

Charlton Parish Council

Minutes of The Parish Council Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 at 7.30pm

Clerk to The Council, Wendy Cope, 22, Heathfield Road, Norton, Evesham WR11 4TQ

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Present: Chairman Cllr Richard Bentley, Cllr Roger Davies, Cllr Helen Hill, Cllr Richard Wallis, Cllr Wendy Sharpe, Cllr Ted Grazier and Parish Clerk Wendy Cope.

Public Forum: four members of the general public attended the meeting.

- 1) The owner of Dubz in The Middle attended the meeting to talk to The Council about any issues they might have about holding The Festival in the area.
  - A) There would be a professional Traffic Management Company employed to regulate the traffic along the B4084. They also operate a zigzag policy for the entrance which means the flow of traffic keeps going.
  - B) With regards to noise pollution, Dubz in then Middle have carried out extensive checks on past festivals and found that properties with in a 400 metre range could hardly hear anything, the properties nearest to the Festival in Charlton would be 800metres away.
  - C) The owner of The Festival was very eager to point out that this is a family festival with older people and young children in attendance, and that all music etc. would stop at 11pm.
  - D) The owner also said that their festival raises a lot of money for charity. That the site is kept very clean with lots of people litter picking.

Two other members of the public from Crophorne also supported the above views.

A local resident attended to speak to The Council about the state of the footway and road on The Strand/Ryden Lane area. The problem is that there are several pine trees which shed needles and cones, and this affects the state of the road and footpath. It was agreed that The Clerk would ask Wychavon to attend and clean the road and footpath on The Strand, Ryden Lane and The Dovecote, and then a volunteer group could be formed to keep on top of this. Cllr Sharpe would advertise for volunteers in The Newsletter.

The Chairman of Crophorne and Charlton Village hall attended to make The Council aware of changes at The Village Hall. He was pleased to inform The Council that The Committee had secured funding from The FA of £1600 to spend on The Sheppey. They had stopped adult teams playing on The Sheppey because this had caused huge

problems with parking, however they had been approached by a new team and were considering whether to allow them to play. There had been significant monies spent on the upkeep of the hall. There were a lot of events planned for example A Pantomime from a professional production company. Significant amounts of money were needed to carry out maintenance on the playpark £2000 for the tree house. more volunteers were needed to help with maintenance, and The Committee would like someone from Charlton to join them as a proactive member.

- 1) Apologies received from Cllr Darren Salmons
- 2) No declarations of interest
- 3) County Councillors Report Cllr Kearsley asked Cllr Davies if the river gauge and the steps leading to it had now been fixed. Cllr Davies was able to tell her that although the gauge was now fixed the steps were still broken. It was agreed that The Clerk would chase footpaths at WCC concerning this and report back to Cllr Kearsley. Cllr Kearsley reported that she had attended a full Council Meeting at WCC and reported that although many houses were being built that there was no provision for new schools. The new Worcestershire on Demand Bus Service is proving to be extremely popular. Residents can download an app and book a bus to take them anywhere within a nine-mile radius (as the crow flies) from 7am – 7pm Monday to Saturday the cost is £2.50 or senior citizens can use their bus pass after 9.30am, however the service is free during September.
- 4) District Councillors Report Cllr Angie Crump reported that Wychavon Councillors had voted unanimously for a North/South Unitary Council, all the officers at Wychavon are working extremely hard to meet the targets set by The Government. There are now two versions to be considered 1) North/South divide or 2) North/South divide with shared services. The ethos being communicated is one of, everyone working together to produce the best result. These results will be submitted to government in November with the decisions being made in The Spring. Cllr Crump stated that there are a lot of changes being made where maybe things could be handed down to Parishes for example street cleaning; responsibility for well being in the community and responsibility for various groups. Cllr Crump also informed The Council that Wychavon had been highly commended on the work it had done so far. Cllr Davies said that he had found the CALC survey very interesting particularly where they had been seeking comments on how Parishes would deal with items such as street cleaning and well-being of Parishioners, which he considered were items that should be The Unitary Authorities duty. Lastly Cllr Crump also advocated The New Worcestershire on Demand Bus Service.
- 5) No news on SWDP.
- 6) No update on The Minerals Plan.
- 7) The update on the forming of The Unitary Council was covered in The District Councillors Report.

- 8) To receive reports from representative
- A) Parish Path Warden (Adrian Peake) no report
  - B) Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall this was covered in The Public Forum.
  - C) Workman Trust/ Old School Room Cllr Sharpe reported that The Old School Room now had new doors fitted and that they were very nice.

9) The Minutes of The Parish Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025 proposed by Cllr Davies seconded by Cllr Wallis and duly signed.

10) Cllr Bentley said that he would complete The Police and Town Council Survey.

11) The Planning Meeting of the 31<sup>st</sup> of July had been to discuss Dubz in the Middle. The Planning Committee had made several objections to this being traffic management and parking, noise levels, possible flooding, proximity of The Festival to residents on Boston Lane and risk of disturbance to wildlife. Two residents of Boston Lane have spoken to Cllr Davies saying that all the residents of Boston Lane are against The Festival. Cllr Bentley will be attending A Committee Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> of September to make objections.

12) Finance The Clerk produced a copy of the books and balance sheet for scrutiny. The balance of The Commercial Account is £33,328.31 and the balance of The Instant account is £10,145.37.

13) With regards to The Green it was agreed to ask Smart Cut to fix the broken sunken bench on The Green. Cllr Bentley said he would speak to The Publican with regards to clearing the trees and bushes etc. next to The Merrybrook on the green by The Pub. With regards to the planters Cllr Sharpe is to ask if someone will take on the task of looking after them with a budget of £150 twice yearly.

14) The Lengthsman's post has now been offered to someone.

15) The Cemetery, The Clerk agreed to digitalise the plan so that it would be a lot easier to conduct an audit.

16) To obtain an update on highway, footway and footpath issues. No progress.

17) To consider an application for public status of paths not on the definitive map, no progress.

18) Flood issues were dealt with earlier in in The County Councillors report.

19) Reports for information

- A) Pollution of The River Avon no report

- B) WWC Green Infrastructure Consultation no report

C) .gov.uk emails and website Cllr Wallis reported that The Clerk needed to have a bigger email capacity, he will arrange this. He also reported that he had updated some parts of the website and would do more. The Clerk was asked to inform Mr. Groves that The Council was no longer using the old website.

20) The CALC survey had already been covered.

21) The Council decided to stay with Npower for their electricity.

22) No Correspondance

23) Items for inclusion in the next Agenda

24) All Invoices paid.

25) Date of the next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 Meeting Concluded 9.30pm