments on the original proposal for four detached dwellings was that terraced, more affordable properties for residents are required in accordance with The Charltons Community Plan endorsed by SSDC Area East at its meeting on 14th March 2018. However, the PC were pleased to see that the applicant had addressed a number of the PC's concerns and reduced the number of dwellings to two.

RESOLVED: The PC agreed by a majority vote to recommend that the application be **APPROVED** with a reconsideration by the Highways Authority of the basis for their current approval.

ii. **PA 19/03394/COU.** Change of use of rear garden shed from residential to a hair and beauty salon at 10 Smalls Mead, Charlton Mackrell. Neighbours were consulted from whom no objections have been received.

RESOLVED: The PC agreed unanimously to recommend that the application be **APPROVED**.

b. South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Decisions.

i. **PA 19/03320/OUT.** Outline application for the redevelopment of existing buildings to create a dwelling and provision of additional residents' parking (renewal of 16/04175/OUT) on land and Buildings Rear of Wessex Barn, Ilchester Road, Charlton Mackrell – **WITHDRAWN**.

ii. **PA 19/02629/HOU.** The demolition of front boundary wall, engineering works to create an off road parking area and erection of a new boundary wall at Sunny Cottage, West Charlton, Charlton Mackrell – **REFUSED**.

20/19. Finance.

a. **To authorise signatory changes on Council Bank Account.**

RESOLVED: Cllrs Adams, Blackledge, Elliott, Montagu and Moulding were approved as signatories.

b. **Rent review Welham Field.**

To consider increasing rent of Welham Field from £475 to £500 per annum and serve a year's written notice to tenant prior to 25 March 2020.

RESOLVED: Rent increase of £25 per annum approved. The Clerk agreed to serve the requisite notice.

c. **Balance of the Councils Bank Account & Bank reconciliation**

To report on Councils Bank Account.

RESOLVED: The Accounts and Bank Reconciliation were circulated and approved.

b. **Accounts for payment**

To review and approve a schedule of items of expenditure (incl. VAT).

Grant – The Somerton Library Trust	£200.00
K M Dike Nurseries Grass Cutting Jan 20	£165.00
Somerset Scientific Services (brook testing 10 Dec 19)	£66.00
Clerk's Expenses 21 Jan to 18 Feb 20	£62.18
Parsigns – Vinyl lettering for fingerpost	£42.00
SALC – Essential Clerk Training (shared cost)	£28.34

RESOLVED: All items of expenditure were approved. *(C.Cllr Ruddle left the meeting at 8.15pm).*

20/20. Trustee on Reading Room Committee

To consider appointment of Administrative Trustee on Reading Room Committee following resignation of Cllr Hilborne. The PC were advised by Mr P Elliss, Reading Room Trustee, that the Deed of Trust for the Reading Room (written in 1937) contains the following wording concerning the appointment of Trustees: "Administrative Trustees shall be the Incumbent or other officiating Minister for the time being of the United Ecclesiastical District or Parishes within which the trust property is for the time being situate, the Churchwardens for the time being of the respective Parishes of Charlton Adam and Charlton Mackrell and two other persons to be nominated as occasion shall require by the Parish Council (civil) for the United Parishes of Charlton Adam and Charlton Mackrell and the Charlton Mackrell Branch of the British Legion." The Trustee, therefore, should be an individual nominated by the PC and cannot be the PC as one corporate body and their details would have to be registered with the Charity Commission.

RESOLVED: It was agreed unanimously that the PC did not believe it necessary to nominate a Trustee, however, the PC would invite a representative from the Reading Room Committee to attend and/or provide a written report for the Annual Parish Meeting, held in May each year.

20/21. Reports from the PC Committees, Working Groups (WG) and PC Representatives:

Councillors to provide reports.

a. Community Plan (CP). Cllr Adams reminded Cllrs that the CP contained guidelines with actions, which should be reviewed as a living document. One of the actions was for Charlton Mackrell Primary School to work with the PC to promote signage in order to show the whereabouts of the school and the safety of the children. The Clerk also advised that the NP had six key areas, which were apportioned between Cllrs in July 2018 and needed to be reviewed.

RESOLVED: Cllr Adams agreed to liaise with the school, through its Governing Body, on safety and signage. The Clerk agreed to include apportioning of roles and responsibilities for Councillors on the agenda for the next meeting.

b. Environment Strategy. Cllr Montagu reported that he had met with the National Trust Ranger at Lytes Cary to discuss environmental issues and would arrange a meeting with the Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT) to discuss Green Down.

RESOLVED: Cllr Montagu agreed to draft a response to SSDC's request to ascertain the best way to communicate SSDC's Environment Strategy and raise awareness within Parishes, following his meeting with SWT.

c. Footpaths. The Chairman reported that he had not yet contacted Mr Ian Dibbs, Kingsdon PC, who was keen to meet with the Chairman to progress matters regarding linking the footpaths between the villages.

RESOLVED: The Chairman agreed to contact Mr Dibbs.

20/22. Items for Report and Future Business

a. Cllr Adams reported that a resident had informed the PC of fly tipping in the ditch to the north of Broadway, between the A37 and Matford Farm. SSDC had cleared the majority of wine bottles and cans in the ditch, however, Cllr Adams collected and recycled approx. a

dozen bottles remaining. It was apparent that this was habitual fly tipping as bottles were still appearing in the same location.

RESOLVED: The Clerk agreed to report the habitual fly tipping in the Charltons Village News.
b. Cllr Elliott reported that she had collected the PC's allocation of trees from the 'Great Parish Tree Giveaway'. They 'trees' were 'whips' that required potting prior to being planted out. Varieties included Beech (Fagus), Hornbeam (Carpinus Betulas), Black Walnut (Juglans Nigra), Scots Pine (Pinus Sylvestris) and Coastal or California Redwood (Sequoia Sempervirens).

RESOLVED: The Clerk agreed to advertise the 'free trees' in the Charltons Village News.
c. The Clerk reported that she had received the last audited copy of The Charltons Community Hall Accounts, which she had circulated to all councillors, following a request at the last PC meeting.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the PC would ask for a copy of the Community Hall's audited accounts at the end of each Financial Year. It was also agreed that the PC should re-invigorate the Annual Parish Meeting and invite representatives from the various parish organisations to attend and/or provide a report. Refreshments would be provided.

d. The PC received a report from D.Cllr C Hull in which he advised that he was interested in undertaking a comprehensive audit of those who need help with travel within the ward, particularly the young, elderly and vulnerable.

RESOLVED: The Clerk agreed to include this matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

Next meeting: Ordinary Meeting to be held on Tuesday 17th March 2020, 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Hillway, Charlton Mackrell.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed

Dated