

CHARLTON HORETHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie Ferguson. Chilthorne Knapp, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil, BA22 8QZ

Tel: 07783 475200

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Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Charlton Horethorne Parish Council held on Monday 25 January 2021 at 18:00hrs

Present – Councillors

Michael Hutchings (Chairman), Ian Macfarlane, David Peet, Jenny Peet, Simon Purcell

In attendance:

Julie Ferguson - Parish Clerk, William Wallace – District & County Councillor and 3 members of the public.

20/43 To receive any Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given

Hayward Burt – District Councillor had sent his apologies, which were accepted.

20/44 Declarations of interests

None.

20/45 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2020.

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held

18:10 – Meeting closed

20/46 Public Open Session to include County and District Councillors Report

District Councillor Hayward Burt had provided a written report, from which the Chairman summarised the main points:

- SSDC¹ had deployed staff to assist with the vaccination programme.
- All area committees were cancelled until March 2021, affecting the planning process and decisions.
- Additional business grants were now available to businesses suffering due to Covid restrictions.
- Wincanton generation programme had received funding, in the hope that planned events will go ahead.
- SSDC Community Matters Team available to help with parish cleaning, inc. Ranger scheme (at additional cost).

Councillor Wallace expressed concern with the temporary impact on planning, with some decisions being made under a challengeable delegated authority whilst administration staff were directed elsewhere. He had passed his concerns to SSDC, asking if affected applications could be delayed until normal business resumes in March. The Chairman asked to be kept informed of any outcome.

Councillor Wallace further reported that 3 companies had been selected to roll out Full Fibre Network under the Connecting Somerset & Devon (CDS) programme over the next 4 years. Councillor Macfarlane provided further information reporting that Wessex Internet would be responsible for connecting the outlying rural areas of the parish with a Fibre To The Premise (FTTP) solution. He assured the PC that the village of Charlton Horethorne would not be overlooked, with a FTTP connection solution providing there was enough interest within the parish. A landowner present indicated that work had already begun across his land, which was welcome news to the Parish Council.

18:15 – Meeting opened

¹ South Somerset District Council

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20/47 Finance – To report on online banking procedures

The clerk reported that the PC was now able to make BACS² payments. The clerk had online access and payments due would be actioned after approval had been granted by 2 mandated councillors, either from a PC meeting or under the business continuity motion between meetings. It was agreed that Councillor Purcell would look into online access to the PC bank accounts as a back-up.

20/48 Finance – To report payments made since the last PC meeting

The following payments were presented and noted as having been made, via BACs since the last meeting:

Milborne Port Computers – Domain charges	£72.00
Jimmy Flynn – Annual website charge	£100.00
J Ferguson – Clerk’s salary & expenses (Nov & Dec)	£370.76
HMRC ³ – PAYE ⁴ (Nov & Dec)	£67.80
Parish Magazine – additional grant	£100.00

20/49 Finance – To approve the following payments

J Ferguson – Clerk’s salary and expenses (Jan)	£148.70
HMRC – PAYE	£33.80

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to make the payments due.

20/50 Finance – To approve the following grant requests

Charlton Horethorne PCC ⁵	£450
Charlton Horethorne Primary School	£750
Stowell PCC	£400
Millennium Green Trust	£750
Parish Magazine	£100 (upto)

Councillor Purcell explained that the grant request from Millennium Green Trust had been reduced from that requested in previous years, due to Trustees taking on grass cutting duties, resulting in a healthy reserves pot from the savings. They also acknowledged the request for a much needed grant for the Primary School, and hoped their reduced grant request would help the parish budget.

The Village Hall Committee had withdrawn their grant request for the coming year as they had secured a business grant in the first lockdown and did not wish to put further demands on the parish finances. The Chairman commended both the Millennium Green Trust and the Village Hall Committee on their efforts and resulting savings to the parish purse.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed approve all the grants as requested.

20/51 Finance - To agree to grant £25 for the 'Best Viewfinder Photograph'

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to present a £25 voucher for the village shop as a prize to the 'Best Viewfinder Photograph' to Christine Sutton.

20/52 Finance - To agree the budget for 2021-22

² Bankers’ Automated Clearing System

³ Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs

⁴ Pay As You Earn

⁵ Parochial Church Council

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The budget had been provided to all councillors in advance of the meeting for their consideration.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the budget shown below, with the revised grant requests.

Payments	Budget 21-22
Clerks Emoluments	£ 1,760.00
HMRC	£ 440.00
Admin General (expenses & hall hire)	£ 570.00
Admin Subscriptions	£ 200.00
Website	£ 300.00
Village Green	£ 550.00
*Community Plan	£ 480.00
Environment - General Maintenance	£ 170.00
Audit	£ -
Insurance	£ 400.00
Training	£ 100.00
Elections	£ -
*Defibrillator	£ 200.00
Grants - CH Millennium Green Trust	£ 750.00
Grants - CH PCC	£ 450.00
Grants - CH Village Hall	£ -
Grants - Stowell PCC	£ 400.00
Grants - CH Parish Magazine	£ 100.00
Grants - CH Primary School	£ 750.00
*IT (laptop & s/w)	£ 88.00
Reserves contribution	£ 400.00
VAT incurred on payments in year	
Total Expenses	£8,108.00

20/53 Finance - To agree the precept for 2021-22

It was agreed that it was not necessary to increase the precept to meet the budget.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to request a precept of £8155, the same as for the previous year.

20/54 Planning Decisions Report - 20/02299/LBC – The Manor, Manor Farm Yard, Charlton Horethorne External and internal alterations and change of use. Approved.
Noted.

20/55 Planning Decisions Report - 20/02987/COL – Squirrels Lodge, Old Bristol Rd, Sigwells. Application for a lawful development certificate for existing use. Approved.
Noted.

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20/56 Planning Applications and Report - 20/03404/OUT - Land at Ciderhouse Farm, Sigwells. Demolition of buildings and erection of 5 dwelling houses

RESOLVED: The Parish Council unanimously agreed to provide comments as follows:

The Parish Council supports this application on the grounds that the site will be improved in appearance and it will contribute to houses towards the Charlton Horethorne Community Plan.

20/57 Public Open Session (by permission of the Chairman)

The Chairman thanked Mr & Mrs Archer for clearing a drain off Cathill Lane, which was working very well. He also felt that the parish might benefit from additional dog bins and signage, to remind dog owners to 'pick up'. It was agreed this would be looked into and discussed on the next agenda. The clerk agreed to report the missing dog bin on Cowpath Lane again, as it had not been replaced. It was reported that work on the PC website was ongoing, to bring it up to date.

20/58 Date of next meeting - TBD

18:50 – Meeting closed