

CHARLTON HORETHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of Meeting of Charlton Horethorne Parish Council held on Monday 11 April 2022 at 19:30hrs

Present – Councillors

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

In attendance:

Julie Ferguson - Parish Clerk, Hayward Burt – District Councillor and 21 members of the public

22/01 To receive any Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given

Apologies were received from William Wallace – District & County Councillor

22/02 Declarations of interests

None.

22/03 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2022

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

22/04 Public Open Session to include County and District Councillors Report

Cllr Hutchings passed on thanks on behalf of the parish to Stephen Hall for once again offering his time FOC to inspect the accounts and complete the AGAR internal audit report for Charlton Horethorne Parish Council. Cllr Burt gave a brief report on the Wincanton regeneration project, but was mindful of being in the pre-election period.

22/05 Matters to report from the previous meeting

There were no matters to report that were not on the agenda.

22/06 Finance – To approve the following payments

Clerk's gross salary & expenses	£211.60
SSDC – Annual Ground Maintenance	£450.54
Community Heartbeat Trust – Annual support fee	£198
CHVH – Hire fee	£40
Charlton Horethorne PCC - grant	£450
Charlton Horethorne Primary School - grant	£400
Stowell PCC - grant	£450
Millennium Green Trust - grant	£750
Parish Magazine	£100
Charlton Horethorne Village Hall	£500

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

22/07 To note receipt of the precept

Noted.

22/08 To approve the 2021/22 EoY financial statement, cashbook and bank reconciliation

RESOLVED: The cashbook & bank reconciliations to 31st March 2022 were unanimously approved.

22/09 To approve the Financial Risk Assessment & Management Statement

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RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the Financial Risk Assessment and Management Statement

22/10 To agree to exempt the Parish Council from an external audit, due to income or expenditure being less than £25K and sign the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2021/22 Form 2.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve to exempt Charlton Horethorne Parish Council from an external audit due to an income of £9424 and expenditure of £7322 in 2021-22 whereby the Chairman duly signed the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2021/22 Form 2.

22/11 To receive and note the internal audit report.

Stephen Hall had once again generously carried out the internal audit for the PC with all statements satisfactorily approved and no points to note.

22/12 To approve the AGAR Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the AGAR Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22.

22/13 To approve the AGAR Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the AGAR Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22.

22/14 To notify the commencement date for the exercise of public rights

It was notified that the commencement date for the exercise of public rights would be Monday 13th June 2022.

22/15 To approve the clerks contractual 1 point salary increase

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the clerks contractual 1 point salary increase.

22/16 To approve the 2021-22 National Pay Award (backdated to 1st April 2021)

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the 2021-22 National Pay Award, backdated to 1st April 2021.

22/17 Planning Decisions Report - 21/03386/HOU – Kiwi Cottage, Maperton Road, Charlton Horethorne. Approved. Noted.

22/18 Planning Decisions Report - 21/03718/S73A – Hay Barn & Tack Room at Clare Cottage, Stowell Road. Approved. Noted.

22/19 Planning Decisions Report - 21/01523/HOU – Land Adj. Bumble cottage, Maperton Road, Charlton Horethorne. Approved. Noted.

22/20 Planning Applications and Report - 22/00608/HOU & 22/00837/LBC – The Old Forge, High Street, Charlton Horethorne.

Cllr D Peet reported that the PC had provided a response as follows:

Charlton Horethorne Parish Council supports this application. It will not have an adverse effect on the neighbourhood and the small internal alteration will not affect the integrity of this listed building.

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22/21 Planning Applications and Report - 21/03693/S73A – Land Adj to Gunville Farm Bungalow, Harvest Lane. Report

Cllr D Peet reported that the PC had provided a response as follows:

Charlton Horethorne Parish Council objects to these further amendments to application number 21/03693/S73A about which the Parish Council has already lodged its opposition and public comments. The proposed balcony, the spiral staircase and associated works are aesthetically displeasing and would increase the footprint of this property by over 50 square metres, taking it even further away from the "agricultural vernacular, agricultural feel and agricultural landscape" promised in paragraph 6.10 of the Planning Statement lodged in support of the original application number 20/01544/FUL. Furthermore, the proposed balcony, being very large, would be capable of hosting substantial parties with attendant noise and disturbance. It would overlook the bridleway known as Green Lane, taking away the peace and tranquillity of this much-loved corner of the parish. The Parish Council has already made it clear in its comments on application number 21/03693/S73A that it deplores these multiple applications which completely change the character of a development into something very different to what was originally permitted.

22/22 Planning Applications and Report - 21/03635/S73A – Mulberry Cross, Harvest Lane. Report.

Cllr D Peet reported that the PC had provided a response as follows:

Charlton Horethorne Parish Council opposes this application (and the associated application 21/03693/S73A) in so far as they propose the creation of three separate entrances from the byway known as Green Lane instead of the one existing entrance at plot no 1, now known as Mulberry Cross. Green Lane is a restricted byway (number WN7/33) meaning that "mechanically propelled vehicles" are not allowed, except for property owners gaining access to their property. Plots 2 and 3 at the adjoining site are five and six bedroomed houses which can be expected to generate a considerable amount of motor traffic from both domestic vehicles and commercial deliveries. If that traffic was allowed to travel along Green Lane it would damage the historic charm of the lane and possibly endanger the walkers and horse riders who use it. Furthermore, three separate entrances, with splays, would result in extensive loss of hedgerow and potential damage to wildlife habitat, not least the active badger sett near plot 3.

