

CHARFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the First Meeting of the newly elected Charfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th May 2019 commencing at 7.30pm in the Sportsman's Lounge, Memorial Hall, Charfield

PRESENT

Parish Councillors: Mr. M. Rosher, Mr. M. Cheskin, Mrs. J. Law, Mrs. N. Newns, Mr. A. Threlfall, Mrs. W. Glasgow

Clerk: Mrs. Paula Evans

SGC Ward Member: Cllr. J. O'Neill

Public: One member of the public was present

Prior to the commencement of the first meeting of the newly elected Charfield Parish Council, all duly elected members signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and were welcomed to the Parish Council.

11551/19 To elect a Chairman for 2019/20 and receive their Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr. Threlfall proposed, Cllr. Law seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Rosher be Chairman for 2019/20. Cllr. Rosher duly accepted the position and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. **All Agreed.**

11552/19 To elect a Vice Chairman for 2019/20 and receive their Declaration of Acceptance of Office

No Cllrs. present were prepared to stand as Vice Chairman. Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Cheskin for being Vice Chairman in previous years. Thanks were expressed to Mr. Richard Rawlings for his Councillorship in the past. Welcome to all newly elected councillors.

11553/19 Deferring of signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Absent Councillor

Cllr. Cheskin proposed, Cllr. Rosher seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Sydenham sign his declaration of acceptance of office before the next meeting. **All Agreed.**

11554/19 To note Apologies for Absence and Acceptance of Reasons

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr. Garside who was unable to attend the meeting. This absence triggered a Parish Councillor vacancy, which would be filled by following the procedure for co-option following an election. The Clerk would therefore advertise the vacancy accordingly.

Apologies were also received from Cllr. Parker through illness. The Clerk confirmed that Cllr. Parker had previously signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office in her presence.

11555/19 Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

No declarations were received.

11556/19 To Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

The draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th April 2019 had been circulated. Following one amendment under 11542/19 it was proposed by Cllr. Newns, seconded by Cllr. Law and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes. **All Agreed.** The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

11557/19 Public Participation

A member of the Consortium who had recently purchased The Plough public house addressed the Parish Council regarding the recent planning application for two new dwellings at the site, and asked whether the Parish Council would reconsider their objections to the application. The internal bar area has been reduced in size and a significant amount of money has been spent refurbishing the pub. It was noted that an objection had already been received from SGC Highways. The new dwellings all comply on minimum space standards and there have been a couple of revisions made to the parking arrangements to facilitate additional parking. Parish Councillors confirmed that in order to revisit their original comments they would require at least

Action

Clerk

four Parish Councillors to write to the Clerk asking for their original decision to be revisited. If this did happen then it could be placed on the agenda for another discussion. Parish Councillors were unaware whether the SGC Planning Officer would re-consult this application in light of the revised plans. The Parish Council also noted the recent Gazette article had very much sensationalised the history of the pub.

11558/19 To receive the Clerk's Report

The Clerk provided a written report which was appended to these minutes.

Regarding item 6, the Clerk was asked to place this on the 11th June 2019 agenda.

Clerk

Regarding item 7, Cllr. Cheskin proposed, Cllr. Newns seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would pay the cost of the Clerk's CiLCA training course in September 2019. **All Agreed.**

Regarding item 8, the Clerk had prepared a letter of thanks for Mr. Rawlings which was read out to the meeting. The contents were agreed by all and the Chairman signed the letter on behalf of the Parish Council.

11559/19 Report from Cllr. John O'Neill, South Gloucestershire Council Representative

Following the 2nd May 2019 elections, Cllr. O'Neill confirmed that South Gloucestershire Council was still a Conservative led council and administration of the Council remained as before the elections.

Cllr. O'Neill reported that the Tortworth Road would be closed for a couple of days (17th – 19th June) just north of the roundabout at the top of Charfield Hill.

