

CHARLETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 12th September 2024 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: O. Morgan, H. Baker, R. Ashby, B. Rogers, S. Rogers, S. Gorman, J. Calvert

In attendance Cllr. L. Lawford, Cllr. J. Brazil

OPEN FORUM – No members of the public attended

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. L. Lawford

Little to report due to summer break – there is a warning re. a scam email where parishioners are being offered £900.

CAB are conducting a major survey re. hidden homelessness i.e. sofa surfing etc.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. J. Brazil

- There was a briefing today for the National Planning Policy Framework in which it is proposed that South Hams should provide 500 new homes each year rising to 900. The reality is that young people are leaving and older people are moving into the South Hams. A policy to restrict buyers to those who work or have a connection to South Hams is needed, with a provision to give priority to essential workers' needs.
- Cabinet met yesterday and discussed strategic transport with Torbay and the financial revenue budget.
Devolution is now defunct but it may be resurrected in a different form hopefully in conjunction with Plymouth.
- Devon District Forum wrote to the leader of DCC – Council Tax has been increased for 2nd homes and the Forum wants to ring fence this increase for additional housing but DCC is reluctant to agree to this.
- Discussion took place about the footpath between E. & W. Charleton which seems to have stalled. JB will bring this up at the next HATOC meeting.
- Discussion also took place about the proposed South Hams Festival which proposed that parishes should donate £500 towards the organisation of the Festival. It was generally agreed that this would not be appropriate for Charleton PC.

1. APOLOGIES – None

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS held on 11th July 2024.

It was proposed seconded and **resolved** that the Chair should sign the Minutes as a true and correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting –

O. Morgan, B. Rogers and S. Rogers all declared an interest in planning application 2678/24/FUL

4. CLERK'S REPORT –

- Very sadly Amanda Lucas has resigned from the PC and will be leaving the district.
- Notification has been received that the grant from JB has been approved for updating of the VAS.
- At the next meeting the Precept needs to be agreed – it was suggested that a further amount be set aside for the footpath.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

- Bonfires were lighted on Bank Holiday Monday, which in light of the wind direction, prove antisocial.
- Very best wishes to Loo & James who have now left the pub.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. To approve the following bank payments
 £535.00 – Greenspace Inv. 0076
 £33.00 – I. Judge – updating website
 £357.89 – S. Winstanley (Aug)
 £100.20 – HMRC
 £246.92 - Community First - (insurance)
 £250.00 – Greenspace
 £357.80 – S. Winstanley (Sept)
 £90.00 – I. Judge – Hosting website
 £421.20 – S. Rogers (reimburse for defibrillator pads)
2. Cash at bank £19,695.24

*Approved***7. To discuss Charleton Parish Council website in particular and web stats.**

S. Gorman has taken over responsibility for updating the website. As yet there are no statistics as to how often the website is visited.

Discussion took place about the Charleton facebook page set up by Owen Morgan. S. Gorman wished it recorded that the facebook page should be a PC page. Item to be included in next agenda.

8. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS – PC delegated decisions**2185/24/HHO - Lynford, West Charleton TQ7 2AJ**

Application for extension to dwelling Approved

1882/24/HHO - Avalon House, W. Charleton TQ7 2AL

Replacement of existing conservatory & utility room with single storey extension Approved

To be considered:

2678/24/FUL - Croft Farm, Croft Lane, W. Charleton TQ7 2AL

Provision of dung storage building & concreting of yard

O. Morgan, B. Rogers & S. Rogers left the meeting and R. Ashby assumed the Chair.

Following discussion it was resolved to recommend approval.

O. Morgan, B. Rogers & S. Rogers returned to the meeting..

9. Community self-delivery of High Improvements update.

After discussion it was agreed that PC involvement was not practical. However, the Clerk to chase Lisa Edmunds for Highway quote for relining the virtual pavement.

10. To discuss the South Hams Festival – as above**11. Update on provision of a footpath between E & W. Charleton – as above.** Sue Gorman asked for a quote for the cost of constructing the footpath. R. Ashby pointed out that the price would change on a monthly basis with the costs rising regularly.**12. Update from the RSG.** Reply to letter from L. Edmunds**13. CORRESPONDENCE – Letter from Highways re. footpath** S. Page had received a complaint that the road near the Village Hall had become narrowed by the hedge falling into the road and blocking the 'S' of the slow sign. O. Morgan will contact Highways to have this remedied. A request has been made that the PC might consider installing swift boxes – on next agenda.

14. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS –

To receive reports:

Village Hall – The outside and part of the inside of the hall has been repainted.

Church – No report

Village Maintenance – Nothing to report – discussion about maintenance cost.

Footpaths – The Woodland Trust hope to purchase the field below the allotments which runs down to Bowcombe. They have agreed in principle that the PC's spare bench be sited by footpath and R.Ashby has 2 chestnut trees to plant beside the bench.

VAS - R. Ashby provided speeding stats which showed that average speeds were below 30mph which indicates that the VAS has been effective. Positioning VAS in EC is very difficult.

Defibrillator check - All Fine. New pads have been installed. O. Morgan asked that the Clerk send a bill to the Village Hall for the two pads provided for the Village Hall defibrillator.

Meetings - Suggestion that the number of meetings be increased – on agenda next meeting.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING– in Charleton Village Hall Meeting at 6.30pm will be 7th November 2024.

Signed

Owen Morgan, Chair

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. Report on the work of the Road Safety Group – J. Calvert & S. Gorman

The group has compiled the results of a survey in the Parish to gather views and generate support for improving safety throughout the Parish. So far, 88 households have taken part and their wishes were summarized in a document which was handed out to attendees.

2. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. L Lawford

- Thanks for your continued support.
- A major change has been waste collection which has been rolled out over the whole district and has proved very successful.

3. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. J. Brazil

- For the county it has been a difficult year around the finances. The three big spending departments of children's, adult's and road maintenance continue to struggle. Costs rise at an unsustainable rate and as a result services suffer. The most obvious for us all to see is the state of our roads.
- The county has now entered into a 'Safety Valve' agreement with government. This is to deal with the large deficit in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) budget. The debt is forecast to be over £200 million by April 25. Government have agreed to provide £95 million over 8 years, with county having to find the rest. This will be a mixture of reserves and further revenue savings within the budget. What concerns me is we have little idea about how they are expecting to stop the annual overspend in the SEND budget. It's running at about £40 million a year so massive changes are needed.
- The devolution deal has been agreed by both the County and now Torbay. It will head up to Westminster for various bureaucratic processes before becoming law in the Autumn. Whilst I am a massive advocate of devolution, this is not it. I can't get too worked up about it though, as a new government at Westminster will no doubt completely rewrite the deal including Plymouth.
- Council tax went up by 5%. 3% for the base budget and 2% ringfenced for adult services. In reality, with cuts to central government grants over many years there probably wasn't any choice.
- Finally, a big thank you to the PC and everything you do to support our communities and make the South Hams such a special place to live.

CHURCH REPORT – By Rev. M. Neave by email

- We continue to have a monthly evening service (usually on the fourth Sunday of each month, at 6.00 pm). On June 30, we will be having a combined service at St Mary's (at 11.00 am) for all of the churches within our Mission Community - the nine parish churches within this part of the South Hams - so it will be nice to have a full church.
- Since Easter, the toilet at St Mary's has been kept open, and so far there have been no problems (that we know of).
- The 'jubilee tree' has been planted in the new part of the graveyard, and appears to be doing well (it did have some blossoms on!).
- Since the meeting at the pub at the end of January, to discuss the formation of a 'Friends of St Mary's' group, I have been exchanging e-mails with those who have shown an interest (about thirty in all), and also looking at possible constitutions for the group. When I get back from Canada (18 May) I will then move this forward, identifying those who are willing to form a committee, and arranging our first meeting.

RETIRING CHAIR'S REPORT

- It has been a pleasure to chair our parish council meetings and to have met so many residents of both East and West Charleton in the course of my duties.
- As my three year stint as Chair of this council has now concluded, I would just like to thank my fellow councillors past and present, especially my vice chair Ray Ashby, for all their help and support throughout this time. Thanks too, to our District Councillors Laurel Lawford and Richard Foss and a special thanks to our County Councillor Julian Brazil for all his encouragement and guidance. As Chair you do rely heavily on the organisation, knowledge and guidance of the clerk, and I can honestly say without Sall Winstanley's advice and support I would have been lost - many thanks to you Sall.
- I wish the new Chair and Vice my very best wishes and support for the future, to help maintain our beautiful villages.