

CHARLTON HORETHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Charlton Horethorne Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Charlton Horethorne on MONDAY 16th MARCH 2026 at 7.30pm.

The meeting commenced after there had been an opportunity for members of the electorate of the Parish to speak. This section of the meeting is not minuted. New items raised by the public in this session were discussed by the council. Items for inclusion on the agenda should be put to the Clerk in writing prior to the meeting for inclusion.

Items brought to Cllrs attention included: -

1. **Present: Cllr Archer (Chair) Cllr Lynch, Cllr Pipe, Cllr McHugh, Cllr Thornham**
2. **In Attendance: Cllr Burt (from 7.50) Ann Lee Clerk, 14 residents**
3. **Apologies for Absence. To RECEIVE AND APPROVE** apologies for absence including reasons given (Local Government Act 1972 s85 (1)). **None**
4. **Declarations of Interest.** (Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any Pecuniary or Other interests they may have under the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct). **Cllr Archer declared interest in the Harvest Lane development and planning applications for Dragon Manor Farm and the Old Forge. Cllr Lynch declared an ongoing interest in the Harvest Lane development.**
5. **To APPROVE as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 26th January 2026.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12. **Proposed as accurate by Cllr Archer, seconded by Cllr Pipe, unanimously agreed.**
6. **To review all matters arising from the previous meetings.**

Minute item	Action	Responsibility
21.10.24 10c	To RECEIVE a progress report regarding access to the land near Charwell field for the public and consider the feasibility of grant applications for any work required vs community benefit. Grant applications are possible from Health Grant funds from the Unitary Authority. Cllr Archer has previously written twice to the Council to seek verification of land transfer but not received a reply. He stated that he will pursue this.	Cllr Archer On-going In progress
26.1.26	To provide update on Abri meeting	Agenda item Council Matters

7. Reports

a) To receive the Chairmans report Cllr Archer

Cllr Archer reported that he has responded on behalf of the PC to the Ramblers request for information on Rights of Way. He reported that the PC had received a request for £200 from the Charity "Crime Stoppers". On exploration the Charity received £6m last year. Cllrs resolved not to support their request.

b) To receive any relevant police notifications. No notifications for this PC.

c) To receive Unitary Councillor reports from Cllr Nicola Clark and Cllr Hayward Burt.

Cllr Archer noted the content of Cllr Burts report that detailed the final Local Government Boundary Commission report. The result will be to split the current Blackmoor Vale ward. A New division called Milborne Port, will include Milborne Port,

Henstridge and Charlton Horethorne Parishes. For further information please use the link below [someset final recommendations full report.pdf](#).

Cllr Burt has indicated that the Full Council have decided its budget for the coming year. The Council will be a Tax Rise of 4.99%. He explained that the Government is going to clear 90% of Somerset’s SEND Deficit (£116m) subject to the Council agreeing a plan to bring future spending under control. Around £104.4 million of the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit is expected to be cleared by the Department for Education, with approximately £11.6 million remaining under the current statutory override arrangements until 2028. The agreement requires the Council to set out measures to manage demand and expenditure, with progress to be monitored by the Department for Education.

Cllrs noted that since the start of the year, Somerset Council has received 16,332 reports about defects on the roads, compared to 4,417 for the same period last year. In response, the Council has more than doubled the number of teams dealing with the damage, deploying extra equipment and using alternative materials to try to speed up the process. As of the 20 February 4,577 potholes have been fixed by 35 teams dedicated to this work. If a problem on the road is detected the public can contact Somerset Council by visiting [www.somerset.gov.uk](#) and searching “report a problem on the road”. It takes a few minutes and goes straight to the team who will visit and assess the defect. Depending on severity, it will be fixed on a timescale of two hours, 24 hours, seven days or 28 days for non-emergency repairs

Cllrs all noted their disappointment that from Monday the 23 March residents will be charged to use the Sherborne recycling centre. Cllr Burt will continue to ask the Somerset Cabinet member what is happening in relation to this. From Monday 23 March 2026, Dorset Council will introduce a simple booking system but residents will be charged.

8. Planning

- a) **To receive an update on the 23/02275 Hybrid following application refusal by Somerset Council: Cllr McHugh.** Cllr McHugh reported that he has written to Grass Roots to convene a meeting to discuss the application developments, but this has been declined.

- b) **To note new Planning Applications for decision by Committee Cllr Lynch.**

Application	Proposal	Applicant details
Application Number: 26/00470/LBC Deadline for comments 24 March 2026	Proposal: Replacing existing windows and doors Location: The Old Forge High Street Charlton Horethorne Sherborne Dorset DT9 4PB	Applicant: Mr Bob Mansergh
Cllr Lynch proposed to support this application, this was seconded by Cllr McHugh and unanimously carried. Cllr Archer did not vote.		