Cllr. O'Neill confirmed he would be attending and speaking on behalf of Charfield and the other Parishes he represented at the forthcoming JSP Public Examination. The Parish Council had already submitted their comments. It was noted that three of the four Local Authorities that make up WECA are demanding infrastructure be in place before development takes place, however South Gloucestershire Council had no credible plans for infrastructure.

The Parish Councillors noted that weed-killer had been used/sprayed in certain places around the parish, including the recently installed wooden sculpture on Charfield Hill. The Parish Council was aware of health allegations and the carcinogenic effects of Glyphosate based weed-killers. Cllr. O'Neill confirmed he had written to SGC Streetcare requesting confirmation of the type of spray used.

Regarding the provision of an additional bus stop adjacent to the Crest Nicholson development, SGC had provided rough costings of approximately £10,000. There was the potential to use CIL money for this project. It was agreed to place this subject on the 11th June 2019 agenda for formal discussion and resolution.

Clerk

11560/19 Declaration of Climate & Ecological Emergency

Cllr. Rosher had prepared and circulated to all Parish Councillors a statement of Climate & Ecological Emergency. Following discussions, it was proposed by Cllr. Rosher, seconded by Cllr. Glasgow and **RESOLVED** that Charfield Parish Council adopt that statement. **All Agreed.** A copy of the statement is appended (Appendix A) to these minutes and would be uploaded to the Charfield Parish Council web site.

MR

11561/19 Planning Applications

P19/3294/F | Change of use from Office (Class B1) to Leisure (Class D2) as defined in the Town & Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) | Part 1 First Floor, The Pin Mill, New Street, Charfield | **NO OBJECTIONS.**

P19/3680/RVC | Removal of condition 2 attached to PT17/0906/F | Downs Lodge, Charfield Hill, Charfield | **NO OBJECTIONS.**

P19/3929/F | Erection of single storey side and rear extension to form store for takeaway (Class A5) and additional living accommodation | 10 Avon Road, Charfield, GL12 8TT | **NO OBJECTIONS.**

P19/4206/ADV | Retention of display of 1 no. non-illuminated freestanding 'H configuration' sign | Land north of Wotton Road, Charfield, GL12 8TG | **NO OBJECTIONS.**

P19/4530/F | Construction of outdoor swimming pool and conversion of existing stables to form pool pavilion | Pembeley Lodge, Churchend Lane, Charfield | **NO OBJECTIONS.**

P19/2450/F | Mixed Use Development of Land south of Charfield | Cllr. Rosher proposed, Cllr. Newns seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to make an additional, not final comments on this application as follows:

In line with the recently adopted Declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency, Charfield Parish Council **OBJECTS** to this development on the grounds of an unsustainable increase in local carbon emissions. The Joint Spatial Strategy proposes at least 1,200 new dwellings in the village of which this application forms 900-950, but does not offer commensurate additional employment for those living in them. With no low-carbon means of commuting to remote workplaces available or promised to be available before the dwellings are constructed, this means a massive increase in local car ownership and fossil fuel use. This is inconsistent with both the local Declaration and national and international consensus on the need for immediate carbon reductions. Suggestions that increased development may contribute towards the re-opening of Charfield Railway Station are entirely insufficient, and the suggestion that developers pay towards an uprated motorway junction add to the promotion of private (generally fossil fuelled) transport. Unless, and until this application can be seen to be carbon neutral, Charfield Parish Council cannot accept it and call upon South Gloucestershire Council to refuse it. We are looking for a community our children can live in and only by taking climate positive action can their future be assured.

11562/19 Planning Decisions

19/2239/F | Hip to gable extension to form additional living accommodation | Lincroft, 42 Wotton Road, Charfield | **WITHDRAWN.**

P19/2809/f | Erection Of a first floor side extension to form additional living accommodation | 26 Woodlands Road, Charfield, GL12 8LS | **APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS.**

P19/2986/f | Alteration to roofline of existing rear extension and installation of 1 no. rear dormer to facilitate loft conversion | 5 Wotton Road, Charfield, GL12 8TP | **APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS.**

11563/19 Planning Enforcement

The Parish Councillors noted two current planning enforcement issues both in connection with the Crest Nicholson development – tree planting and a change of landscape plans. The Parish Council also noted receipt of an email from a resident in this respect. The area in question had been left unattended and there were now nettles growing. Although a management company had now been appointed for the development, the responsibility lay with Crest Nicholson to finish off the work according to planning permission.

