

The Charltons Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st July 2026 commencing at 7.30pm in The Reading Room, Charlton Mackrell.

Councillors Present: Councillors Joe Woollorton (Chairman), Alan Crawley, Karen Rowland and Kim Williams.

Somerset Councillor Tim Kerley

In attendance: No members of the public.

Public Questions and Comments. There were no public comments.

Somerset Councillor Tim Kerley gave the Somerset Councillor report.

Somerset Council has been served with a Best Value Notice by central government. This is one step before the commissioners step in. Somerset Council has 'exceptional budget support'. This means that government inspectors will examine the accounts.

Councillor Kerley then gave a long explanation of the Somerset Council financial position. He is contactable on tim.kerley@somerset.gov.uk for further information.

26/101 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Sue Carey and Dennis Elliott.

26/102 To receive declarations of interests.

There were no declarations of interests.

26/103 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 19th June 2026.

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting.

26/104 To consider the co-option of Tamzin Elliott as Parish Councillor.

Tamzin Elliott had withdrawn her application prior to the meeting.

26/105 To confirm the appointment of Sinead Archer as Parish Clerk.

The appointment of Sinead Archer was confirmed. Sinead Archer was confirmed as the administrator of the council's Unity Trust bank account.

26/106 To consider a schedule of work for a contractor to carry out verge and hedge cutting in the parish on a three year contract.

Work is continuing on this schedule, which will be considered at the next parish council meeting.

26/107 To receive an update following the councillor briefing with Wessex Internet.

The update is contained at the end of these minutes.

26/108 To receive the Speed Indicator Device report.

The figures for Kingweston Road, Charlton Mackrell are between 14.06.2026 and 29.06.2026.

There was an average of 1,723 vehicles per day (inbound) and 1,539 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 – 57% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 27% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 11% between 36 – 40mph. 3% between 41 – 45% and 1% over 46mph.

The figures for Broadway, Charlton Adam are between 14.06.2026 and 18.07.2026.

There was an average of 249 vehicles per day (inbound) and 251 vehicles per day (outbound).

Inbound – 87% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 9% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 3% between 36 – 40mph. 1% between 41 – 45% and 0% over 46mph. Outbound – 78% of vehicles complied with the speed limit. 16% travelled at between 31 – 35mph. 5% between 36 – 40mph. 1% between 41 – 45% and 0% over 46mph.

26/109 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 July	109.10	0.00	109.10

It was resolved to approve the non-statutory payments.

26/110 To receive councillor and clerk reports.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 15th September 2026.

Teams meeting between Charltons PC and Wessex Internet

Thursday 9th July 2026

Attendees: Vicky Missen (Wessex Internet), Councillor Susie Crang (The Charltons PC) and Councillor Karen Rowland (The Charltons PC)

Purpose of Meeting: Overview for Parish Councillors on the forthcoming Fibre connections in Charlton Adam.

Vicky's presentation provided details of why the founder started Wessex internet through to how they came to be the contractor for BD UK, decommissioning copper for Full Fibre broadband to previously inaccessible villages and homes.

Full Fibre basically means fibre all the way to a home in lieu of the existing copper from the provider street cabinets to homes; these existing copper cables from cabinets to houses are more susceptible to outside forces. For example, Copper can be affected by various factors but in particular water/flooding affects the quality of coverage.

Their remit with BD UK is to complete the decommissioning of copper broadband, which they expect will be completed 99% by 2032. In their SW area they will provide lightning-fast gigabit-capable broadband to hard-to-reach communities across South Somerset & Dorset and further in the South West.

They will be hosting a talk, this Monday at 5.30pm, at the community centre and we need to encourage all those with queries to attend and most importantly to register with Wessex. Registration will allow Wessex to assess whether they are able to provide each registered household with the internet and those who are **not** currently on the proposed map should register as Wessex will look at every registration to see if they have the capability to expand into more than the initial 268 houses on the plan. Those registered will be provided with updates on proposed works etc. It's important to recognise that this is the future of broadband and to ensure all households are aware that this is being delivered free of charge to the community (Details of what packages are then available can be discussed directly with Wessex once registered).

Wessex will offer services from 100mb -900mb directly to the door. Households DO NOT have to take up the connection, but they will be fibre ready regardless. At this point the only provider for Full Fibre will be Wessex, as they are contracted to provide this.

IMPORTANT:

Whilst there are plans for road closures which reflect 18 months, this is to cover back and forth with the project. No roads will be closed for this amount of time and the works are planned for the end of August / beginning of September 2026 and works should be completed by end of November 2026. ALL road closures will be notified to residents - so very important to be registered.

There is existing Full Fibre cabling in the Charltons, and this will not be replaced and all will be utilised to provide an efficient installation across the parish.

There are no exact dates at this point, but Vicky will be looking to provide an update as soon as she receives one.

To register interest please visit www.wessexinternet.com or call 0333 240 7997.

End of minutes.