

CHARLETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 9th January 2025 at 6.00pm

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

In attendance , Cllr. J. Brazil, Rev. M. Neave

OPEN FORUM – No members of the public attended

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – by Cllr. Brazil

- Budget setting – due to the particularly poor settlement from Government there are extreme pressures and car parking charges are set to rise though there will be a differential setting for residents – details on the website.
- Fore Street car park is now short stay with a 4 hour limit.
- These measures will start on the 1st April.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. J. Brazil

- DC is also setting its budget and again have received a very poor settlement from Government. The increase in core spending provided has proportionally increased hardly at all. DC is still struggling massively with Special Educational Needs overspend.
- The White Paper on evolution came out before Christmas. The Government view is that the reorganisation should cover 500,000 residents meaning for Devon that all District and Town Councils would disappear.

1. APOLOGIES – Cllr. L. Lawson

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS held on 11th November 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 – R. Ashby will report for the Village Hall but will not take part in any discussion or decision making.

4. CLERK'S REPORT – No report

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

- Happy New Year. I hope that everyone has had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas.
- The Christmas carols which took place in The Charleton was again a great success – organised by Mark Neave, Tony and Anna Westlake & Ken Ball. It was a lovely, warming gathering singing all the classic Christmas carols. The donation bucket contained in excess of £150 for The Friends of St. Mary's Church.
- Storky, the British White Stork which had spent late summer and autumn months delighting people within the parish, and had become somewhat of a celebrity, has now flown off to warmer climes. The keen eyed would have noticed that Storky was fitted with a tracker and is now in Brittany, France.
- Finally, the street lamp by the old phone box adjacent to the Rectory has now been replaced, making the area safer again for pedestrians whilst walking through the narrow pinch point.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. To approve the following bank payments
 - £315.48 - S. Winstanley (Annual office expenses)
 - £454.56 – S. Winstanley (Nov)
 - £121.97 – H. Baker (flowerbeds expenses)
 - £127.60 - HMRC
 - £369.72 - S. Winstanley (Dec)
 - £369.92 – S. Winstanley (Jan)
 - £215.00 – Greenspace (Inv 0112)
2. Cash at bank £22,541.39 **Approved**
3. To confirm the Precept for year to 31.3.26 (budget supplied) including putting aside additional funds for the footpath.
Discussion took place and it was agreed that the Precept should be increased by £2,000 to take account of inflation, the recent increase in cost of village maintenance and to allow for an increase in the amount ringfenced for the proposed footpath which will increase by £5000 to £10000. This will mean an additional charge for each elector of £4.76 p.a. **Agreed**
4. To discuss making a grant to the church for the upkeep of the churchyard.
Following discussion it was **agreed** that the PC should make a payment this year for the upkeep of the graveyard of £1250.
5. To agree an amount of £500 for work on the raised borders. **Agreed**

7. To discuss replacing the Clerk's laptop

The Clerk reported that the laptop is intermittently faulty – the keyboard often freezes and the screen goes blue. Members asked that the laptop be taken to a repair shop to see if it could be repaired or if needed to be replaced.

8. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS – PC delegated decisions

3631/24/HHO – Lynford. W. Charleton TQ7 2AJ
Side extension to dwelling - resubmission of 2185/24/HHO
Recommended support.

9. Update on the RSG.

Sue Gorman asked the Clerk to chase up Lisa Edmunds with regard to a letter she sent on the 9th December and to which she had received no response.

10. CORRESPONDENCE – None**14. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS –**

To receive reports:

Village Hall – R. Ashby reported that the Village Hall Committee had requested that the PC take financial responsibility for the upkeep of the Village Hall defibrillator. He then left the discussion. Members **agreed** that the PC should not bear this expense which had always been the agreed position since it was purchased.

Church –

26 November 2024 – Public Meeting at Village Hall to continue discussions regarding the establishment of a 'Friends Group' for St Mary's (following on from meeting held in January). Attended by 20+ individuals, support still strong for establishing group to safeguard the fabric and to find new ways of using the church and churchyard for the community.

12 December 2024 – Charleton School carol concert in St Mary's.

14 December 2024 – Christmas Coffee Morning at St Mary's (deferred from 7 December because of bad weather) – well attended, and raised £250 for Friends of St Mary's.

17 December 2024 – Carol Service at St Mary's – attended by around 50 people, and raised £190.00 which has been donated to Kingsbridge Food Bank.

21 December 2024 – Carol singing in the Charleton Inn – good community event, raised a further £151 for Friends of St Mary's.

Forthcoming Events:

16 January 2024 – Funeral of Mr Paul Caunter (12.00 pm).

26 January 2024 – Evening Prayer (4.00 pm).

5 July 2024 – Wedding of Flora Klintworth and Toby Pitchers (time tbc).

Second Thursday of each month – regular coffee morning at St Mary's (details to be confirmed).

The Friends of St Mary's (FoSM):

30+ now signed up as members of the group.

14 have pledged regular donations to the group, amounting to around £4,000 p.a. (excluding Gift Aid).

8 donors have already signed up to make their donations through the Parish Giving Scheme.

Six individuals have volunteered to form a committee for FoSM – first meeting to be held during January to decide who takes on the key roles, and to draft a constitution for the group.

Balance of FoSM Bank Account at 31 December 2024 was £2,100.66 (excludes Gift Aid on the donations from the Coffee Morning and Carol Singing, and any of the pledged regular donations which will begin in January/February 2025).

Village Maintenance – The area around the telephone kiosk which houses the defibrillator needs to be cut back and the kiosk cleaned out.

VAS - Is being downloaded. It is proposed to turn the device round outside the school.

Footpaths – Helen Baker walked some of the footpath near the Church and all was well.

Defibrillator check - All Fine.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING– in Charleton Village Hall Meeting at 6.30pm will be 6th March 2025.

Signed

Owen Morgan, Chair