22/23 Parish Council Matters - To agree a date for the APCM

Due to there being no parish council nominations received by SSDC following the close of nominations on 5th April 2022, it was not possible to set a date for the APCM at this time.

22/24 Parish Council Matters - To agree a date for the APM

Due to there being no Parish Councillors in the period following the end of the pre-election period, there would be no Annual Parish Meeting this year.

22/25 Parish Council Matters - To approve the SSDC annual ground maintenance contract

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the annual ground maintenance contract with SSDC at a cost of £557.90.

22/26 Parish Council Matters - To agree a business continuity motion in the event of an inquorate PC

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the adoption of a business continuity motion as follows:

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Should the council find itself inquorate and until it becomes quorate once again, this council resolves that:

(a) The Clerk be given delegated authority to progress all ongoing matters and projects and authorise all regular payments and incur expenditure in line with the council's agreed budget.

(b) A record of all decisions and expenditure incurred under delegated authority will be kept and reported to members when the council next meets.

(c) No planning applications will be responded to until a quorate council meets.

(d) The provisions outlined in resolutions (a-c) above will override any requirements to the contrary in the council's standing orders, financial regulations or terms of reference.

22/27 Parish Matters - To discuss the village magazine editor vacancy

Cllr Hutchings reported that Lucy Beney, the editor of the Parish Magazine for the last 10 years had given notice to cease in the Autumn. On behalf of the parish, Cllr Hutchings thanked Lucy for all her efforts producing a wonderful publication and asked everyone present to help find a new editor, ensuring the magazine continues.

22/28 Parish Matters - To report on the recent Wessex Internet public meeting – 4th April 2022

Cllr Macfarlane gave a report on the recent public meeting held by Wessex Internet, explaining that Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) would be coming to Charlton Horethorne, however the speed at which it would arrive was dependent on an increase in households registering their interest. Currently 50 properties had registered and another 54 was needed to guarantee an installation sooner rather than later. He further explained that there was no financial commitment when registering, but having Ultrafast Broadband connection to your property was considered desirable and could positively affect house values in the village.

22/29 Parish Matters - To report on the SID share agreement to include agreed costs

Cllr Purcell reported that the SID had been purchased by Henstridge PC and Charlton Horethorne would be borrowing it for certain periods throughout the year. Henstridge PC had asked for Charlton Horethorne PC to contribute £100 each time the SID was in the parish for a 6-week period, currently planned for twice a year, with funds collected going towards a replacement unit. Brackets & clips would also need to be purchased at a cost of £80.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve a spend of £280 for the year to allow the SID to be installed in the parish for 2 x 6-week periods and fixings purchased.

22/30 Parish Matters - To report on the Jubilee weekend event

Tony Magson addressed the PC, explaining that a Jubilee Committee had been formed and several meetings had been held. The weekend plan was taking shape, with a live music event in the VH on the Friday evening, playing music through the decades of Her Majesty's reign. On Sunday there would be a bring-your-own picnic on the Millennium Green with stall holders and entertainment consisting of a Pimms bar (& regular bar), ice cream van, circus skills, village fete & games with music being provided by an Old Tyme Bluegrass Band and folk singers. A local resident would also be giving a dog-dancing demonstration. There would be more to follow & details would be published in the Parish Magazine. The PC had successfully applied for a grant from the SALC reconnecting Communities fund of £650, which would be helping with the costs of the event.

22/31 Parish Matters - To thank the village shop proprietors

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Cllr Hutchings reported that, sadly the owners of the village shop were leaving. He wished to pass on thanks from the PC for their efforts towards keeping the shop going throughout the Covid period in particular, being a lifeline for many residents.

22/32 Public Open Session

Following on from the previous meeting where a parishioner had expressed his disappointment at the manner in which his planning application had been treated by the PC, he made further comments to the PC and Chairman in particular, asking for answers to questions that he had posed at that previous meeting and in a letter sent to Cllr Hutchings between meetings. Cllr Hutchings repeated his response that he believed no further explanations were necessary and the matter was out of the hands of the PC once the comments had been submitted to SSDC. All Cllrs agreed and endorsed this position.

As this was the final meeting of this PC, Cllr J Peet thanked Cllr Hutchings for his excellent Chairmanship over the last 3 years and for guiding the PC and the parish through a very challenging Covid period. Chairman Hutchings then made a statement to all present, with thanks going to a number of people in particular:

- Anna Mike for setting up the Coronaloners lifeline through lockdown.
- Parish Clerk for advising the PC when necessary & keeping things going as required.
- Cllr Macfarlane for his considerable efforts towards installing a defibrillator in the parish and being the Ultrafast Broadband champion.
- Cllr D Peet for his meticulous attention to planning applications, including arranging consultations with all those affected.
- Cllr J Peet for being the communications representative, arranging for articles in the Parish Magazine and keeping everyone informed of parish business via her email system.
- Cllr Purcell for being the unsung hero, going quietly about the parish seeing to & fixing things in his own time & often out of his own pocket. Also for helping to get the SID up and running in the village.
- Tony Magson for helping with the SID project and putting himself forward for training alongside Cllr Purcell.
- District Cllr Hayward Burt and District & County Cllr William Wallace for their attendance, help and advice over the years.
- He then thanked the PC as a whole for being a most harmonious, dedicated & cheerful Council & finally gave thanks all the members of the public who had regularly attended the meetings over the last few years.

22/33 Date of next meeting – TBD.

The meeting ended with a round of applause from members of the public.

20:32 – Meeting closed.