11564/19 Joint Spatial Plan, Joint Transportation Plan & Proposed Development within Charfield Parish

Discussed under minute 11559/19.

11565/19 Charfield Neighbourhood Plan

The Charfield Neighbourhood Plan is ready to go public and will be formally presented to residents at a public engagement event on 10th June 2019 in the Memorial Hall. Banners have been put up around the village advertising the event. The Neighbourhood Plan policies include

such things as the provision of electric car charging points, a new business hub and a Greenway project to name but a few. The Plan also included for things such as hedgerow and tree preservation and the exclusion of the use of netting. The event on 10th June 2019 will support the fact that the Plan was community driven. The final Plan would then go to South Gloucestershire Council and the Planning Inspectorate who would inspect the document to ascertain whether it is robust enough to go to parish referendum, or come back to the Neighbourhood Plan team with comments. After any improvements have been made, the document would then go to public referendum and all of the residents of the parish have the opportunity to vote on the document. If the vote is affirmative then the plan goes back to SGC where it is adopted as a local planning document and is taken into account when considering future planning applications. The Plan may well be adopted by the end of 2019, or early 2020. If the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted the new SGC Local Plan would have to take into consideration the Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council congratulated the Neighbourhood Plan Team for their enthusiasm and progress on this matter.

11541/19 Charfield Youth Group

The Parish Council noted a report of some anti-social behaviour of some of those attending the Youth Group. The Hall Committee had expressed disappointment that a lot of litter was being discarded around the Memorial Hall. This was not yet a concern and was being discussed with Youth & Community Services. As the Parish Council financially supports the provision of the Youth Group, the Parish Council felt a responsibility to ensure the matter was brought to a satisfactory conclusion. This would be discussed at the June 2019 meeting.

Clerk

11542/19 Charfield Burial Ground Report

All in order. The Chairman had attended the burial ground and had planted more wild flowers. There had been reports of some nuisance-type break-ins in surrounding properties – gates and doors forced open, but nothing had been taken. The Clerk would progress the clearing of the stones/rubble in the top corner with the Cemex Lend a Hand scheme. The Parish Council briefly discussed the provision of an Oak shelter and believed this may have been part of the original planning application. The Clerk would check.

Clerk

11542/19 Meeting Reports

Memorial Hall Committee – As Parish Council representative, Cllr. Threlfall reported that Barratt Homes had approached the Committee requesting permission for a sales cabin to be positioned in the Hall car park (same as Bellway). Barratts would seek the relevant planning permission. Barratts had also offered to pay to fence off the play area from the rest of the playing field. The litter and anti-social behaviour issues were noted. The Committee had rejected the purchase of an additional anti-vandal litter bin as it was considered too expensive. The Committee may approach the Parish Council for a grant in this respect. The Chairman of the Committee had advised Committee Members that he would be standing down at their Annual Meeting.

Bellway Liaison Group – At the recent meeting, a resident had identified that the compound security light was set at such an angle that it shone into bedrooms when it was triggered. Bellway had promised to deal with this, but it would appear nothing had been done.

Greenway Group – The Sustrans Project Manager had almost completed discussions with local land owners. Another meeting was planned for 24th June 2019 in Wotton with the Highways Authority Cycle Sustainable Transport Team. Cllr. Cheskin would attend as Cllr. Rosher is unable to attend this meeting.

