

Charminster Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th February 2024
at Charminster Community Hall at 7pm

Present:

South Ward Cllrs

Mark Simons (MS) (Chair)
Tim Yarker (TY)
Keith Beeson (KB)
Alan Rolls (AR)
Richard East (RE)
Peter Dangerfield (PD)

North Ward Cllrs

Carol Matthews (CM) Vice Chair
Oliver Greenaway (OG)
Louisa Swabey-Payne (LSP)
Richard Wareham (RW)
Sue Frazer (SF)
Tony Murrell (TM)

In attendance: Mrs Michele Harding (Clerk), Ward Cllr David Taylor and 13 members of the public.

24/2-1. Welcome and Chairman's address. MS welcomed all to the first meeting of 2024 and noted the long agenda as there was no meeting in January.

24/2-2. To receive apologies for absence- received from Julie Jackson

24/2-3. To receive declarations of interest or consider any grants of dispensation – none received.

24/2-4. To approve the minutes of the PC meeting held on 5th December 2023 and sign the same.

Minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed.

Proposed CM Seconded PD. All agreed.

24/2-5. To receive matters arising from the above minutes (for information only). none

24/2-6. Public Discussion Period- MS suspended the formal part of the meeting for public participation.

- i. Vicky the Community worker for the Tasm and 4 up group spoke to the members on the work that the group does to support years 3 & 4 and years 5 & 6 on their transition to middle school. It is free to attend but donations from parents are welcomed to assist with the refreshments are provided. Vicky is funded by the Henry Smith Trust; it was noted that these sessions are not church funded. The Community Hall is an ideal space for these groups, they meet on a Tuesday from 3 to 4pm and again from 4.30 to 6pm. The request is for the hall hire for these times. LSP spoke in support of the group and how this can help the children transition to the larger schools.
- ii. A resident from Rowan Walk commented on the Tree survey and planting of new trees, he asked the Council to consider the type of tree and where they are planted so as not to block views from the properties.
It was explained that the trees are dying, and the replacements would be Rowan also it is hoped assuming that it is practicable the new trees will be planted in the same or similar places as the current trees.
- iii. Planning item- the applicant of a planning item asked his agent to speak on the planning application for consideration by the PC. The agent read out a statement on the proposal and noting changes to the previous application which was refused in 2020.

Residents were thanked for their comments and the meeting was reopened.

24/2-7. To receive an update on the Transport Strategy project and any future actions.

TY explained that the final draft report has been sent to the Council. The project has brought forward lots of ideas for safety and amenity going forward. The adoption of a 20mph speed limit on sections of North Street will aim to calm traffic in the village, the PC now needs to go

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through the report in more detail to respond to the consultants and have a final plan for presentation to Dorset Council highways. TY noted that with the May elections it is unlikely that the report will be any activity and postpone until after the elections so the new members of Dorset Council can get behind the Transport Strategy for Charminster. DT noted that it would be good to keep the momentum up as Dorset Council have been involved in the initial discussions and the draft plan and monies have been set aside for the cycle routes as a lot of work has gone into the route from Bristol to Portland DT noted that £55,000 has been put aside for this.

RE asked of DC are going to pay for the work, MS explained that costs will be for both DC and the Parish to fund.

A date will be arranged for the working group to meet prior to the next PC meeting.

24/2-8. Council Property

a. To consider the replacement trees on Rowan Walk (CD) as per the tree survey 2020.

Three quotes had been gathered for the works, Cllrs approved Toller Tree Care to carry out the work at a cost of £2320 plus vat, CM will liaise with the contractor.

Proposed PD Seconded RW All agreed.

b. To consider replacement trees at the community Orchard following recent works and purchase 2 round picnic benches (CD).

The contractor who carried out the work to the fruit trees gave a quote to install 4 plums and 4 pear trees where some had been removed and the PC costed 2 round picnic benches to be placed within the trees. The cost of the trees including planting is £695.00.

Proposed CM Seconded TM All agreed.

The cost of the benches from Marmax which will be recycled benches is £1302.00 plus vat inc. delivery. Proposed CM Seconded PD All agreed.

c. To consider providing grit bins in the villages and for the school as requested

MS explained that the request for a grit bin was for inside the school grounds and will then not be available by the community. Therefore, the PC would not support the request to find the grit bin.

