

## CHARLETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 6.30pm**

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

In attendance S. Winstanley, Clerk, Cllrs. L. Lawford, J. Brazil

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - Cllr. L. Lawford**

1. Local Government Review meeting will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Parishioners are encouraged to make their views known to SHDC.
2. There was a fire in a recycling lorry caused by a lithium battery being in the recycling. The message is that batteries can be recycled in the collected waste but not lithium batteries which should be taken to the recycling centres.
3. Fly tipping – there have been 2 fixed penalty notices issued both were incidents where people had paid to have their waste removed and it had been tipped. Those people have to pay the fine.
4. A discussion took place about the inadequacies of the recycling centres because they are too proscriptive about what they will accept, the staff are unhelpful and Torr Quarry often closes for too long during opening hours.
5. More apprenticeships will be offered by SHDC.
6. There is now an agreement to transfer land at Ropewalk for the development of 10 affordable houses by Hastoe.
7. Cllr. Lawford is now a representative on the Community Safety Partnership.

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. J. Brazil**

1. Just come from the County Council meeting. Pleased to say that we have passed our Strategic Plan.
2. Supported the move to ban smart phones from schools – unanimously.
3. Zero tolerance to hate which has arisen because of demonstrations at Exeter hotel which is occupied by families.
4. The CC have not removed a single flag.
5. On Highways – rather than filling one pothole if there are several potholes nearby these will be filled.
6. It was agreed that communication between Parishes and Highways should be input from Parish Councils would be helpful.

**OPEN FORUM** – One members of the public attended

#### **1. APOLOGIES** – None

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS** held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025.

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 - None

#### **4. CLERK'S REPORT** – No report

## 5. CHAIR'S REPORT –

Well, what a summer we have had. It seems that we have had wall to wall sunshine for months. I hope everyone has had a great summer. We have been very busy harvesting on the farm. Hopefully, we have not caused too much disruption on the roads during this busy period.

Not really a great deal to report, other than the fact that The Charleton has sadly closed – yet again. I am not quite sure what Quality Inns expects from this establishment. Furthermore, I am equally perplexed as to the name Quality Inns. Perhaps a rebrand is in order to Mediocre Inns. I am sure the vast majority of you will join me in wishing Ben, Ellie and of course, Ralf, the very best for the future. The loss of our pub will leave a big hole in our community.

On a lighter note, our primary school will thrive with new children joining, and I wish the people moving to KCC all the best, furthering their education.

## 6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

To approve payment of the following Bank Transfers:

£367.52 – S. Winstanley (July)

£115.00 – Greenspace Inv. 0177

£68.15 -J. Peters (reimburse for plants)

£300.00 – Greenspace Inv. 0184

£36.80 – S. Rogers reimb for refreshments

£246. 87 – Community First (insurance0

£419.12 – S. Winstanley (Aug)

£90.00 – I. Judge ( Hosting fee)

Cash at Bank - £23881.63 (including £200 allotment rent)

**Approved**

## 7. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS : To be considered

**2485/25/HHO – 6 Saunders Way, W. Charleton TQ7 2BS**

Extension & General refurbishment

Following discussion it was resolved to recommend support

**2549/25/HHO – Sandwood, Curlew Drive, W. Charleton TQ7 2AA**

Application for extension & alterations to existing dwelling & associated works

Following discussion it was resolved to recommend support

## 8. ROAD SAFETY GROUP – J. Calvert

A reply had been received from the Highways Officer. Members feel that spending PC funds on outlining the virtual footpath is not practical until the road has been resurfaced and will push for this.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE – Email from Highways Officer- as above

## 10. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS –

To receive reports:

Village Hall – All going well – bookings are slightly up on last year.  
Church – Rose and I will be on holiday – report as follows:

The church continues to have a monthly evening service, usually on the fourth Sunday of each month, and this is usually attended by 10-12 people. It is an informal service, held in the side chapel, and all are welcome (next on 28 September, at 6.00 pm).

On 22 July, the church hosted the annual 'School Leavers' service for Charleton Academy, and this year was a particularly poignant occasion, as 15 of the pupils were leaving to move on to secondary school. Over the summer, the church has also hosted the wedding of Flora Klintworth and Toby Pitchers, the renewal of vows for Athena and Nigel Ridley (on the occasion of their 40th anniversary), and the funeral Trevor Stockdale .

On Tuesday 19 August the church was packed for a special service during which I was licensed as Rector of the Start Bay parishes. The change of title from Priest in Charge to Rector makes no difference to my day-to-day responsibilities.

Another special visitor to the church was our MP, Caroline Voaden, who held a surgery for constituents at St Mary's on Wednesday 13 August.

The Friends of St Mary's Group continues to go from strength to strength - after the very successful flower festival at the end of May, which raised just over £2,000, a coffee morning and raffle was held on Saturday 2 August. Once again this was well attended, and in addition to raising £420, also provided an opportunity for people to meet and chat over a cup of coffee and a slice of cake. A further coffee morning has been arranged for Saturday 27 September (10.00 to 12.00), and further activities currently being considered are art classes and a wine-tasting evening.

On Wednesday 20 August, a detailed structural inspection of the church was carried out.

VAS - Cannot be re-erected at the moment due to a couple of issues. The hedge is obstructing the pole. O. Morgan to contact Greenspace. Owen and Ray will endeavour to install a button battery this weekend.

Footpaths – The gates at either end of the permitted footpath are rotted out. Clerk to report.

Defibrillator check - All Fine. Batteries may need to be replaced soon.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**– in Charleton Village Hall at 6.30pm will be on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Signed .....**

**Owen Morgan, Chair**