

CHARLTON HORETHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 27 February 2017 in the Village Hall

Present: Ann Reeder (Chairperson), Tim Daniel, Trevor Gill, Geoff McHugh and District & County Councillor William Wallace (from 19:49)

Also present: Beat Manager Stephan Edwards & PCSO John Winfield.

Clerk: Zöe Godden

19 members of the public were present at the start of the meeting.

The meeting began at 19:30.

1. To receive any apologies.

No apologies had been received.

2. Public Open Session - to consider any matters raised by members of the public. The Chairperson will also invite members of the public to contribute during the meeting on appropriate matters.

It was **agreed** to take the **Police** report at this stage in the meeting:

Beat Manager Stephan Edwards introduced himself and said that he would aim to attend as many Parish Council meetings in the area as possible. PCSO Winfield informed members that a dedicated rural policing team, using unmarked cars, was operating in the area. The Speed Enforcement Team had attended recently. Speeding tickets had been issued and the presence of the Team had caused traffic to slow in the area. PCSO Winfield said that he would be speaking with County Highways to request an extension of the 30mph speed limit on the B3145 in the direction of Sherborne. County Highways had already been notified about damage to the verge on Blackford Road, caused by badgers. PCSO Winfield also noted that he was working closely with Blackmore Vale Hunt. Finally, it was reported that the custody suite in Yeovil would be closing on 1st April 2017. From this date, people arrested would be transported to Bridgwater, with a van in operation to transport people at the weekends. A new location for the Police station had yet to be agreed, but was likely to be located somewhere between Sparkford and Ilchester. Yeovil Police Station would be closed within two years.

PCSO Winfield and Beat Manager Edwards then took questions from the public, responding as follows:

- HGVs from Hopkins Concrete currently had an exemption allowing them to use the B3145 through Charlton Horethorne. There were no HGV restrictions on the road between Holton and Blackford junction or between Lattiford and Sherborne. Hopkins Concrete was building a new site near the Lawrence Hill roundabout in Wincanton and this roundabout would be closed sometime in the future as it needed to be relocated to accommodate HGVs. There was no date available for this work yet. PCSO Winfield said he would check the status of HGV exemptions and that members of the public could find more information on the Somerset County Council website.
- It is important for residents to secure their sheds and other outbuildings. More information can be found on the Avon and Somerset Police website.
- Community Speedwatch volunteers could take discreet photos of HGVs using roads without an exemption and forward these to PCSO Winfield for attention.

19:49 – William Wallace arrived at the meeting.

19:50 – PCSO Winfield and Beat Manager Edwards left the meeting.

In response to a query from a member of the public, the Clerk was instructed to find out when maintenance work was last carried out at Horse Lane.

Action Parish Clerk

3. Members' declaration of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2017.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the minutes as presented.

5. To consider matters arising from the minutes:

- a. To hear feedback from the SSDC Annual Town and Parish Council meeting held on 23 January (AR/TD/Clerk)

Ann Reeder summarised the main points covered, as reported in the recently published document from SSDC, which had been received by members prior to the meeting.

- b. To provide clarification about matters raised regarding the Millennium Green Trust (TD/Clerk)

Tim Daniel reiterated that the Parish Council did wish to continue to support the Millennium Green, having agreed to pay a grant of £1200 to the Trust for the 2017/18 financial year. The previously raised assertion that responsibility for the Millennium Green would automatically revert to the Parish Council if all of the trustees resigned, was not detailed in the Trust Deed. SSDC had advised that if the Trust Deed did not include such a clause, then the Parish Council would not automatically assume responsibility for the Millennium Green. Tim said that the Charities Commission would step in if all of the trustees resigned at the same time.

- c. To provide information about raising matters relating to the County Highways (such as Gunville Lane brambles) through <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/>

It was noted that there were separate contact details for SSDC and that Tony Magson, Parish Environmental Warden had a new email address. The Clerk was instructed to send her table with contact details for SCC and SSDC to Tim Daniel for distribution.

Action Parish Clerk

6. Council Matters, including implementation of the Community Plan

- a. To receive reports from members on their areas of responsibilities, specifically in relation to the Community Plan, if any, and to agree timescales for the relevant policies

Waterhouses: Geoff McHugh reported that a grant application was due to be submitted to SSDC, but that it was likely that funding would not be available until April 2017.

- b. To receive an update from the Feast Day planning meeting on 20 February. (AR)

Ann Reeder reported that a further Feast Day meeting had taken place on 20 February. Lots of ideas had been raised and many organisations were willing to take part. Ann thanked Margaret Cressey for her help and reminded members that the Feast Day would take place on 24th June.

- c. To remind members of the public meeting on Thursday 2 March at 7 pm in the village hall about a potential affordable housing scheme. (GM)

Noted. Trevor Gill reminded members that this meeting was not a Parish Council meeting but was wholly supported by the Parish Council. Ann Reeder reminded members that the Community Plan and Housing Needs Survey had highlighted the need for affordable housing in the Parish.

- d. To note that Jane Jeanes has returned her completed Parish Paths Liaison Officer registration form and that this has been forwarded to Somerset County Council.

Noted.

- e. To agree that, from April 2017, the Clerk's working hours will be increased from 15 to 16 per month and that her contract of employment will be amended accordingly.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to increase the Parish Clerk's hours to from 15 to 16 per month with effect from 1st April 2017 and that her contract of employment would be amended accordingly.

7. Financial Matters

- a. To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for the period to 31 January 2017.

RESOLVED: The Cash Book and Bank Reconciliation for the period to 31 January 2017, as verified by Tim Daniel, were approved and signed by the Chair.

