

CHARLETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 8th January 2026 at 6.30pm

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

In attendance : S. Winstanley, Clerk, Cllrs. L. Lawford, J. Brazil, Rev. Mark Neave

OPEN FORUM – Three members attended. They are part of the weeding group in the parish and sought the PC's support in starting a community compost site. The community aspect of such a scheme were emphasised. It was agreed the PC will support the scheme in principle and the Chair will contact locals who might be able to help with the provision of a site.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - Cllr. L. Lawford

1. The proposal for the Local Government Reorganisation was submitted and the final decision should be made in early summer.
2. Car parking charges for locals are being frozen but it will still be necessary to register at SHDC.
3. SHDC believe they do not own the raised flower beds so the PC will go ahead a get a quote for the repair and will see a grant from the locality budget. Update next meeting.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. J. Brazil

1. The financial settlement is slightly better than expected and means that cuts which were expected may now not need to be made. It is hoped that the library service will be modernised and continue.
2. The name of the replacement for the Footpaths Officer will be forwarded to the Clerk as the permissive footpath gates are still broken.
3. Tomorrow representations will be made regarding the possibility of the cancellation of upcoming .

OPEN FORUM – Three members of the public attended.

1. APOLOGIES - B. Rogers, C. Rogers

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS held on 11th November 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 – None

5. CHAIR'S REPORT –

No report – but it was very pleasing to see such a good crown at The Charletonf for the Carol Service.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

To approve payment of the following Bank Transfers:

£230.00 – Greenspace Inv. 0231

£377.68 – S. Winstanley (Nov)

£11.00 – I. Judge – Inv 3088

£124.60 - HMRC

£377.68 - S. Winstanley (Dec)

£87.76 – J. Peters (plants)

Cash at Bank - £27676.43 (including £761.00 rebate from Highways for grass cutting) **Approved**

Cash at Bank - £28124.35 (including £6000 2nd Precept payment)

7. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS : None

8. ROAD SAFETY GROUP – J. Calvert

Reported some potholes – some of which have been repaired.

9. To discuss website updates.

Carina Roberts had offered to update the website and OneCharleton. Clerk to arrange a meeting to discuss.

10. CORRESPONDENCE – None

11. COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS –

To receive reports:

Village Hall – Just before Christmas most of the trustees left office. Ray Ashby will now run the maintenance of the Hall and key holder. T. Chapman will take over the bookings and T. Lock. Treasurer ... Church –

Forthcoming Events:

Tuesday 20 January 2026, @ 6.30 pm Regular services of worship continue on the fourth Sunday evening of each month, at 6.00 pm during the summer months, and 4.00 pm during the winter.

18 November 2025 – Wine tasting evening at the Charleton Inn. A very successful event, attended by 46 people. After deduction of costs for wine and cheese, a total of £900 was raised for the Friends of St Mary’s.

10 December 2025 – Charleton Academy Christmas Service and Nativity in St Mary’s – well attended as always by children, staff, parents and grand-parents.

13 December 2025 – Christmas Coffee Morning at St Mary’s. £280 raised for the Friends of St Mary’s.

17 December 2025 – Village Carol Service at St Mary’s, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Attended by approx. 40 people. Collection raised £100 for the Kingsbridge Food Bank.

20 December 2025 – Carol singing in the Charleton Inn. As in previous years, the pub was packed, and a further £225 was raised for the – Annual meeting of the Friends of St Mary’s at Charleton Village Hall. All welcome. As well as reporting on activities and finance over the past year, the meeting will consider the recent structural inspection report, and what works might need to be carried out during 2026; future fund-raising events; other ways in which the church and churchyard might be used for the benefit of the community; and widening the membership of the group.

The Friends of St Mary’s (FoSM):

40+ now ‘signed up’ as members of the group.

14 are giving regular donations to the group, amounting to around £3,600 p.a. (excluding Gift Aid).

11 donors have signed up to make their donations through the Parish Giving Scheme, which means that their Gift Aid is collected automatically.

Balance of FoSM Bank Account at 31 December 2025 was **£7683**. The opening balance of funds at the beginning of the year was **£2100**.

Footpaths – No issues except the permissive footpath – see above.

VAS – All working but the battery may be faulty

Defibrillator check – All now showing two bars of battery but otherwise working as normal.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING– in Charleton Village Hall at 6.30pm will be on 5th March 2026

Signed

Owen Morgan, Chair