The PC also discussed the request for grit bins on Charminster Farm, it was noted that the original bins obtained by the management company were yellow but the residents rejected them on colour, the management company then asked for the PC to provide them in a suitable colour, at this stage there has been no locations for the grit bins for safety reasons but that is not to say the PC will not provide them. In the meantime, the PC will purchase a bin for the Community Hall Car Park for the community in the vicinity. KB proposed that the cost of up to £400 for the bin be agreed.

Proposed CM seconded AR All agreed.

d. To consider funding compost bins at the Charlton Down Allotments

The Allotment committee at Charlton Down had requested support to fund communal compost bins. A quote had been sourced to install them at £1200. RW commented that there is waste on site that requires removal and posts to segregate plots was also noted in the annual inspection. It was suggested that a review of the Allotment costs is carried out. The annual rent paid to the PC goes towards the hedge cutting and pathways around the plots. It was agreed that the PC will investigate a plan and costs for communal compost bins for the March meeting following discussions with the association.

e. To consider the Charminster Farm Allotment issues and a Cllr rep to take this forward.

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MS and the Clerk met the contracts manager for Wyatt homes and his colleague on site to discuss the outstanding issues which they are happy to rectify. It was proposed that a Cllr rep is required, and TM offered to take on this role for both sites.

Proposed CM Seconded LSP All agreed.

24/2-9. Finance and General Purposes

a. To consider the quotes to replace the noticeboard on Meech Way.

Online quotes had been sought for a new noticeboard of recycled materials with one side lockable. KB asked if new noticeboards are needed, it was noted that they are well used, and Cllrs felt they should be replaced. Having used the company previously it was agreed to use Greenbarnes at a cost of £1574.95 including posts plus vat this will be with toughened glazing. Proposed CM Seconded TM 9 For 1 Against 2 abstained- motion carried.

b. To consider the quotes for the specification for works at Princes Plot for 2024.

The specification agreed was sent out and 2 contractors quoted 2 declined to quote. KB had met on contractor on site and answered Cllrs questions on the works to be carried with biological diversity. Toller Tree Care was proposed to carry out the contract for the year at a cost of £3070.00 plus vat.

Proposed PD Seconded RW 11 For 1 against.

The PC had also had a request that the Dorset Studio School attends in February to carry out studies on the site, this was agreed.

c. To consider the costs to cut the boundary hedge in North Street Play area.

A contractor was met on site to consider the costs to cut back the boundary hedge, this was at a cost of £800 plus vat. They had also suggested removal of the bramble hedge and planting of laurel or native species bare root plants. The PC proposed to accept the quote from Rolls landscaping to cut back the boundary hedge only at this stage.

Proposed TY Seconded RW All agreed.

d. To consider the quotes for a new website for the Parish Council including booking software for the Community Hall

The Clerk had gathered 4 quotes from website companies to provide a WCAG compliant website, with a.gov.uk domain and is able to have a standalone page for the Community Hall and to be able to take bookings online if suitable. CM and the Clerk had been through the quotes in detail looking at the websites and their costs, Caroline also had input into the Hall bookings system. CM commented that the one of the website providers also offers a standalone email support package and with the growing parishes it was felt this provider was able to offer the best support and website for the growing Council. The recommendation was to go with Aubergine and Email support by Cloudy IT at set up costs of £1882.75 and ongoing costs per year of £594.00.

Proposed TM Seconded KB 10 votes For 2 abstentions - motion carried.

The booking software from Scribe which is also the software used for the accounting system at a set up cost of £189 and annual fee of £23 per month payable annually was also agreed.

Proposed KB Seconded TM 10 votes For 2 abstentions - motion carried.

e. To consider additional funding for printing of the Pilot of £1500.

PD explained the reasoning behind this request was for the future of the magazine given the number of predicted residents to include Charminster Farm development as a contingency, the magazine is currently fully booked for advertising and editorials with an even split of pages for both. The PC currently pays £750 per annum for the back page of the Pilot. Cllrs

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commented on the small print on some of the pages, PD will investigate this. It was agreed to defer this item until the Pilot's demand increases and there is a need to assist with costs.

f. To consider and agree the repairs to the Zip Wire in Charlton Down.

