

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 24 June 2019

Present: Michael Hutchings (Chairperson), Ian Macfarlane, David Peet, Jenny Peet and Simon Purcell.

Also present: Zoe Godden (Clerk), Julie Ferguson (new Parish Clerk) and District and County Councillor William Wallace.

There were 16 members of the public present at the start of the meeting.

1. To receive any apologies.

Apologies had been received from District Councillor Hayward Burt and PCSO John Winfield.

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.

No matters were raised by the public.

3. Members' declaration of interests.

Michael Hutchings declared a personal interest in any issues relating to the Charlton Horethorne Community Land Trust as he is a director of the trust.

4. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 20 May and 05 June 2019

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve both sets of minutes as presented.

5. To hear reports from:

a. **PCSO John Winfield** had sent his apologies.

b. **District Councillor Hayward Burt** had sent his apologies.

c. **County Councillor William Wallace** reported that he was in discussions with Charlton Horethorne Primary School regarding the acquisition of substantial goal posts and nets. It was noted that the school field did not belong to the Parish Council. It was intended that the goal posts would be available for use by the wider community outside of school hours. William said that it was unlikely that his Health and Wellbeing grants could be used to fund a defibrillator but that SSDC was likely to be able to help. William said that the defibrillator group should contact Helen Sharp at SSDC.

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 including:

i. HD2 provision of a minimum of four affordable homes in the Parish (MH)

Nothing to report

ii. To hear an update on the work of Charlton Horethorne Community Land Trust. (Mark Hughes)

Nothing to report

iii. HD3 provision of small number of downsizing/retirement homes in the village (MH)

Nothing to report

iv. HD 4 & 5 provision of a small number of workshops and office units in the village (IM)

Ian Macfarlane said that he had intended to join a regular meeting of parishioners who worked from home. He had also been in touch with a broadband provider called Truespeed that provided fibre to the premises, rather than fibre to the cabinet, which provided much faster broadband speeds. The service which is aimed at the Rural South West was not yet available in Charlton Horethorne but, if 30% of residents registered an interest on the Truespeed website (www.truespeed.com), the company would consider rolling out their service in the parish. Ian felt that Truespeed might be a

better option than Wessex Internet because they did not ask for any upfront payment. Ian said that he would communicate this information to residents in Sigwells and Stowell.

Action Ian Macfarlane

- v. ES1, 2 & 3 – investigation of the demand for new facilities for young children, teenagers and sporting activities (JP)

Nothing to report.

- vi. TRS 1 to 7 – Traffic and road safety issues (SP)

Simon Purcell reported that he had been in contact with Somerset County Council regarding the request from Jenny Peet for the erection of a pedestrian warning sign at the bottom of North Road. SCC had no objections to this. Simon had spoken with some walkers who also had no objections. However, it was noted that an additional road sign would represent an increase in street furniture.

19:53 – The Chairperson allowed a public open session.

Members of the public noted that the Community Plan specified that there should be no increase in street furniture and discussed the most suitable location for such a sign. There was some discussion about the effectiveness of road signs generally and the fact that parked cars seemed to act as a method of calming traffic speeds.

[Extract from Community Plan, for information only: Policy TRS 4 - The policy will support the Parish Council in opposing unnecessary additional street signs being erected by Somerset County Council.]

19:57 – The Chairperson closed the public open session.

It was agreed that this issue should be looked at in the context of the overall street furniture situation in the village. Jenny Peet agreed to add an article to the Parish Magazine to ask for public opinions on the addition of a road sign at this location.

Action Jenny Peet

Simon Purcell went on to report that, while clearing foliage from road signs on the B3145, he had found a sign indicating an upcoming junction and a horse warning sign. SCC would arrange for these to be properly located. Simon had also found an additional Charlton Horethorne village sign. It was agreed that the public should be consulted on where this sign should be located via an article in the Parish Magazine.