MC

11543/19 Correspondence Received

South Glos Council – Wotton Road Roadworks; Notice of Intent – Temporary Traffic Order – Various Roads, Various Wards – Resurfacing Works – Spring 2019 – No. 3 – Temp Road Closures (PT.6258); Community Infrastructure Levy Local Contribution in 2018/19; Notice of Intent – Temporary Traffic Order – Cowship Lane, Cromhall – Temporary Road Closure (PT.6268); Visit to Charfield Meadows Nature Reserve; CIL Spending; Alterations to the Electoral Register; New Council Protocol for Unauthorised Gypsy & Traveller Encampments on Council owned land; Post Election Paperwork for ALL Councillors; Tension Monitoring –

reminder; Bus Stop; Circulated Schedule; Wildflowers, Insects, Allotments & Road Verges; SGC First World War Engagement Project Evaluation.

NALC/ALCA – In-Short – Elections Checklist for Clerks; CIL Briefing; Chief Executive’s Bulletin; Department of Transport Licensing Consultation.

Other – Graffiti at Village Hall; West of England Joint Spatial Plan Examination; Wildflower Verges – A Sad Tale; Crisp Packet Recycling; Updated Neighbourhood Plan and Slide Pack for the Fete and Village Meeting; The Plough; Climate Emergency Declaration; Circuit of Charfield Road Race 19.05.19; Friends of St. James Church – AGM; Council Matters Spring 2019; Charfield Freshers’ Fair; Litter – Urgent Action Required; Feed Bristol – Avon Wildlife Trust (wildflowers); Parish Council Elections; Youth Group; Some Information regarding Community Liaison Groups; Newly Elected Parish Councillors; Hedgehogs in Charfield; Cemex Liaison Meeting Minutes; Charfield Planning Application; Gates; CNP Village Meeting – Banners are Up; Absconder – Leyhill; New Councillor Training; Email to Regular Users of the Hall; Apologies.

11544/19 Installation of a QR Code at the War Memorial

Cllr. Cheskin proposed, Cllr. Newns seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the erection of a QR Code at Charfield War Memorial. This would be installed on the right-hand side (when looking at the Memorial) up against the back wall. The Clerk was asked to investigate the costs of cleaning and re-leading the names of the Fallen.

Clerk

11545/19 2019 Annual Parish Meeting

The 2019 Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Tuesday 28th May 2019 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. The Clerk confirmed that parish organisations had been invited to attend/provide a report. The Annual Meeting would be advertised again nearer the date.

11546/19 Proposed ‘Freshers Week’

The Parish Council had received information from St. John’s Church that it was their intention to host a ‘Freshers’ type event on Saturday 7th September 2019 in order to welcome new residents to the parish. Cllr. Cheskin proposed, Cllr. Roshier seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would participate in the event and have a table. **All Agreed.**

Clerk

11547/19 Request for Financial Assistance

Cllr. Roshier proposed, Cllr. Law seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to approve a grant of £537.00 to Clean Up Green Up Charfield. This grant would be used by CUGUC to clear the steep verge on Charfield Hill.

11548/19 Financial Matters

The Clerk reported the following available balances as at 1st May 2019 with the bank statements being witnessed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk:-

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--|
| Current Account | £ 500.00 | (Statement No. 417 dated 1 st May 2019) |
| Business Reserve (1) | £ 14,376.94 | (Statement No. 206 dated 5 th April 2019) |
| Business Reserve (2) | £143,703.71 | (Statement No. 312 dated 1 st May 2019) |

The receipts and payments account as at 14th May 2019 was noted by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council noted receipt of the first tranche of 2019/20 Precept and LCTR Grant of £31,093.00.

The Parish Council noted receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy collected in 2018/19 of £13,802.88.

A new budget category ‘Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)’ had been introduced into the payments section of the spreadsheet and reflected the recent £1,500 donation to the Greenway project.

Work would begin in earnest to balance the 2018/19 accounts and prepare the documentation for the Annual return which would be presented to Parish Councillors for adoption at the June meeting.

The independent internal audit would take place on Friday 24th May.

An invoice for approximately £4,438.69 was anticipated from South Gloucestershire Council for the Parish Council element of costs incurred at the 2nd May 2019 elections.

