

CHARMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at Charlton Down Village Hall at 7pm

Present:	Louisa Swabey-Payne (LSP)
Mark Simons (MS) (Chair)	Tim Yarker (TY)
Carol Matthews (CM) Vice Chair	Richard East (RE)
Peter Dangerfield (PD)	Keith Beeson (KB)
Julie Jackson (JJ)	Sue Frazer (SF)
Alan Rolls (AR)	Ollie Greenaway (OG)

In attendance: Michele Harding (Clerk) Cllr David Taylor (Dorset Council Ward member) and 5 members of the public

24/4-1. Welcome and Chairman's address.

MS welcomed all to the last meeting of the current council, with the parish elections in May.

24/4-2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from TM, LSP arrived at 7.28pm

24/4-3. To receive declarations of interest or consider grants of dispensation. None

24/4-4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2024 and sign the same.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting on 5th March were approved, Proposed CM, seconded by JJ.

- a. **To approve the Parish Council meeting on 26th March 2024-** This meeting was to discuss the Transport strategy, MS commented it was a well-presented meeting by TY. The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting Proposed CM, seconded by RE all agreed.

24/4-5. To receive matters arising from the above minutes (for information only). None.

24/4-6. Public Discussion Period

The Fete Committee inquired about discussing a donation towards the upcoming Fete in June. It was agreed to include this topic on the agenda for the May meeting to discuss a donation for the event.

A resident from Charminster Farm expressed their concerns about recently installed grit bins at the Charminster Farm development, which were installed by the management company following residents' requests. There have been detailed email exchanges on the matter. The resident sought clarification that the Parish Council did not refuse to purchase grit bins for the development. It was clarified that the Parish Council did not refuse to take ownership of the bins; however, the full Council has yet to agree to consider this. An inspection of the locations and siting is required to ensure they meet current criteria for filling. This matter could be considered in a future meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding management companies for new developments and their funding. The resident also inquired about the completion of phase three, particularly regarding recreation/open space areas. The Council stated that they are unaware of the plans at this stage, although plans for a play area above the new allotment site have been shared with the PC.

24/4-7. Council Property

- a. **To consider the play inspection reports and any actions.**

It was agreed that as and when a new report is received the Chair, Vice and Clerk will meet and discuss any issues and bring any decisions to the next available PC meeting.

- b. **To receive the Community Hall report for 2023-24**

A comprehensive report on the Community Hall for the year was presented, acknowledging Caroline's dedication to its operation.

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TY expressed concern that the hall is not running at a surplus and that not all administrative costs are covered. However, it was noted that despite this, the hall being a community asset is heavily discounted and well-run, resulting in increased local bookings.

Further promotion of the Community Hall is planned with the implementation of a new website and online booking system. It was also noted that there is no separate advertisement for the Community Hall in the Pilot, unlike other halls, and this will be investigated.

LSP arrived at 7.28pm

24/4-8. Finance and General Purposes

- a. **To consider the purchase of display boards, an A board and parking bollards for the Community Hall and PC use.**

Following the transport events and borrowing display boards from another PC it was agreed to purchase their own boards at a cost of up to £150. Proposed by CM, seconded by OG, all agreed.

An A board was also suggested for PC meetings and hall users to advertise events at a cost of £32, this was proposed by CM, seconded by JJ, all agreed.

The PC had recently been requested to provide parking spaces for disabled or reserve places for hall users, it was agreed to purchase bollards for this purpose up to the value of £100 some will say reserved others will say disabled parking. Proposed CM, seconded OG, all agreed.

Finally, a sign for the car park regarding responsibility of for damage and accidents at a cost of £11, this was proposed by CM, seconded by SF, all agreed. Clerk will arrange the purchase of these items.

- b. **To receive the monthly finance reports and check bank reconciliations-** checks completed
c. **To approve all payments due and those paid since the last meeting.**

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting; an additional payment added following the completion of the painting of the cemetery fence and gates was also agreed.

Proposed PD, seconded by CM, all agreed.

24/4-9. To consider any planning matters. none

24/4-10. Matters of correspondence for information or interest.

PD noted that this would be the final meeting for the current Council, highlighting that both Louisa and Richard have chosen not to stand for re-election. A vote of thanks was expressed to both of them for their contributions.

It was mentioned that Richard had served two terms as a parish councillor, indicating his dedication and commitment to the community during his tenure.

This reflects the acknowledgment of the departing councillors' service and expresses gratitude for their contributions to the Council. `

24/4-11. To confirm items for the Annual Parish Council meeting on 14th May 2024 at Charminster Community Hall.

The meeting will begin with the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair, along with the confirmation of roles and responsibilities and other items of business.

The Chairman expressed gratitude to all the Councillors for their dedication and service over the past five years. It was emphasised that the Parish Council is in a strong position to commence a new term of office following the upcoming elections.

There being no further business MS closed the meeting at 19.37