- b. To approve the following accounts for payment and two signatories for cheques:

Zöe Godden	Salary & expenses February 2017	£158.43
HMRC	Income tax re Z Godden	£31.20
Charlton Horethorne Village Hall	Hall hire Jan, Feb & March 2017	£76.00

RESOLVED: The above accounts were approved for payment and Trevor Gill and Ann Reeder agreed as signatories.

- c. To agree that, from April 2017, the Clerk will be given authorisation to enable her to make certain direct payments, in line with financial regulations 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7 and to agree two bank signatories to sign the relevant form from Nat West.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to give authorisation to the Clerk to make direct payments in line with the stated clauses of the Financial Regulations and that Ann Reeder and Trevor Gill would sign the form for Nat West accordingly.

- d. To consider a request for a grant from Yeovil Shopmobility.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council did not wish to give a grant at this time.

- e. To note that the Clerk has made the relevant declaration to The Pensions Regulator confirming that there are no employees eligible for inclusion in a pension scheme.

Noted.

- f. To consider three quotes for maintenance of the Village Green, including consideration of taking up a three-year contract with the chosen contractor.

The Clerk reported that it had only been possible to obtain two quotes. Members briefly discussed these and then Ann Reeder opened the meeting for comment from members of the public.

The meeting was closed to public comment and members continued to discuss the matter. The cost of each quote was considered, as was the Parish Council's wish to support local businesses. The Clerk confirmed that both quotes were comparable. It was noted that the quote from SSDC was over £200 less than that from Lifestyle Landscapes.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the quote from Lifestyle Landscapes should be accepted but that a three year agreement should not be entered into at this time. The Clerk was instructed to highlight the difference between the two quotes to Lifestyle Landscapes.

All in favour except Geoff McHugh, who was in favour of choosing Lifestyle Landscapes but felt that a three year agreement should have been entered into.

- g. Any other financial matters.

No other financial matters were raised.

8. Correspondence

- a. Somerset Association of Local Councils – To note that the South West Conference of Local Councils Associations will be held on Thursday 16 March in Taunton; to discuss and agree who should attend. It was **agreed** that Ann Reeder should attend this event on behalf of the Parish Council.

- b. Avon & Somerset Police – To note that a new text number, 81819, has been launched for reporting rural crime.

Noted.

- c. SSDC – To note receipt of the Housing and Employment Availability Assessment and agree any comments or action to be taken.

Noted.

- d. Charlton Horethorne Village Hall – To note receipt of an email of thanks for the recently awarded grant, to be paid in April 2017.

Noted.

- e. Grassroots Planning Ltd – To note receipt of an email regarding a planning proposal for land at Gunville Farm and to consider an invitation to meet with the developers' representatives for the purposes of hearing more detail relating to this proposal.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would meet the developers to be briefed on their thoughts and to share the contents of the Community Plan only. No commitments or agreements would be entered into with the developers at this initial meeting.

9. Planning

- a. To consider the following planning applications and make recommendations to SSDC:

i	17/00201/REM	Application for reserved matters following approval of 16/00935/OUT to include details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale.	Mr Nigel Bell, Land OS 2000, Stowell Road, Stowell
Trevor Gill summarised the application and amended information received in relation to access arrangements to the site. Trevor also noted that the Parish Council had supported the outline permission for a dwelling on this site and pointed out that a brook that flowed under the site should not be impeded.			
Ann Reeder proposed recommending approval of this application with a stipulation that drainage and the flow of the brook were maintained. Two votes for, three against – motion failed.			
A subsequent proposal that the Parish Council should recommend refusal of the application on the grounds of its scale, was received from Geoff McHugh.			
RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to oppose this application on grounds of scale as the property is too large for the site. Three votes for, one against – motion carried.			
ii	17/00279/S73	Application to remove condition 4 (agricultural occupancy) of planning approval 842232 dated 10 April 1985	Hopkins Developments Ltd, Gunville Farm Bungalow, Harvest Lane, Charlton Horethorne. DT9 4PH
Trevor Gill summarised the application details, noting that the Planning Officer had expressed concern that, although the property had been marketed for the stipulated 198 month period, the price at which it was marketed had been too high to attract very much interest from prospective buyers. A reduction in the market price of £15000 had failed to secure a buyer.			
Ann Reeder proposed that the Parish Council should not object to this application.			
A counter-proposal was received from Geoff McHugh that the Parish Council should object to this application. An amendment to this proposal was received from Tim Daniel, adding that the Parish Council should object on the grounds of the Planning Officer's reservations about the marketing of the dwelling.			
RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council opposes this application on the grounds that, in agreement with the Planning Officer, the property has been marketed at a price too high to be comparable with similar properties on the market. 3 votes for, 2 against (Chairperson used her casting vote.)			

10. Items of Report / Future Business

William Wallace announced the sad news that District Councillor Tim Inglefield had passed away earlier in the day. Ann Reeder paid tribute to Tim, who had been a District Councillor since 2007 and had been a regular presence at Parish Council meetings. Condolences were extended to Tim's wife and family.

The Clerk noted receipt of a letter asking for information on a bridleway in the Parish. It was **agreed** to look into this matter and report back to the next meeting.

11. Public Open Session - to consider any matters raised by members of the public.

Several public comments were heard, none of which resulted in any action points.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 24 April at 7.30 pm.

Ann Reeder suggested that, should they wish to, the Millennium Green trustees could hold their AGM on the same date as the next Parish Council meeting.

The meeting ended at 21:03.

Agreed and signed by the Chair _____

Date _____