

# The Charltons Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 commencing at 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell.

Councillors Present: Councillors, Susie Cragg, Alan Crawley and Kim Williams.

Somerset Councillors Tim Kerley and Stephen Page.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

In attendance: Two members of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Williams chaired the meeting.

Public speaking.

A member of the public asked questions about the Parish Council's finances. It was agreed that the Clerk will publish an explanation of the 2026-27 budget on the Parish Council's website.

Lily Watts, the Somerset Association of Local Councils Community Health and Welfare officer gave a presentation on Community Plans.

Somerset Councillors Tim Kerley and Stephen Page gave the Somerset Councillor report.

The 4.99% increase in the Somerset Council precept demand is the big news item. Rises of this nature will be commonplace across the country. Some District and County Council's asked for government permission to increase their precept demand by a larger percentage, but Somerset's request was denied. This will mean further cuts in services and the sale of more assets.

£5 million has been allocated to 'Spruce up Somerset'. This will include the cleaning of road signs, and repairs to potholes.

The Boundary Commission report is nearing final approval stage, with the number of county councillors reducing from 110 to 96. The Charltons will come under Ilchester ward with only one county councillor in the future,

The new housing development in Charlton Adam is nearing completion. The district councillors are proud of the fact that they will be the provision of council houses, which will be the first in South Somerset for a generation. These will firstly be offered to local people and if they are not all allocated then people from further afield will be able to apply for the housing.

There is a national shortage of planning officers and social workers. These are statutory positions that must be filled. Good candidates are not applying for these positions, so agency workers as are being used which is expensive but unavoidable.

26/33 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors K Armstrong, K Rowland and J Woollorton.

26/34 To receive declarations of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

26/35 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

It was resolved to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.

26/36 To consider the information provided in the Community Plan presentation.

It was resolved to use grant funding to be provided by Somerset Association of Local Councils to conduct a survey of parishioners. Consideration will be given to working on a new Community Plan at a later stage.

26/37 To receive an update from the Transport and Highways Working Group including the noting of the working group meeting minutes.

The Working Group has not met since the last Parish Council meeting, so no update was provided.

26/38 To receive an update from the recent Flooding Symposium.

Councillor Crang attended the recent flooding symposium. Funding will be provided by the symposium to allow households affected by flooding to apply for flood prevention equipment which they will be able to purchase at a heavily subsidised cost. It would not be appropriate for parish councils to purchase and distribute flood prevention equipment.

26/39 To receive the Speed Indicator Device report.

The Speed Indicator Device figures between 20<sup>th</sup> January and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were noted.

Kingweston Road, Charlton Mackrell.

There was an average of 1,479 vehicles per day (inbound) and 1,414 vehicles per day (outbound).

Inbound – 80% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 13% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 5% between 36 – 40mph. 2% between 41 – 45% and 1% over 46mph.

Outbound – 58% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 26% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 12% between 36 – 40mph. 3% between 41 – 45% and 1% over 46mph.

Broadway, Charlton Adam

There was an average of 184 vehicles per day (inbound) and 181 vehicles per day (outbound).

Inbound – 89% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 8% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 2% between 36 – 40mph. 0% between 41 – 45% and 1% over 46mph.

Outbound – 79% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 13% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 5% between 36 – 40mph. 1% between 41 – 45% and 1% over 46mph.

These figures do not show the number of cars that speed up after passing the SIDs, which have been recorded in the past. This applies especially to Kingweston Rd, as the device is located at the top of the road.

26/40 To approve the following non-statutory payments. The payment of statutory payments was approved in minute 26/5 of the January 2026 parish council meeting.

Payee	Details	Net £	VAT £	Total £
Anthony Jay	Clerk's expenses March	62.15	0.00	62.15
Cary Traders	Hedge cutting work	102.00	20.40	122.40
SALC	Clerk Training	45.00	0.00	45.00
SALC	Councillor Training	160.00	0.00	160.00
Cary Traders	Pond and ditch clearance	888.00	177.60	1065.60
	Total	1257.15	198.00	1455.15

It was resolved to approve the non-statutory payments.

26/41 To receive councillor and clerk reports.

A request has made for a community picnic to be held during the summer at Lyes Cary Manor. The councillors thought that this was an excellent idea, and to ask the National Trust to make the arrangements on a date of their choice.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

End of minutes.