11549/19 Accounts for Payment

The Clerk reported the following accounts to be paid.

| Payee | Chq No. | Description | Net | VAT | Gross |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| Mrs. P. Evans | SO | Clerk's Salary - April | £863.16 | £0.00 | £863.16 |
| HMRC | 2884 | Tax & NI | £142.28 | £0.00 | £142.28 |
| Came & Company | 2885 | Annual Insurance | £694.67 | £0.00 | £694.67 |
| Charfield Memorial Hall | 2886 | 1st Tranche 19/20 Fin Sup | £3,000.00 | £0.00 | £3,000.00 |
| Charfield Memorial Hall | 2886 | S.137 Grant - Fair | £300.00 | £0.00 | £300.00 |
| Charfield Memorial Hall | 2886 | S.137 Grant - Planting | £200.00 | £0.00 | £200.00 |
| Charfield Memorial Hall | 2886 | Room Hire | £57.75 | £0.00 | £57.75 |
| Blagdon Tree Surgeons | 2887 | Willow Tree Works | £580.00 | £116.00 | £696.00 |
| Friends of St. James | 2888 | S.137 Grant | £1,450.00 | £0.00 | £1,450.00 |
| Dementia Connections | 2889 | S.137 Grant | £500.00 | £0.00 | £500.00 |
| Charfield Junior Football | 2890 | S.137 Grant | £500.00 | £0.00 | £500.00 |
| Friends of Charfield Primary School | 2891 | S.137 Grant | £500.00 | £0.00 | £500.00 |
| Greenway Group | 2892 | Financial Support (CIL) | £1,500.00 | £0.00 | £1,500.00 |
| Mr. Marcus Whawell | 2893 | CNP Banners | £35.80 | £0.00 | £35.80 |
| Mrs. Wendy Glasgow | 2894 | Recycling Boxes | £22.12 | £4.43 | £26.55 |
| CuGuC | 2895 | S.137 Grant | £537.00 | £0.00 | £537.00 |
| | | | £10,882.78 | £120.43 | £11,003.21 |

Cllr. Cheskin proposed, Cllr. Law seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the above accounts be paid. **All Agreed.**

11550/19 Minor Items Raised by Members or for Future Agenda

Parish Councillors discussed ceasing use of the Notice Board on Manor Lane and use of the Board on Little Bristol Lane.

The Clerk needed to progress installation of the second defibrillator unit as a matter of urgency.

Clerk

Cllr. Cheskin offered to store the brush cutter at the garage. The Clerk was asked to progress the footpath warden matter.

The Clerk to complete the upgrade of the Parish Council laptop and all associated software.

Clerk

This concluded the business of the meeting which closed at approximately 9.47pm.

Next meeting of Charfield Parish Council was to be held on Tuesday 11th June 2019 at 7:30pm in the Sportsman's Lounge – this being the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Chairman

14th May 2019

CLERK'S REPORT
Presented to Full Parish Council Meeting on 14th May 2019

1. Willow Tree – The works were undertaken on Tuesday 7th May by Blagdon Tree Surgeons. Following discussions with Blagdon it was agreed by the Clerk that rather than take the tree back to the previous pollard points, only a light trim would be done. This would mean that the Willow would remain in leaf for the rest of the growing season. The Clerk will diarise for another trim to be undertaken in two years' time.
2. The Big Spring Clean took place on 13th April – a good handful of volunteers took the time to help including CUGUC members.
3. The Clerk contacted the Memorial Hall Committee regarding Velo Club Bristol and their intention to hold a peloton on 19th May 2019. The Committee were already aware of this as the Club had booked the Hall. As the route of the peloton included Kingswood and Wickwar, the Clerk contacted the Club and requested that they contact the other Parish Councils and warn them of the event.
4. The Clerk has thanked SGC for their swift clean up of the recent graffiti.
5. Time was spent checking legislation surrounding the signing of Declarations of Acceptance of Office. Specific advice was sought from SLCC.
6. The Parish Council has been contacted regarding sponsoring of some road signage to warn of hedgehogs crossing the road. This information has been passed to Parish Councillors for their consideration. The Parish Council should be mindful of SGC policy to de-clutter roadside verges of unnecessary signage.
7. The Clerk's annual review is due at the end of May – this will be undertaken by the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The Clerk would like the Parish Council to consider her participation in a four day CiLCA training course in Nailsea. This would be one day a month in September, October, November and December at a cost of £340.00.
8. A letter of thanks has been prepared for Mr. Rawlings – your approval is required.

