

CHARLTON HORETHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 26 February 2018 in the Village Hall

Present: Michael Hutchings (Chairperson), Tim Daniel, Trevor Gill, Geoff McHugh and Ann Reeder

Also present: District Councillor Hayward Burt

Clerk: Zöe Godden

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

The meeting started at 19:32.

1. To receive any apologies.

Apologies had been received from County and District Councillor William Wallace.

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

In response to an enquiry from a member of the public, Tim Daniel confirmed that the speed limit on Charn Hill was going to be reduced from 40 to 30mph and that there would be a new 40mph buffer zone extending on Milborne Port Road as far as the junction with Mount Lane. Tim said that Somerset County Council highways had assured him that this would take place soon.

Steve Haigh summarised information received in a grant application from Radio Ninesprings, which was a community radio project seeking funding from local organisations, including town and parish councils, in order to set up a radio studio and transmitter in Yeovil. The total cost of the project was £35,000 but £19,000 of this had already been raised. Steve confirmed that the new transmitter should cover the whole of the South Somerset region. Broadcast content would be 60% speech and 40% music.

The Chairperson thanked Steve Haigh for his time.

19:46 – Steve Haigh left the meeting.

3. Members' declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2018

In response to a question raised at the last meeting, Ann Reeder informed members that Local Council Award Scheme accreditation lasted for four years.

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

5. To hear reports from:

- a. **PCSO John Winfield** was unable to be present.
- b. **District Councillor Hayward Burt** reported that SSDC was running a Housing Fair on 8 March at Westlands Leisure Complex, which would be attended by property developers, housing associations and other organisations in order to offer guidance and advice to people looking for housing. Hayward also informed members that a free Tourism Literature Exchange was being held on 20 March at Westlands Entertainment Venue, providing tourism businesses the opportunity to obtain new leaflets on visitor attractions and facilities. Finally, Hayward reported that SSDC had set its budget for 2018-2019 and that, as a result, Council Tax bills would go up by 3%. The main reason for this rise was the reduction in grants from central government.

6. To consider matters arising from the minutes:

- a. To hear an update on the roll out of Connecting Devon and Somerset. (MH)

Hayward Burt reported that the roll-out date for faster broadband for Sigwells and Stowell seemed to be towards the end of 2019. Michael Hutchings said that he would confirm this and report back to a future meeting.

Action MH

- b. To consider a response to proposals for ward changes to be submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

The proposed ward changes were discussed in depth. Concern was raised about the proposal to group Charlton Horethorne in a ward with Milborne Port and Henstridge as it was felt that Charlton Horethorne had more similarities with the smaller parishes in the current Blackmoor Vale ward. It was also felt that the views and needs of Charlton Horethorne may become peripheral if it was grouped in a ward with two much larger parishes. It was felt that very strong arguments for a counter-proposal would have to be presented because of the knock-on effect on electoral equality that would be caused by changes to the proposals at this stage in the consultation.

Hayward Burt said that there were three criteria that had to be satisfied when offering alternatives to the proposals and that all of these could be achieved by leaving both Blackmoor Vale and Milborne Port wards as they were at present.

It was noted that planning matters in Milborne Port were likely to affect Charlton Horethorne in the future and that, if Charlton Horethorne were in the same ward as Milborne Port, the same District Councillor would be representing both parishes in planning matters.

The new Milborne Port ward would have two District Councillors, whereas the new Blackmoor Vale ward would only have one. It was suggested that having the representation of two District Councillors would be advantageous for Charlton Horethorne in the future as it was currently. It was noted that many Charlton Horethorne residents used facilities in Milborne Port such as the shops and GP surgery to a much greater degree than similar facilities in Templecombe. It was further suggested that joint working with parishes in the proposed Milborne Port ward would be easier to achieve than with the small and more numerous parishes in the current and proposed Blackmoor Vale ward.

It was **proposed** that the Parish Council should approve the proposal to move Charlton Horethorne into the new Milborne Port ward. One vote for; three votes against; one abstention.

It was **agreed** that Michael Hutchings would draft a submission, expressing the Parish Council's wish not to be moved into the new Milborne Port ward. This submission would be shared with the Parish Council members for their consideration.

Action MH

7. 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

Tim Daniel reported that the Parish Council had submitted a grant application, on behalf of Charlton Horethorne Community Speedwatch, to Avon and Somerset Police's Road Safety Fund for money to buy a Speed Indicator Device for the parish.

