

CHARLTON HORETHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Ann Lee 3 Sparkford Road, Sparkford, Yeovil, BA22 7FA

Tel: 07702667083

E-mail: clerk@charltonhorethorne.org.uk

Minutes of Meeting of Charlton Horethorne Parish Council held on Tuesday 15 August 2023 at 19:30hrs

Present – Councillors (Cllrs)

Tim Archer (Chair), Geoff McHugh, Patrick Lynch, Roger Pipe, Roger Thornham

In attendance:

Ann Lee - Parish Clerk and 18 members of the public.

i) Public Open Session

The Chair congratulated Cllr Dykes appointment as an MP in the recent election.

Concerns were raised about the condition of Horse Lane. The Chair noted that the Council had been marking areas for repair in recent weeks, but Horse Lane will be reported, and progress monitored.

ii) County & District Councillors Reports

The Chair directed the public to the following reports placed on the Parish website:

- a) Local Community Network meeting minutes
- b) Somerset Rivers Authority report

Meeting opened at 19.37

23/23 Welcome from the Chair

Cllr Archer introduced Ann Lee who is local living in Sparkford and is the new Parish Clerk. The chair outlined her career and explained that she is also a Parish Clerk at Henstridge and Fontmell Magna.

23/24 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85(1))

None received. The Chair acknowledged the appointment of Cllr Dyke as the new MP congratulating her explaining that her absence is likely to be due to numerous date changes to accommodate the meeting.

23/25 Declarations of Interest: None

23/26 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting – 2023 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 31 May 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **Approved Unanimously**

23/27 Matters to report from a previous meeting

The Chair acknowledged the appointment of Cllr Lynch as Vice Chair and explained that all other matters were included in the agenda.

23/28 Planning decisions report

None.

23/29 Finance – To approve the payment schedule for August 2023

Payee	Particulars	Amount
STAFF	SALARIES	ACCRUING
MILBOURNE COMPUTING	REPAIR CLERK LAP TOP	£222.99
HMRC	PAYE	£37.40
PINNACLE	PAYROLL FEE	£45.60
SLCC	SUBSCRIPTION	£23.60
CHVH	HALL HIRE	£40.00
TOTAL		£369.59

Chairman

Date

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RESOLVED: To approve all payments totalling £369.59 by Cllr Pipe

23/30 Finance – To report the payments made since the last meeting:

STAFF SALARIES	JUNE/JULY	£265.70
HMRC		£75.00
PINNACLE	PAYROLL FEE	£96.00
GALLAGHER INSURANCE	INSURANCE	£466.66
CHVC	HALL HIRE	£52.00
TOTAL		£995.36

23/31 Finance – To approve the cashbook and bank reconciliation to 31st July 2023

The clerk reported that the Nat West Bank Business Current Account showing transactions from 15 May to the 15 August after payments agreed from the previous meeting has a balance of £15,845.34. In addition, the Nat West Bank Business Reserve Account with interest paid has increased from a balance of £3,516.93 to £3,524.21.

RESOLVED: To approve the cashbook and bank reconciliation to 15 August 2023.

23/32 Finance – To approve transfer of RFO from Julie Ferguson to Ann Lee

Resolved: to approve transfer of RFO from Julie Ferguson to Ann Lee

Proposed by Cllr Lynch Seconded by Cllr McHugh Unanimous decision.

23/33 Finance – To consider dual signatory of accounts at either Nat West Account or another Bank for good governance and efficiency.

RESOLVED: To transfer funds to a Lloyds account with dual signatory for governance and efficiency purposes and agreed to include Chair and X as dual signatories for RFO.

PROPOSED: Cllr Pipe **SECONDED:** Cllr Lynch. **UNANIMOUS DECISION**

23/34 a) To consider the Parochial Church Council (PPC) application for £500 Grant Funding.

The application was anticipated and was originally budgeted for £450. The increase of £50 from prior year is due to current economic circumstances. The grant is for the maintenance and upkeep of the Churchyard which benefits the Parish.

RESOLVED: To incorporate grant £500 to the PPC. **PROPOSED:** Cllr Archer Seconded by Cllr Pipe **UNANIMOUS DECISION**

b) **To consider a grant for £100 towards the Parish Magazine.** The Chair asked that the applicant complete the form located on the Parish Website and submit it for this year and complete a timely application for next year with budgeting scheduled going forward for the Autumn.

23/35 To resolve village green maintenance and award a contract for the remainder of the year, reviewing in November 2023.

The Chair reported that several quotes had been received but the majority were considered unaffordable. Glenn While submitted a bid to cut the grass for £15 an hour which he indicates would take 2 hours a time to complete. This would be within budget for the year. Glenn is local and grew up in the village, and it was noted that he had already cut the grass on two occasions, generously paid for by Tony Lethbridge on behalf of the community. The Chair acknowledged his support and asked residents to thank him in passing.

The Chair proposed that Glenn While cut the grass for the remainder of the year. Grass is usually cut from March to October, cutting twice a month.

RESOLVED: To award a contract to Glenn While to cut the grass for the remaining year at £15 an hour and review in the Spring. **PROPOSED:** Cllr Thornham **SECONDED:** Cllr Pipe **UNANIMOUS DECISION**

23/35 To consider recommendations for use of surplus funds generated by volunteers from the Coronation Celebrations for the benefit of the Parish.

Chairman

Date

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A surplus of £300 has been generated from events organised by volunteers to celebrate the Queen's Coronation. This is not PC money. Organisers of the events want to ensure that the money is put to a good cause. The Chair explained this is not money held by the PC. Cllrs listened to proposals outlined by Jane Watkins one of the principle fundraising volunteers a) Flagpole at a cost that outstretched the funds available. b) Funds used to support the PC for a special project they may be considering, c) A proposed donation to the Primary School Garden project to create a beautiful garden on the scrubland that belongs to the school for the children. They have already purchased a bench in memory of a teacher who died last year and are actively seeking funds to transform the land for the benefit of pupils.

ACTION The Chair offered co-ordinating support if required.

23/37 To receive Councillors reports.

Cllr McHugh gave an update on Harvest Lane. The application is waiting engineering calculations. There have been further updates from Highways. More information is likely within the next two weeks. If approved building be likely to commence 3 – 4 months post approval and take between 18- 24 months to complete.

The Chair agreed to post all reports on the Parish website for the public to read at their leisure. This included reports from Cllrs Dyke and Clark, with a separate tab for information relating to the Local Community Network (LCN); Somersets Rivers Authority.

The Chair reported that he had attended the (LCN) meeting for Southeast Somerset in Wincanton in June. It was a well-attended meeting with Police present. Requests from all Councils were for the Fire service and other Health service agencies to be encouraged to attend future meetings. The next meeting is scheduled in September, the date is still to be confirmed. The Co-Chairs are Cllr Jones from Bruton and Cllr Morrison from Castle Cary. The Vice Chair is Cllr Clark known to this Parish. The Chair explained he will endeavour to attend the meetings as the nominated representative allowed to vote. It is hoped that if Cllr Archer cannot attend, he will be allowed to vote by proxy by whoever goes instead. He feels it is worth attending, the Parish will be able to raise any points considered important for this community and inevitably we share similar concerns experienced by other Parish Councils. Meetings will occur every 2 months at 7pm in the evenings.

Topics discussed included:

- Youth Facilities
- Traffic and Traffic Safety
- Local River Environmental concerns
- Enforcement for HGV Lorry Limits on local lanes
- Antisocial behaviour
- Refuse and recycling
- Road Maintenance and Potholes

Speeding traffic The Chair also reported on a 20 mile an hour speed limit initiative to help communities that would find these limits helpful, but it was felt that there are a lot of caveats which likely would make it unattractive to the village – such as a requirement for street lighting and a £500 nonrefundable cost to apply. It would cost £15,000 to install although funding is available to help. The Chair indicated that the outcome of Harvest Lane will determine if the PC considers this approach further.

23/38 To receive items for the next agenda.

1.The Village Green budget, quotes for post and rail replacement

23/39 Proposed dates for next meetings:

13 September Village Hall 7.30 14 November Village Hall 7.30 23 January Village Hall 7.30

Meeting closed at 20:08

Chairman

Date