

Charlton Parish Council

Minutes of The Parish Council Meeting 10th July 2025 at 7.30pm

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Present Chairman Cllr Richard Bentley, Cllr Wendy Sharpe, Cllr Helen Hill, Cllr Richard Wallis Parish Clerk Wendy Cope

- 1) Apologies Emma Kearsey, Angie Crump and Ted Grazier
- 2) Not present Darren Salmons
- 3) Declarations of interest None
- 4) County Councillors report Cllr Kearsey did not attend but sent the following report:

The County Council is in no overall control. Reform have formed a cabinet at but we are yet to see what their plans are as nothing evident has materialised. I am a member of the overview and scrutiny committee for Environment. I requested to be on this committee as it involves flooding, highways and the things that affect us on a regular basis. I am a member of Hereford and Worcestershire Fire Authority, upon which I'm the chairman of the audit committee. I spent a day there this week on response training and I was extremely impressed with the work of our fire and rescue service.

Severn Trent have been in touch with me and offered an introduction which I am keen to take them up on, to review all the assets of ST within our division. I'm particularly interested in capacity.

I'm pleased to say that the new administration have confirmed, they will continue with the previous administration's plan, to extend the Worcestershire on demand bus service to Wychavon. It will start in August, I've requested the full details and will let you have that as soon as I have it.

If there is anything at all you need please do just let me know. I look forward to meet you all in September.

- 5) District Councillors Report Cllr Crump did not attend but sent the following report:

SWDPR response from Inspectors looks favourable aside from a few tweak. More indepth details in September. One thing to note in the Inspector have expressed grave doubts over

Throckmorton and propose removal of the 2000 homes first stage and downgrade the site from an allocated site to one for possible future search.

The annual Canvas by Wychavon has been sent out. Please check your emails including junk and check all is correct. This is not only important for voting but can affect your credit scores if not.

The LGR Public survey results are in. Thank you to those who completed it. Interesting results so far showing a North South Unitary 47.8% over all councils (57% in Wychavon alone) one Unitary 28.7% over all councils (22% in Wychavon alone). Worcester City being the only council favouring the one Unitary. The top most important services to residents are Highways, Adult Social Care, Waste recycling & collection, Parks & Green Spaces, Planning, Education & Children's services.

It looks like we may be getting an On Demand Bus Service in the area.....details to follow!

Police met with Cropthorne village on Monday. Shift patterns have changed to allow night patrols. Current car theft does not include house entrance but using keyless entry equipment to take cars. Advice is to put car keys in microwave, a metal box or a Faraday pouch (available from Amazon). Anything suspicious call 999.

As part of Rural Housing Week this week I will be attending an event with Rooftop at Broadway Lane Fladbury

There will be a By election in Bretforton & Offenham due to the resignation of their District Councillor Aaron Powell

The planning application appeal for Upper Hasselor Farm was dismissed much to our relief.

Check out all your outstanding Section 106 funding and spend it!

As always keep me in the loop and contact me with any questions etc.

6) Report on SWDP The housing development at Norton Worcester will probably go ahead, however the development at Throckmorton probably will not. Unfortunately, if the new SWDP does go through then Worcestershire will be still short of its housing target and, it's gypsy sites. Live work units will only be viable in categories one, two and three villages.

7) Report on WCC Minerals Plan Nothing to report at the present time Cllr Davies said he would liaise with Fladbury to make representations.

8) Unitary Council Cllr Davies, Cllr Salmons and The Clerk attended a meeting at Wychavon in June to receive information on The New Unitary Council. Wychavon along with Worcestershire County are making representations to The Government for either a total Worcestershire Council or a North/South divide. The result of the poll showed that 47.8% favoured the North South divide and 28.7% favoured a whole council. Cllr Davies advised we had favoured a north/south divide as the south of the county is much more rural than the north which is more urban generally tends to look towards Birmingham conurbation. The Local Council need to submit proposals to The

Secretary of State in November this year who will then make the decision on the way forwards for Worcestershire. Cllr Davies reported that he had emailed Wychavon, to enquire what assets were owned in Charlton and consequently could be passed to The Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to approach Emma Kearsey in order to find out what assets WCC own in The Parish with the exclusion of Highways Assets.

9) Reports from Representatives Parish Path Warden, Cllr Bentley said he would contact for Adrian Peake for an update. Cllr Sharpe reported on Workman Trust/Old School Room, New front door were to be fitted onto The Old School Room to ensure security for the children. Minutes and Agendas were received regularly from Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall.

10) Minutes The Minutes from The Annual Parish Council Meeting held 8th May 2025 and The Minutes of The Annual Parish Meeting held 29th May 2025 were proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Sharpe.

11) To receive Reports from The Planning Committee W/25/00775/PIP 3 dwelling Church Leys Cropthorne, The Council objected to this Cllr Davies said he had also reported The Councils concerns regarding the water run off to Cllr Crump. W/25/00935/OUT work/live unit has been denied.

12) Finance The Clerk reported The Community Account was £33,967.54 and The Commercial Account was £10,127.52. There was £28 left over from the VE Day Celebration Money from Wychavon. It was agreed that this could be donated to Cllr Sharpe's Luncheon Club.

13) To Consider Matters Concerning The Green The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote from Limebridge for attending to The Planters on The Green and also the planter at The Cemetery. Also, Cllr Sharpe said she would also publish an appeal for volunteers to do this in the next Newsletter. The Clerk presented the quote from Smart Cut for the

work that needed to be carried out on The Green, Cllr Bentley said he would endeavour to get another quote for the same work.

14) To Consider a quote for new noticeboards The Clerk presented the quote from Dovetail Joinery for two new noticeboards one on Ryden Lane and another in The Lychgate. £3261.52, she advised The Council that a 50% deposit would be required. The Council agreed to place the order, but sought to reduce the deposit from 50% level which was considered too high.

15) The Lengthsman The Council asked The Clerk to contact The Lengthsman scheme to see if they could help in finding a new Lengthsman. The Clerk said she would contact Swarco to try and find out which keys, batteries etc were needed to replace what had been lost.

16) Cemetery Concerning the land opposite the cemetery it was agreed that this should be put on hold, until The Council could find out if they can obtain then land next to it from Wychavon.

17) Highways, footway and footpath issues The Council were most concerned that the bridge by the cemetery had not been repaired correctly and asked The Clerk to email Highways and copy in Emma Kearsey to complain.

18) To consider an application for public footpath status of paths not on the definitive map no movement forward on this.

19) Flood Issues Cllr Bentley said that Cllr Grazier would chase Wendy Bufton for funding for the Leaky Dams. The Flood Gauge is broken but Cllr Davies was dealing with this.

20) Pollution on The River Avon Cllr Davies reported that testing is still in progress.

21) Website and email update The Clerk reported that with grateful thanks she had learnt a lot from Cllr Wallis, who had given her a lot of help in using the website. Cllr Wallis reported that there was a slight problem where uploads needed to be converted to PDFs, The Clerk said she would do this. Cllr Wallis said he would progress with other new updates and on the website and then show The Clerk what was needed too.

22) CALC Website update to Caroline

23) To note any correspondence None

24) All invoices paid.

25) Date of the next meeting 11th September 2025

Meeting concluded 9pm