Paula Evans
Clerk
14th May 2019

Appendix A - Charfield Parish Council declares a Climate and Ecological Emergency

Charfield Parish Council associates itself with all the other local authority and other organisations in declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency. In doing so, the Council explains why we are doing this and what our intentions are to address this emergency.

Why are we doing this?

In October 2018, the International Panel on Climate Change announced that there are only 12 years to make urgent and unprecedented changes. The way things stand now, we have only 1% chance of doing this, and only a 5% chance global average temperatures can be limited to less than 2° Celsius warmer than pre-industrial levels. The warnings of climate and ecological breakdown are all around:

Climate breakdown

There has been a gradual destabilisation of the climate due to the extraction and burning of fossil fuels, and in the last few decades this has accelerated. Droughts are getting longer and more severe, causing more scarcity of food and water. Extreme weather events are becoming more intense and destructive. Heatwaves are already magnifying the fire risk around the world and causing heat stress deaths. Widespread floods are escalating. Rising sea levels are threatening coastal and riverside settlements. Global temperatures have increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm), which far exceeds the pre-industrial base level of 280ppm.

In the past year, there are more signs that tipping points are being reached. In December it was reported that the rate of Greenland's ice melt has quadrupled. Soon after, NASA discovered a huge cavern has opened up under Antarctica, and that a polar vortex destabilised sending freezing Arctic weather over the American mid-west whilst January was the warmest month in Australia, ever. In March, the UN reported that sharp temperature rises in the Arctic are inevitable, even if the Paris goals are met.

Ecological breakdown

Although it is difficult to estimate or to project future rates of loss as the Emergency worsens, already three species are lost to eternity each hour. In February, there were reports of a catastrophic decline in insect populations which will soon affect our food supplies. The Food and Agriculture Organisation has reported that 63% of plants, 11% of birds, and 5% of fish and fungi are in decline. There is a debilitating loss of soil biodiversity, forests, grasslands, coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds and genetic diversity in crop and livestock species. Dead zones are growing in the oceans due to acidification and warming.

The main causes of ecological breakdown are: intensive agriculture with its use of chemicals; deforestation for logging, biofuels and livestock rearing; growing urbanisation and transport infrastructure; over-exploitation of water; over-harvesting and wildlife poaching; invasive species and diseases; pollution; and the burning of fossil fuels and climate change.

We recognise that the children of our parish are likely to grow up in a world where these matters have taken on a direct and challenging impact. If we want people who are under the age of 20 to live a full life we must act now to reduce our carbon emissions to a net zero by 2025. [1]

What are we going to do about it?

1. We will tell the truth about the emergency and support our community in making the changes that are needed.
2. We will give full consideration of impacts on the climate and ecology in all our discussions and decisions.

3. We will work to make changes where practicable that reduce the council's carbon emissions with an aim of net zero by 2025.
4. We will challenge policies and actions which will or are likely to increase the carbon emissions of our community.
5. We will promote actions and activities that regenerate our ecology and enable a low carbon Charfield.
6. We will add this declaration to our duty of consideration where it will form an intrinsic part of our working process.

[1] Net zero means that on balance one's activities are zero emissions, taking into account all possible Greenhouse Gas emissions and actions taken to mitigate or offset those emissions.

[2] Members are reminded that the Council has a duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human rights. Likewise the Council will consider the impact of its actions on climate and ecology and work towards the aims of its Declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency.