

CHARLETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 5th March 2026 at 6.30pm

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

In attendance : S. Winstanley, Clerk, Cllr.J. Brazil

OPEN FORUM – No members of the public attended.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - Cllr. L. Lawford – Given by Cllr J. Brazil

1. The budget has been increased by 2.99%. SHDC had a particularly bad settlement from Government.
2. The hole at the bottom of Fore Street in Kingsbridge is being fixed but it will be a lengthy process.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. J. Brazil

1. The budget has been agreed and there will be a 4.99% increase.
2. The SEND deficit has been written off by the government by 90% which means we will have less debt.
3. We will receive an extra £15 million for highways and by 2028/9 it is hoped that highways will have improved significantly.
4. We are putting an extra £7.7 million into children's services- which is our top priority.
5. Extra funds will go into libraries which will allow the libraries to be more flexible & diversify.
6. Repairs to Slapton Line – awaiting a government decision.

1. APOLOGIES - Cllr. L. Lawford, Rev. M. Neave

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS held on 8th January 2026

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 –

- The bus shelter is being used for drug taking and discarded paraphernalia has been left about. The Chair plans to clean out the bus shelter this weekend and the Police have been notified and hopefully will keep a look out. Ray Ashby suggested arranging to put up a sign which might discourage misuse.
- Members were urged to comment on the Local Government Review before the end of March when the consultation takes place.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT –

Apart from the issue of the bus shelter, the main problem for everyone has been the constant rain!

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

To approve payment of the following Bank Transfers:

£22.00 – I. Judge – website update

£52.00 – Information Commission

£377.88 – S. Winstanley (Jan)

£419.28 – W. Winstanley (Feb)

Cash at Bank - £26805.

Approved

8. ROAD SAFETY GROUP – J. Calvert

Reported more potholes – some of which have been repaired. Agreed J. Calvert would continue to monitor pothole and report where necessary but that the Road Safety Group no longer be a regular agenda item.

9. a To discuss the proposed composting scheme

As requested the Chair had contacted the Rogers family regarding a site for the composting scheme. No site is available. Following discussion it was decided that the scheme cannot be progressed unless or until a site can be found.

b. To discuss the repairs to the raised flower bed.

Helen Baker has received a casual quote and will meet up next week to finalise the details. Meantime, Members decided she could go ahead with a ceiling on the amount to be spent. The Clerk will approach Cllr. Lawford for a grant towards the cost.

10. CORRESPONDENCE – None

11. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS –

To receive reports:

Village Hall – Just three Trustees remain – it is hoped to have three replacements shortly.

Church Report -by email

Recent Events:

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.

Tuesday 20 January 2026, @ 6.30 pm – Annual meeting of the Friends of St Mary's at Charleton Village Hall. Around 20 people present. As well as reporting on activities and finance over the past year, the meeting considered 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.

Thursday 12 February 2026, @ 11.00 am – Funeral of Robbie Elliott, who tragically died at the age of just 28 in a freak accident on New Year's Eve. The church was full to capacity for the service, with many people listening to the service outside the church.

Forthcoming Events:

Saturday 14 March 2026, 10.00-12.00 – Coffee Morning in aid of the Friends of St Mary's.

Sunday 22 March 2026, @ 6.00 pm – a full cathedral-style Choral Evensong will be sung by Chorus Ecclesiae (with conductor Ian Curror and organist Andrew Millington) – all are welcome for what promises to be a wonderful occasion.

Sunday 5 April 2026 @ 5.00 pm – evening service of Holy Communion for Easter Day. Celebrating the key date in the Christian calendar.

As part of the Start Bay Group of Churches, which includes St James, Slapton, we are considering the impact of the closure of the Slapton Line on our ministry to the area. Having to use the back roads to get to Slapton for Sunday services, and for pastoral visits, is working OK at the moment, but will clearly become problematic when the holiday traffic arrives. We await future developments with interest.

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**. Balance at end of February 2026 approx. **£8500**.

Footpaths – No issues except the permissive footpath – report again.

VAS – All working but the PC should consider replacing with a solar powered unit if there are any future problems.

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

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING– in Charleton Village Hall at 6.30pm will be on 7th May 2026 –
The Annual Meeting of the PC and the Annual Parish Meeting.

Signed

Owen Morgan, Chair