

CHARLETON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING
Followed by the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 8th May 2025 at 6.30pm

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

In attendance Cllr. L. Lawford

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Owen Morgan was nominated and seconded. There being no other nominations, Owen Morgan was elected and signed the Acceptance of Office.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Ray Ashby was nominated and seconded. There being no other nominations, Ray Asby was elected Vice Chair.

OPEN FORUM – No members of the public attended

3. APOLOGIES – Cllr J. Brazil

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS held on 6th March 2025.

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

5. 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

6. CLERK'S REPORT – The audit of the PC's accounts has been completed without comment. At the next meeting the risk assessment needs to be reviewed. Members were asked to examine all 7 benches to ensure they are safe to use.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

To approve payment of the following Bank Transfers:

£109.20 - HMRC

£369.92 - S. Winstanley (Mar)

£75.00 - Hire of hall

£1250.00 – St. Mary's PCC

£219.64 – DALC sub

£250.00 – S. Winstanley (reimburse for 50% new laptop)

£280.00 – Greenspace Inv. 0154

£95.00 - Audit

2. To approve the accounts to the year ending 31.3.25

3a To approve the Annual Governance Statement

3b To approve the Accounting Statement

3c To approve the Certificate of Exemption

Current finances – £26256.88 (including Precept payment £000 & VAT £118.17)

3d To confirm arrangements for Clerk to make online payments – **Confirmed**

Approved

8. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS : For information
4086/24/FUL – Springfield Farm Shop, TQ7 2AR
Provision of temporary occupational worker's dwelling - Refused

For Consideration:

1295/25/VAR - Primrose Cottage East Charleton TQ7 2BN

Application for variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 2665/24/HHO

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend approval.

9. CORRESPONDENCE – A request had been made that the Parish Council endeavour to extend the footpath to Kingsbridge. Enquiries had been made and the matter will be progressed if possible.

10. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS –

To receive reports:

Village Hall – Nothing to report.

Church – R. Ashby – A big flower festival is planned for Whitsun weekend. Agreed posters will be put up.

VAS Will be put up by the School shortly.

Footpaths – No problems at the moment.

Defibrillator check - All Fine.

RSG – J.Calvert asked that this should be an agenda item. Following discussion it was agreed that he should chase up the Highways Officer.

12. DATES OF MEETINGS– in Charleton Village Hall Meeting for the coming year at 6.30pm will be

3.7.25

4.9.25

6.11.25

8.1.26

5.3.26

7.5.26 – APM & APCM

Signed

Owen Morgan, Chair

1. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. L. Lawfod

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to the Parish council, and all they do for the community. You have all been very supportive over the last two years, and I really have enjoyed being your district councillor. I have certainly learnt a lot, and definitely still have a lot to learn!

The last year has been a challenging one for the District Council! We have had an appalling financial settlement from main government, we have faced some real financial pressure. Firstly, the complete removal of the Rural Service Delivery Grant – which had been introduced to recognise the extra costs of delivering services such as waste collection in rural areas. Combined with the increased cost of everything, especially wages with the increase in national insurance, we faced a stark choice. Either we increase revenue or cut discretionary services such as leisure centres, and public toilets.

In order to meet the legal needs of a balanced budget, we have had to make some difficult decisions. Such as the increase in parking charges throughout the South Hams, and I think it's fair to say in some cases we did get the details wrong. All I would say is, we will be monitoring the situation very closely and will carry out a review of how things are working in the Autumn. This will give us the opportunity to make changes! Of course, an alternative way of addressing the budget pressures would have been to use the approximately 600,000 that we expect the introduction of double council tax on second homes to generate. However, we have always been clear that as second homes put pressure primarily on housing provision in the district, it is only right that we should use the additional council tax raised to address this. We have therefore ring-fenced this money to boost the supply of genuinely affordable housing. We have recently purchased the final three units at the St Annes Chapel development, which had originally been intended for the open market.

Our work to make SHDC cleaner and greener continues. At long last there is progress on the installation of solar panels on the roof of Quayside in Kingsbridge, and the new dry changing room allowing members of the public to use them during the day. Our van fleet will soon be moving over to electric vehicles. With the support of DEFRA we have been able to acquire and plant a 65 acre community woodland site in South Brent. Other sites are in the pipeline, as we seek to plant a tree for every resident of the South Hams. As well as being an invaluable carbon store, the new woodland will boost biodiversity.

Like your Parish Councillors I am here to represent, and work for all residents. I look forward to carrying on doing this in the future.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. J. Brazil by email

Obviously, with the elections over there will be a new administration at county and it will in all probability be Lib Dem led. Everything will be confirmed on the AGM on 22nd May.

We have three main areas of focus:

Children's services

Road maintenance

Change of culture. The county needs to be more outward looking. I have already highlighted to the Chief Exec the frustration for many PCs of the lack of engagement with highways. I have used the East – West Charleton footpath as an example. You won't be surprised to hear that as yet I have still heard nothing back from them on this issue. This non-cooperation will have to change.

Sorry to miss you all.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Beacon Lighting – The Parish Council was contacted by a Parishioner, requesting that the beacon be lit on the 6th June, 2023 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D day. The Council were very pleased to organize the event which was very well attended by villagers, some of whom were ex Servicemen.

The Footpath – We are continuing to work with Devon CC and Cllr. J. Brazil, to get a footpath between East & West Charleton. With the help of Julian, things are looking more hopeful but there is still a lot of

work to be done. The Parish Council has ring-fenced a further £5,000 towards the initial stages of the project.

Flower Beds – Early in 2024, Cllr. Helen Baker showed an interest in raising a small group to take on our flower beds. With the help of any Parishioners, and some financial help from the Parish Council, our flower beds, have been transformed beautifully. It is heartwarming to see so many people get together as a community to help our village to bloom and to make it a lovely place to enjoy for everyone.

Virtual Footpath - The PC have worked very hard to try to get the virtual footpath repainted, as ours is faded and in poor condition. Unfortunately, after all our efforts, Devon Highways no longer support virtual footpaths. As a result, we are unable to make the paths safer by repainting them.

Drainage -The new drainage system in East Charleton appears to be working well. I have noticed that Highways have fairly regularly been to service and maintain these drains. I hope that this work is on-going.

Church – A new group has been set up called The Friends of St. Mary's. Its prime motive ultimately is to keep the church open for all who wish to attend. The Parish Council have increased their grant to the Church to help out with maintenance and grass cutting. It would be a tragedy to lose St. Mary's and it is hoped all interested will join The Friends of St. Mary's and that they may pledge some funds to help secure the future of a much loved Church.