

Charlton Parish Council

Minutes of The Parish Council Meeting 13th November 2025 at 7.30pm

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

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Present: Deputy Chairman Darren Salmons, Cllr Roger Davies, Cllr Helen Hill, Cllr Richard Wallis, and Parish Clerk Wendy Cope Lengthsman Charley Martin. County Councillor Emma Kearsley and District Councillor Angie Crump

Public Forum: A policeman from Worcestershire Constabulary attended along with three members of the general public.

Police Officer Shaquille Lakin attended the meeting to appraise The Council of what the police are doing in the area. There are 2 police Officers and 3 PCSO's serving 70 Parishes across Worcestershire. Cllr Salmons said The Council were very concerned about car thefts as there had been a number in The Villages lately, also highlighting that at the last one the owner had given chase. PC Lakin strongly advised that the public should not do this and advised that if the thefts were reported quickly, Officers could attend urgently as both Evesham and Pershore stations were very close. PC Lakin also advised Faraday pouches to keep keys in, and lock bars as a deterrent. Cllr Davies asked about ANPR cameras, and Cllr Kearsley said there were restrictions on these for example constant monitoring and Highway permissions, however she was strongly trying to find a compromise to have these fitted throughout her jurisdiction. Issues discussed were cars parked in the Jubilee Bridge Car Park at late hours possibly involved in criminal activity, a similar issue on Crophorne Village Hall Car Park too. PC Lakin also recommended people downloading Neighbour Hood Matters where Police Drop Inns were advertised, he also said he would send through some posters etc.

The first member of the public had come to appraise The Council of an overgrown Oak tree located next a public right of way (502c) leading from The Green, he wanted to know whose responsibility it was. The Council were happy to tell him that it was the landowner.

Two more members of the general public attended to discuss the possibility of flooding cause by restricted flow further down river from Cemetery Bridge to Jubilee Bridge. Trees had fallen across the river causing Numerous dams, these need clearing. Cllr Davies said he would contact The Environment Agency. Cllr Crump said she would make enquiries to find out who the landowners were. Cllr Davies to provide a map of the area.

- 1) Apologies for absence: received from Cllr Bentley, Cllr Sharpe and Cllr Grazier.
- 2) Declarations of interest None
- 3) County Councillors Report: The Council expressed their thanks to Cllr Kearsey for her help in getting the steps to the river gauge repaired. Cllr Kearsey reported that she was consulting Worcestershire Regulatory Services concerning the problems of bad smells from the sewer system. Cllr Kearsey asked The Council to report any issues that needed attention on Highways as they booked work quite far in advance. Cllr Davies asked that The Dragon's Teeth at the entrances to The Village be re-painted, he also commented on the tree roots problem on the footpath by The Green. Cllr Kearsey reported that although all The District Councils except for one and WCC favoured a North South divide for The New Unitary Council. She felt very confident in the very comprehensive arguments that Wychavon had put forward for The North South divide option. Cllr Davies had attended A Meeting before The Parish Council Meeting, where Vic Allison Chief Executive at Wychavon DC, had been talking about this, saying that The North and South divide was much better as each separate Council would understand their Constituents needs much better. Cllr Davies raised the issue of the water runoff on Church Leys between Cropthorne and Charlton, and that during the winter this was a real danger when it turned to ice. It was agreed that The Clerk would contact Highways to see if they could help – Cllr Davies to provide details to The Clerk.
- 4) District Councillors Report Cllr Crump mentioned that she had attended another information session concerning The Unitary Council and that there would be more sessions for Parish Councils too. Cllr Crump reported that she had taken part in a scrutiny session which whilst being very intense had been extremely good. The North and South divisions would take approximately three and a half years to recuperate costs. The South division would have a structural advantage because it reaped more money from higher value properties, however this meant that Council tax would increase more. A consultation would be taking place in The New Year. Parish Councils will be asked to speak to Parishioners and ask them to voice opinions. A Public Meeting was suggested. The Police Commissioner's structure will end in 2028. The schools have been conducting their Round Robin Event where the children elect A Prime Minister for the day. A Rural Men's Health Convention had been held at Drakes Broughton, with a huge turnout this was designed to get men talking together, one of the things that took place was testing for prostate cancer a staggering 167 men got tested, with 20 having an amber light and 16 a red light. Cllr Crump informed The Council that Martin Cross from The Technical Department at Wychavon had completed 40years service and there had been a celebration. Cllr Davies asked Cllr Crump to speak

to Wychavon about having the roads and footpaths cleaned in The Village. Cllr Crump said she was exploring the possibility of Parishes having their own budget and managing this themselves in the future.