There were no additional matters to report.

- b. To hear proposals for the Annual Parish Meeting on 29 April and to agree action to be taken. (AR)

Ann Reeder explained that David Warburton MP was not now able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting due to work commitments.

20:22 - The Chairperson allowed a Public Open Session for members of the public to suggest any topics or themes they wanted for the Annual Parish Meeting.

It was suggested that the Community Plan should be reviewed, particularly the policies relating to children, teenagers and sports provision. It was also suggested that a discussion about raising the precept in the future could be useful.

20:23 – The Chairperson left the room and Tim Daniel took over as Chairperson.

20:24 – Michael Hutchings returned to the meeting and took over again as Chairperson for the remainder of the meeting.

8. Financial Matters

a. To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for the period to 24 January 2018. It was **agreed** to defer this matter because the Clerk had not received the bank statements for the period.

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

Zöe Godden	Salary & expenses February 2018	£153.25
HMRC	Income tax re Z Godden February 2018	£ 24.20

RESOLVED: The above accounts were approved for payment, having been checked by Geoff McHugh, and Trevor Gill and Michael Hutchings were agreed as cheque signatories.

c. To consider a grant application from Radio Ninesprings.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to make a grant of £50 to Radio Ninesprings, to be taken from reserves.

Action Parish Clerk

d. Any other financial matters.

The Clerk reported that a cheque for £261.84 had been received from SALC in respect of the recent grant application for a contribution towards the costs incurred as a result of the Transparency Code. The cheque had been banked.

9. Correspondence

a. Robin Carr Associates – Invitation to comment on a proposal to upgrade a public right of way (WN 7/28) from a footpath to a bridle way.

Trevor Gill summarised the proposed change and noted that the footpath ran through Stowell Farm. Trevor had spoken with the farmer who objected to the change. The proposal documentation made one reference to the footpath once being known as a “halter path” but there was no definitive definition of “halter path”. As a result, Trevor felt that the Parish Council should object to the proposed change.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council objected to the proposal to change footpath WN7/28 into a bridleway as there was insufficient evidence that it had ever been anything but a footpath.

Action TG

b. Highways England – Invitation to comment on the proposed A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council supported the proposed scheme in principle.

Action Parish Clerk

c. Highways England – Invitation to comment on proposals to improve the A358 between the M5 at Taunton and Southfields Roundabout on the A303 near Ilminster.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council supported the proposed scheme in principle.

Action Parish Clerk

d. SSDC – Information on the Great British Spring Clean, taking place on 2–4 March and to consider how the Council might be able to take part.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would organise an event in April. Ann Reeder said she would circulate some possible dates.

Action AR

10. Planning

a. To report any relevant planning decisions made by SSDC: (TG)

i. 17/04616/FUL - 1 Blackford Way, North Road, Charlton Horethorne. DT9 4NS –
Erection of a single storey rear porch extension – **Granted with conditions**

ii. 17/04716/LBC – The Manor, Horse Lane Charlton Horethorne DT9 4NL -
Carrying out various internal and external alterations (Revised Application) – **Granted with conditions**

- iii. 17/04715/FUL – The Manor, Horse Lane Charlton Horethorne DT9 4NL -
Carrying out various internal and external alterations (Revised Application) – **Granted
with conditions**

Noted.

11. Items of Report / Future Business

- Ann Reeder reported that Tony Magson had resigned as Parish Environmental Warden and asked that anyone interested in taking on the role should get in touch with a member of the Parish Council
- Michael Hutchings had been contacted by the Village Hall Committee to find out if there were any plans to celebrate the centenary of the end of World War One. Hayward Burt noted that Abbas and Templecombe were making plans and the Clerk was instructed to contact them to find out more.

Action Parish Clerk

It was suggested that ideas for celebrating the centenary could be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Action AR

- Trevor Gill reported that he had received several complaints about the activities of a farmer in a field near Violet Lane and Blackford Road. Trevor confirmed that the farmer was within his rights to remove trees where necessary and to plough the field, as long as the public right of way was reinstated afterwards; this had been done. The farmer was reportedly unhappy that many dog walkers allowed their animals to roam free over the field, rather than keeping to the public right of way. This problem would be even more significant when sheep were put in the field in the future.

12. Public Open Session - to consider any matters raised by members of the public.
No additional matters were raised.

13. Date of Next Meeting: 9 April 2018

Noted.

The meeting ended at 20:51.



Zöe Godden
Parish Clerk