

Charwelton Parish Meeting

Minutes of Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 21st November 2024 - 7pm

Present: Sue Porter (Clerk), Barry White (Chairman) and 11 members of the public

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

2. APOLOGIES – Dawn Aries, David & Jill Shelton, Mike Jones, Chris Durrant, Rupert Frost & David Smith (WNC),

3. APPROVE MINUTES FROM PARISH MEETING held on THURSDAY 16th MAY 2024 – It was approved by all that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. REPORT FROM WEST UNITARY COUNCILLOR – No report received.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Highways Update - Pothole repairs have been undertaken along Church Street with further works planned before Christmas. The Chairman awaits further updates from the West Northants Councillors.

5.2 Street Lighting – Church Street/A361 junction – Following a site visit from E-On, the street light has failed and is beyond repair. A new post and lantern are required at a cost of £ 1,494 plus VAT. It was asked that the road signs along the A361 are cleaned, the Clerk will report on Fix my Street.

5.3 Parish Website – Parish Online are producing a website, which can also have pages included to link with the Village Hall, PCC and the Pub Committee. This will be at an estimated cost of around £400. A draft will be prepared within the next few weeks.

5.4 Increase to PCC Donation for 2024/25 = The annual grant for the PCC is currently £200. It was approved by all that this be increased to £300. A cheque for the additional £100 will be signed.

5.5 VE Day Celebrations – 8th May 2025 – Events are being planned across the country with lanterns and beacons lit, along with street parties. An event for the village will be discussed, maybe with the pub hosting an event, should it be open.

5.6 Village Get Together – Ideas will be discussed with the Village Hall to arrange some social gatherings whilst the pub is closed.

5.7 Fish & Chip Van - There have been concerns raised from residents with the cooking smells from the Van, when parked in the field entrance, the landowner has moved them on from here, and now posted private property signs in the gateway. This is a well attended service, and it was suggested that the pub car park could perhaps be used whilst the pub is closed

5.8 War Memorial – Special thanks were given to James Mablethorpe and Rob Hedges who have dug out the old posts and replaced them and jet washed the chains. These works have been much appreciated. The Listed Building Officer at WNC will be contacted about the stone repairs which are required for the War Memorial.

5.9 Agree PC Precept Figure for 2025/26 - The Clerk produced the figures and the Chairman explained the finance prediction for the year. It was approved by all that to maintain a healthy bank balance with adequate reserves, that the precept for 2025/26 needs to be increased by 75%. This has not been increased for over 10 years. Therefore Charwelton Parish Meeting do precept upon West Northants Council the total sum of £7,000.00, payable in two instalments in April & September 2025.

6. FINANCE (MAY 2024 to NOVEMBER 2024)

The following payments were approved by all:

PAYMENTS:

Chq No 555	Mr M Freeman – Grass Mowing x 4	£ 1,084.00	HA1980 96
Chq No 556	E-On = Street Light Maint April-June	£ 46.20	PCA1957 s3
Chq No 557	S Porter – Clerks Salary July-Dec24	£ 520.00	LGA1972 s112
Chq No 558	Katie Briggs – Land Registry Searches	£ 15.00	LGA 1972 s111
Chq No 559	E-On – Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 46.20	PCA1957 s3
Chq No 560	PCC – Donation 2024/25	£ 100.00	LGA 1972 s111
DD	N Power – Street Lighting April-June24	£ 263.54	PCA1957 s3
DD	N Power – Street Lighting July-Sept24	£ 251.32	PCA1957 s3

INCOME RECEIVED:

Nat West	Interest	£ 0.53
WNC	½ Year Precept	£ 2,000.00
HMRC	VAT Refund	£ 101.87

BANK BALANCES (AS OF 31.10.2024)

CURRENT ACCOUNT £ 5,833.88

RESERVE ACCOUNT £ 72.95

- 7. OPEN FORUM** – Highways will be asked if additional signage would be possible between the 50mph to 30mph speed limits on the A361, with a 40mph put in place, to slow the traffic down. The troughs by the Charwelton village sign are in need of attention as is the heather rockery opposite the Catesby Centre entrance. Condition 3 of the planning permission for the Catesby Centre has been relaxed to allow businesses to hire out the empty office spaces. There are two more buildings to be constructed next year, which will involve a further planning application to be submitted. Following the recent pub closure, no further information has been received by the shareholders. A member of the Pub Committee stated that there were interested parties but no firm bid received as yet.

DATE OF NEXT CHARWELTON PARISH MEETING – THURSDAY 15th MAY 2025 - 7pm

Meeting Closed: 7:36pm