- 5) To receive a report on SWDP Wychavon have said that they are reaching their housing supply plus 5% buffer, however David Harrison has said that there isn't enough evidence that the supply plus 5% can be met, and that it is 10%. Cllr Crump advised that planning objections can always be submitted anonymously through The Clerk, and she personally is also able to help, and advise people when required.
- 6) To receive an update on the WCC Minerals Cllr Davies reported that the site allocations development plan document will be prepared but it had been delayed. We may object to the delay.
- 7) The update on the forming of The Unitary Council was covered in The County and District Councillors Report.
- 8) To receive reports from representative
 - A) Parish Path Warden (Adrian Peake) Mr. Peake reported that there was a broken post at Sidings Lane, which he had reported, and that the steps at The River Gauge had been fixed.
 - B) Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall Cllr Salmons volunteered to be Charlton's Representative here.
 - C) Workman Trust/ Old School Room Cllr Sharpe did not attend.
- 9) The Minutes of The Parish Council Meeting Thursday 11th September were proposed by Cllr Davies seconded by Cllr Hill and duly signed.
- 10) To consider a response to The Police and own Council Survey Cllr Bentley did not attend
- 11) To receive an update on nasty smells in The Village This was dealt with in The County Councillors Report
- 12) To receive a report on The Planning Meeting 29th of September 2025 W/25/01928/PIP and W/25/02049/GPMAE and 4th of November 2025 W/25/02332/AGR The Parish Council objected to all of these planning applications, for this evenings meeting one of the applications W/25/02376/HP was commented on and W/25/02432/CLE was objected to.
- 13) Finance The Clerk produced a copy of the books and balance sheet for scrutiny. The Community Account balance is £34,767.91 and The Commercial Account balance £10,155.71. The Clerk informed The Council that she would be making a VAT reclaim after the new noticeboards had been fitted. Cllr Davies asked The Council if they would be happy for The Finance Working Group to invest some money into a high interest account, on behalf of The Council, this was approved. The Finance Working Group will

also meet to review the Clerk's Budget Paper, which she presented to the meeting, in readiness for The January Parish Council Meeting.

14) To consider matters affecting The Green The benches need some attention and the willow tree needs cutting back, it was agreed that Charley The New Lengthsman would be able to address these jobs and one of the Cllrs would meet him on The Green to discuss. Cllr Bentley wasn't in attendance to discuss the Smart Cut quote. Cllr Davies asked The Clerk to ask Smart Cut to clean up all the dead leaves etc on The Green as soon as they deemed it was needed.

15) The Lengthsman's The Parish Council was pleased to welcome Charley Martin as The New Lengthsman.

16) The Cemetery Cllr Davies asked The Council where the new notice board should be located by The Lychgate, it was decided that it should be put on two pillars to the right side of The Lychgate inside The Cemetery.

17) To obtain an update on highway, footway and footpath issues. This was addressed earlier in the meeting

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

19) To receive an update on flood issues this was dealt with earlier in the meeting

20) Reports for information

A) Pollution of The River Avon no report

B) .gov.uk emails The Clerk now has a bigger email box capacity

C) Planning Issues, Cllr Davies and Cllr Wallis are working together to prepare an article for the website on this.

21) To receive a report on CALC no report

22) No Correspondence

23) Items for inclusion in the next Agenda none

24) All Invoices paid.

25) Date of the next meeting Thursday 8th of January 2026 Meeting Concluded
9.50pm