

Annual Report 2018-19

Charlton Horethorne Parish Council

www.charltonhorethorne.org.uk



Charlton Horethorne Parish Council 2015-9
L to R: Michael, Tim, Ann, Trevor and Geoff

Report of the Parish Council in 2018-9

This was the final year of the four-year term of the current Parish Council, who had been elected in May 2015. Councillors have been professionally supported throughout the year by our excellent part-time Parish Clerk, Zöe Godden. During the year, Zöe completed further training to become a Principal of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Our meetings benefited from reports from our District and County Councillors and the Police Community Support Officer, all of whom followed up any concerns we raised.

Thanks to all who attended any of our ten meetings over the past year and contributed to our discussions.

Attendance ranged from 14 to 30 members of the public at the Parish Council meetings and there were 30 participants at the Annual Parish Meeting on 29 April 2018 and 31 at the Annual Parish Meeting on 30 March 2019. All meetings took place in Charlton Horethorne Village Hall.

Issues raised in public open session were followed up including matters relating to street scene, pot holes, overgrowth of vegetation, speeding and dog fouling.

Other areas of work included:

- organising a comprehensive Spring Clean, with which 19 residents helped
- arranging a reprint of the popular walks' leaflets, thanks to support from the Kings Arms
- talking to home workers in the parish about their need for a 'hub'
- working with SSDC to collect Christmas trees which were chipped and used to refresh the footpath to the Millennium Green
- investigating options to set up a scheme to replace the County Council's Speed Indicator Devices, possibly with another parish (the Scheme had been cut from the County Council's budget last year)
- setting our budget and precept in January following participatory budgeting with the public at last year's Annual Parish Meeting, through a survey collected at the Village Shop and at our October and December Parish Council meetings



The Chair and Lead for Planning have continued to meet applicants and neighbours to look at planning applications. The Parish Council then considered them before responding to the Planning Authority and its relevant committee - Area East Committee of South Somerset District Council.

Quality Council in the Local Council Award Scheme

Charlton Horethorne became one of only 94 councils (out of 10,000 Parish and Town Councils in England) to be awarded Quality Status in the Local Council Award Scheme. The Accreditation Panel described our achievements as excellent, given the size of council, the clerk's hours and level of resources, and commended our website, training record, evidence of consulting the community and implementation of the Community Plan.



Continued progress implementing 26 policies in the Charlton Horethorne Community Plan



The Parish Council worked with Somerset County Council and Community Speed Watch to improve road safety. County Highways implemented the decision on which we had campaigned - to extend the 30 mph limit at Charn Hill and to introduce a 40 mph limit on Milborne Port Road.

Having supported the setting up of Charlton Horethorne Community Land Trust (www.chclt.org.uk), the Parish Council has been receiving reports of progress. The CLT continues to seek land on which it can build affordable homes, sufficient to meet demand reported in the Housing Needs Survey.

Grants awarded in the 2019-20 budget met the requests at the level in the applications

Millennium Green Trust	£1,000	Parish Church grounds maintenance	£400
Village Hall running costs	£750*	Stowell Church grass cutting	£325
*a one-off uplift for a major project in 2019		Parish magazine	£50

Volunteers implementing Parish policies

As ever, parish residents have been incredibly committed and given hours to the community and been generous in their support for charity. Volunteers have helped to run Community SpeedWatch, helped with the Spring Clean and organise the Community Land Trust. Thanks to all volunteers.

Report from the Annual Parish Meetings

The Annual Parish Meeting in 2018 included consultation on outstanding policies in the Community Plan on offices and workshops and facilities for children, young people and sport; a sharing of ideas about the commemoration of the centenary of the end of World War 1 and budget discussions.

The Annual Parish Meeting on Saturday 30 March 2019 included an update from South Somerset District Council on 'Transformation' by Tim Cook, Locality Manager and an update from Charlton Horethorne Primary School by Stephen Fisher, the Chair of Governors. This included a video of pupils sharing their thoughts about the parish. Pupils like the pretty village and the churchyard, as well as the play area and new adventure trail in the Millennium Green. Pupils would like more picnic benches, more fish in the pond and play equipment for an older age group. They certainly seemed to enjoy their school life. You can find out more about the District Council and the Primary School at <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/> and <https://www.charltonhorethorne.somerset.sch.uk/> Residents also had asked to discuss the potential for a defibrillator in the village and seven people offered to form a working group to look at this – funding, type, location, running costs etc. There was no progress to report by the Community Land Trust, who are still seeking land for the affordable homes that the housing needs survey identified.

Future meetings

Agendas and minutes are at <http://charltonhorethorne.org.uk/meetings/council-meetings-2019/>

Monday 8 April	7.30 pm	Village Hall	Parish Council meeting
Monday 20 May	7.30 pm	Village Hall	Annual meeting of the new Parish Council Election of the Chair and Vice-chair

There are always opportunities for input from residents – at the beginning and end of the agenda and, where appropriate, during specific items for discussion. Please join us at Parish Council meetings. Dates for 2019-20 will be published on the Parish Council website.