Action Jenny Peet

b. Defibrillator Group

- i. To report on a meeting with a group of parishioners about the feasibility of acquiring a defibrillator. (IM)

Ian Macfarlane reported that he had attended a meeting of the defibrillator group, which had been formed after the Annual Parish Meeting in March. The group was preparing a proposal that would be submitted to the Parish Council in due course.

20:04 – The Chairperson allowed a public open session.

Members of the public discussed the pros and cons of defibrillators generally. It was noted that it was important for people to be trained in CPR and the use of defibrillators to maximise their effectiveness.

20:10 – The Chairperson closed the public open session.

- ii. To authorise the Clerk to approach BT about the possibility of adopting the red telephone box near the shop

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk should approach BT to find out if the telephone box could be adopted.

Action Parish Clerk

7. Financial Matters

- a. To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for the period to 24 May 2019.

RESOLVED: The cash book and bank reconciliation for the period to 24 May 2019, as verified by Jenny Peet, was approved and signed by the Chairperson.

b. To approve payments of:

Zöe Godden	Salary and expenses May 2019	£144.69
HMRC	Income tax re Z Godden May 2019	£32.00
Came & Company	Admin fee	£50.00
SALC	Councillor Essentials training x 4	£75.00
Charlton Horethorne Village Hall	Hall Hire April and May 2019	£44.00
Zöe Godden	Salary June 2019 (post-dated cheque)	£128.00
HMRC	Income tax re Z Godden June 2019 (post-dated cheque)	£32.00

RESOLVED: it was proposed and agreed to approve the payments as presented and that Trevor Gill and Michael Hutchings would sign the cheques.

Action Parish Clerk

c. To approve section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return without amendment.

d. To approve section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return without amendment.

e. Any other financial matters.

No other financial matters were raised.

8. Correspondence

a. Somerset County Council – Invitation to Annual Civic Service.

Noted.

b. Somerset County Council – Road Closure Notice - Harvest Lane 08 July for 10 days excluding weekends

Noted.

9. Planning

a. To report any relevant planning decisions made by SSDC: **19/00859/HOU** - The erection of a single storey front entrance porch - 5 Southdown, Charlton Horethorne. DT9 4NQ – **Granted with conditions**

Noted.

b. To consider the following planning applications and make recommendations to SSDC

There were no new planning applications.

There was some discussion about the removal of the weekly email from SSDC that gave a summary of new planning applications and decisions. The Clerk said that she had experienced difficulties accessing the required information on the website. Julie Ferguson reported that there was a delay of several weeks between the validation of new planning applications at SSDC and their publication on the SSDC website. It was **agreed** that the Chairperson and the Clerk should draft a letter to SSDC to request the reinstatement of the weekly emails and to describe the difficulties faced when attempting to interact with the new website. This letter should be copied to District Councillor Hayward Burt and District and County Councillor William Wallace.

Action Chairperson & Parish Clerk

20:23 – The Chairperson allowed a public open session.

It was noted that the Parish Council had previously written to SSDC to express the Parish Council's concern over difficulties in contacting the Planning Department.

20:24 - The Chairperson closed the public open session.

10. Items of Report / Future Business

Michael Hutchings noted that a meeting had taken place between the Parish Council and Hopkins Developments and that there had been a subsequent meeting between past and current members of the Parish Council and Charlton Horethorne Community Land Trust. Michael asked Trevor Gill to comment on the subsequent meeting. Trevor said that, in order for real progress to be made, the Parish Council and the CHCLT needed to work more closely together. By working together to achieve the joint aim of providing affordable housing, the CHCLT and Parish Council would be in a better position to negotiate with landowners and developers. Michael Hutchings said that this matter would be discussed at future Parish Council meetings.

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

In response to a question from a member of the public, Michael Hutchings said that, at this stage, the aim of dealing with Hopkins Developments was to establish a dialogue.

12. Date of Next Meeting: 12 August 2019

The meeting ended at 20:35.

Agreed & signed by the Chair _____

Date _____