Following the repairs carried out at both the Zip wires it was reported that the one in Charlton Down was not running correctly, after investigation by the Chairman and the Zip wire contractor who carried out the work. It was found that a spring had snapped in the trolley this being a part that was not replaced at the time. There had been some communications issues on this matter. A quote to install a new trolley for £800 plus vat was received, the Chair has removed the trolley and will look to find a way to repair this if not then the quote would be accepted from the contractor. The Council agreed to an amount of up to £1000 to repair the Zip Wire, MS to action.

Proposed TY Seconded RE All agreed.

g. To consider covering the hall fees for the after- school club.

This was discussed having supported the group previously with hall hire costs, an application will need to be made using the Grant awarding form and this would be given based on a charitable donation to cover the hall hire costs. Cllrs congratulated Vicky and the group on their work for the children of the village and proposed to support the request on this basis.

Proposed TY Seconded RW All agreed.

h. To receive the monthly finance reports and check bank reconciliations

MS carried out the checks prior to the start of the meeting.

i. To approve all payments due and those paid since the last meeting.

Proposed CM Seconded TY All agreed.

24/2-10. To consider any Planning Matters-

a. P/HOU/2023/06060 Proposal: Erect entrance porch, erect first floor side and two storey rear extensions, Erect single-storey rear lean to and External alterations Location: 9 Mill Lane. Cllrs discussed the application and felt it was inappropriate for the conservation area, the materials used are out of keeping and this is a sensitive site in the vicinity of many listed buildings. PD also requested that this discussed at committee and not delegated. Cllr Taylor was asked to put this forward. Cllrs proposed to objection to this application on this basis.

Proposed PD Seconded RE All agreed.

b. P/HOU/2023/06409 Proposal: Raise gables and chimney. Install two lancet windows & new dormers, relocate existing rooflight & two dormers. Erect extension to form additional living accommodation in attic. Location: 1 West Hill- following the statement read out by the applicant's agent Cllrs considered the proposal, PD commented that he had spoken to neighbours who were happier with this proposal as it is substantially less in scale and size. The Cllrs proposed no objections to the application.

Proposed PD Seconded TY 11 FOR 1 abstention

24/2-11. Matters for information and Interest-

a. To discuss the flooding issues on Mill Lane and other areas in the village.

PD noted that since the November flooding the field has finally been ploughed as it took some time to fund the owners of the land as well as the tenant. DT explained that DC

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had worked relentlessly to find a solution and are looking into the rights of way in this area and the triangle area of land that is not maintained. It was noted that there are to be some utility works in the area, and this would be a suitable time to have the drain realigned to it collects surface water runoff.

At this point residents who attended the meeting on this issue commented that it has not worked and there is still a risk of flooding and not enough has been done. They still have sandbags protecting their properties and have been held up for 3 months with a fear of leaving their properties in case they flood again. Another concern is all the chemicals coming off the field running into the Cerne.

DT responded that he was not aware there was still ongoing concerns and will follow this up with DC asap, residents were urged to email the PC with their issues to be passed to DT and flood risk team.

b. To discuss the resurfacing the top section of footpath between Herrison hall and the Cricket Club.

RW had asked for this to be discussed as this area needs resurfacing as it is a hazard. MS commented that this would be an expensive job as it would be about 110ft of pathway. It was agreed to look at a spec and gather quotes for the April meeting.

c. To discuss the Elections May 2024- nomination forms now available

The Clerk explained that nomination forms were now available and there are help tutorials online on how to complete the forms, the clerk has a slot booked for 19th March to take in completed nomination forms to Dorset Council electoral services.

d. To discuss parking bays in the Community Hall- defer to March meeting.

Other issues for noting by Cllrs:

LSP wanted to make her feelings known about the lack of communications from SSE to the residents during recent works, blocking driveways and a lack of thought for residents, this will be followed up with the comms team. AR complained about the speed of traffic on the C12, it was explained that the traffic issues should get better with the bridge now open.

24/2-12. To confirm items for the next PC meeting on 5th February 2024 at Charminster Community Hall.

Charlton Down goal mouths

There being no further business MS closed the meeting at 21.05.