- c) **To note recent SSDC Planning Decisions: Cllr Lynch**

Application number	Proposal	Applicant details	Decision
25/02158/FUL Validated 30.9.25	Location: Dragon Manor Farm Stowell Lane Charlton Horethorne, Sherborne, Dorset, DT94PD Proposal Erect two modest agricultural dairy workers dwellings	Mr Kingsman	Awaiting decision
24/02967/FUL Validated 9.1.25	Location: Barn At Golden Valley Farm Green Lane Charlton Horethorne Sherborne Dorset	Applicant: Hopkins Estates Ltd	Approved 19 Feb 2026

	Proposal: Conversion and extension of an agricultural barn to form one residential unit, and ancillary works		
26/00508/TCA Tree work Notification only	Location: Vine Cottage North Road Charlton Horethorne Sherborne Dorset DT9 4NL Proposal: Notification of intent to Fell No. 1 Tree within a Conservation Area. T1 - Apple Tree Fell as starting to lean over with root coming out of the ground. Application Type : Work to Trees	Applicant: Simon Purcell	Awaiting decision

9 Finance

A) To note Receipts and Payments made since the last meeting with matched bank reconciliation for March 2026 and estimate year end performance. Clerk.

The Clerk reported that the position at year end is healthy. The Business Reserve account holds £8,646.12 and the Business Current Account has £18,084.14. This provides a total available fund of £26,730.26.

Receipts have included £5,000 from the SALC fund which is restricted to matters relating to the Community Plan project as well as interest amounting to £9.14.

The Clerk noted that invoices for grass cutting and maintenance works have not been received or applications for grants.

B) To approve payments for March 2026 presented as detailed on the schedule.

Cllr Pipe proposed payments are made in accordance with the payment schedule.

This was seconded by Cllr Thornham and unanimously agreed. This was detailed below.

Payee	Particulars	Amount	VAT
CH Village Hall*	Hire 16 and 23 March	£ 42.00	
Pinnacle	Wages administration	£ 49.20	8.20
HMRC	PAYE month 11	£ 41.40	
Ann Lee Clerk	Salary February	£ 166.08	
Ann Lee Clerk	Salary March	£ 166.08	
Ann Lee Clerk	HW and Phone Feb/March	£ 72.00	
Ann Lee Clerk	Travel Feb/March	£ 30.68	
TOTAL		£ 567.45	

*Including fees of £21 for Community Plan

When payments are made this will reduce the balance in the Business Account to £17,516.69 and available funds to £26,162.

C) To AGREE a quote from Tony Lethbridge (Kings Arms) to empty the 2x bins as regularly as necessary, at £30 per month (including providing bin bags etc), as an alternative to council option.

Cllr Archer explained that Somerset Council had quoted £ 811.20 (VAT £135.20 for 2 Litter bins at a cost of £6.50 emptied once a week in North Rd on the green by the notice board & North Rd and one on the green by the memorial.

Cllr Archer proposed that the PC accept the quote from Tony Lethbridge at the Kings Arms to empty the two bins as regularly as required at a cost of £30 a month at a cost of £360 a year. This was seconded by Cllr Lynch and unanimously carried.

D) To AGREE to SHARE the £300 cost of the Clerks CiLCA qualification equating to a contribution of £100 from this PC. Proposed by Cllr Lynch, seconded by Cllr Archer and unanimously carried.

- E) To **AGREE** the grant award of £1,000 to the Millennium Green Project. The application was agreed in principle at the last meeting. The application form is required before the grant can be awarded.

10 Council Matters

- a) To **RECEIVE Highway Safety Defects document that provides evidence of activity relevant to the Parish Cllr Archer.** Cllrs noted the content of defects fixed for the parish.
- b) To **UPDATE progress with the Abri Sale of property and determine action going forward. Cllr Archer.** Cllr Archer and Cllr Pipe met with Rob Barker from Abri and had an unexpectedly positive meeting. Abri have 14k homes across Somerset and Dorset. There are 19 such properties in this parish. Abri have changed their criteria methods of accessing if a property should be sold. They advised that bungalows with level access are now excluded from consideration for any future disposal, and the remaining housing stock in the Parish is of a sufficiently high standard and / or has had upgrades that means they will not be considered for sale with the exception of one property should the current resident decide to leave). Cllr Pipe has opened the door for exploring the potential for the community land trust /a not-for-profit type organisation to consider taking on such properties in the future. Cllr Archer proposed to keep the channel of communication with Abri open. This was seconded by Cllr McHugh and unanimously agreed.
- c) To **RECEIVE an update on the Community Plan Cllr Archer.** Cllr Archer reported that there had been 56 responses to the survey. The closing date for submissions is the 31 March. He thanked all the volunteers for the considerable effort they have made to the project. The results will be published in May.
- d) To **RECEIVE an update from the latest LCN meeting Cllr Archer.** There is no further feedback.
- e) To **AGREE to complete the SALC survey deadline 30 April 2026.** Cllr Archer will complete the survey in conjunction with the Clerk.
- f) To **AGREE to complete the Insurance application for 26/27 by the end of March.** Cllr Pipe has agreed to complete the insurance application to receive a quote. The PCs current provision expires in June 2026. The Clerk will submit the application.
- g) To **RECEIVE and APPROVE the GDPR audit 2026.** Cllr Archer proposed to adopt the survey, this was seconded by Cllr Lynch, unanimously agreed.
- h) To **NOTE any further progress with Charwell Fields Cllr Archer.** This remains on going.
- i) To **AGREE Items for the next meeting Cllr Archer.**
Year end report
Annual review of PC policies
To agree provision of a Government domain name and corresponding government email address for the Clerk and emails for Cllrs.

11. **Date of Next meeting** – The next proposed dates for the Annual Parish meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on the **18th of May 2026**. All items for inclusion on the agenda and all items to be listed under issues arising from previous meetings must be received by the Clerk by **9.00am on the 29 of April 2026**

Ann Lee Parish Clerk

