

CHARSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday, 25th November 2024

Present: Councillors Pedgrift (Chair), Moor, Laird, Haird, Rixon, Crone and Pam Hembra (Parish Clerk)

County Councillor Elaine Bryce

Members of the Public: 7

		Action
1.	Apologies and Approval of Absence	
	Councillor Youngman approved	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	None	
3.	Approval of Minutes of the Minutes held on 23rd September 2024	
	Minutes were approved and signed by Councillor Pedgrift	
4.	Progress Reports for Information or Matters Arising	
	Queens Canopy. It had been decided not to plant the 7 oak trees along Church Road due to objections from residents. PC to ask village to suggest other sites and to consult with village tree wardens.	
5.	The Future of The Three Horseshoes Mr Bolton indicated he may be willing to sell the pub and will get a valuation, which can then be considered by the Three Horseshoes Community Asset Society.	
6.	Points from the public – A chance for the public to raise matters of relevant interest.	
7.	Reports County Council (full report available on request) District Council (full report available on request) Recreation Ground – now have interim chair. Underused play area which needs a lot of money. Village Hall	
8.	Community Energy Project Feasibility money promised but no money received as yet.	
9.	Charsfield Flood Action Group – Steve Moor	

S19 Report

Report finally published on the 18th October 2024 but CFAG have yet to conduct a detailed review. I have personally reviewed it and I include some high level observations: -

1. There is a tendency to underplay the severity of the flooding. The photos used (plenty were supplied by CFAG that did) were not at the peak and are untimed/undated. One photo used (Long Meadow) was from 12th December. Outside property depths of water not included, and only inside depth in the street.
2. The report is very qualitative and not very quantitative. No estimates used anywhere of water volumes or flows. (Some were supplied). It seems rather unscientific.
3. The recommendations are very non specific and as such are difficult to monitor or police. The PC wrote to the LLFA in September before the report was published, with a list of urgent actions including W3W references but these are not included.
4. No mention of the damage caused by the effect of fast flowing water (not just the level). Drives being washed away and foundations affected. Over 40 houses had water in outbuildings or gardens with significant damage.

No mention of the effects or costs (financial or otherwise) upon the people flooded out. Eleven households had to move to alternative accommodation, some not back yet, with all the emotional strain of loss of amenity and freedom to enjoy your home, several insurance claims exceeding £250,000, and numerous other consequences. Insurance companies overloaded and unable to respond some taking months to even empty some properties of waterlogged and damaged items.

It is very important for us to lobby to make sure that the report presents a tangible and relevant action plan that we can lobby to be actioned and bring the 'Agencies' to account if they fail to do so.

Flood Resilience

CFAG's newsletter sent out in September had very few responses. (Not sure why)? It was an attempt to explain the need to make own preparations for future flooding risks and to claim the £5k DEFRA grant of which the take up is very low. Approximately 50 sandbags (enough for 8 doors) were requested and distributed.)

The EA is holding two drop-in sessions this week, tomorrow (Debenham) and Friday in Framlingham. PC and CFAG attending but open to everybody. It also presents a chance to meet Mariah Belham of the Deben Farm Cluster to discuss their plans for Natural Flood Management (NFM). NFM is recommended in the S19 report.

Flood Alerts

A CFAG flood alert group has been established on Whats App. The ideal is to share observations in the event of bad weather and raise awareness if required.

10.	Potsford Brook Water Quality Report – Peter Clitheroe Phosphate levels from the sewage works have reduced dramatically as Anglia Water have recently installed a phosphate stripping system. E.Coli colony counts are still very high. Full report available on request.				
11.	Road Safety				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnership Road Safety Forum Meetings - 17th-23rd November Road Safety Week – Councillors Rixon and Pedgrift went to school to talk to the children and show them the speed indicator. A police motorbike officer will also visit the school in December. - Road Safety Survey outcomes – we could do a lot to help ourselves but no one has come forward to take on responsibility. Councillors Pedgrift and Rixon and Pam Hembra will undertake the Traffic Management course to facilitate the SCC self help scheme.. - Flourescent arm bands available on request. - Reminder to be sent about speed limit survey. - Feasibility study for future improvements - Councillor Rixon summarised the recent discussions, an intention to apply to the Sizewell C Community Fund by the 19th January 2025 deadline for Charsfield road safety funding. This application would be for two aspects: firstly a feasibility study for the Charsfield B1078 looking at methods to improve road safety outcomes for all road users; and secondly for additional white lines and pedestrian signage in the lower village lanes, near the school, etc. 				
12.	Planning:				
13.	Finance				
	13.1 To authorise payments as listed below:				
	Date	Detail	Ref	Power	Amount
	09/09/2024	SALC Training	Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 s.111	£38.40
	23/09/2024	C Warman (SID Battery)	Bank Transfer	LGRA 1997 S30	£19.40
	26/09/2024	Charsfield Village Hall	Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 s.111	£16.20
	26/09/2024	HMRC	Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 s.112	£123.20
	26/09/2024	P Hembra – services	Bank Transfer	LGRA 1997 S30	£492.48
	26/09/2024	Zurich Insurance - PC	Bank Transfer	LA 2011 ss 1-8	£241.00
	08/10/2024	SALC Training	Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 s.111	£76.80
	08/10/2024	East Suffolk Council	Bank Transfer	Refund	£28.47
	08/10/2024	Total Merchandise Ltd	Bank Transfer	Section 137	£216.00
	24/10/2024	Charsfield Together (Akenfield Day)	Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 s.145	£382.50
	11/11/2024	SALC Payroll	Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 s.111	£22.80
	11/11/2024	SALC Training	Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 s.111	£76.80
	13.2 To note receipt of income as listed: Business Premium A/C Interest £60.10				
	13.3 Bank Balances as at 31 st October 2024				
		– current account:	£3,134.48		
		– savings account:	£16,130.22		

	13.4 Bank reconciliations were agreed and signed	
14.	Budget 2025-2026	
	A Sub Committee to be formed to discuss budget and precept for 2025-2026. Councillors Haird, Laird and Moor volunteered. Meeting to be arranged.	
15.	Model Publication Scheme to be Reviewed	
	The Model Publication Scheme for the website was proposed by Councillor Pedgrift and Seconded by Councillor Rixon.	PJH
16.	Emergency Plan	
	- Sub Committee to be formed now S19 Report has been published plus joint meeting with CFAG. Councillor Crone has a copy of the new format which will be updated. Sub Committee of Councillors Moor, Pedgrift and Crone to be formed and a meeting to be arranged.	
17.	New Positive Duty to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Safeguarding	
	Councillor Crone to do some work on this and submit findings to the PC.	
18.	Training	
	Not further training this month	
19.	CIL Funding £7,131.37	
20.	Local Bus Service Bredfield Parish Council are trying to put in place a new bus service to replace the one recently axed unfortunately this still only goes to Woodbridge, as Charsfield would want to go to Wickham Market as well. Chair to go back to Bredfield PC to say we will support.	Councillor Pedgrift
21.	Telephone Kiosk	
	The telephone kiosk was officially opened on 19 th October 2024. Illumination of the Akenfield storyboards is still required and PC will investigate a solar powered motion triggered light.	
22.	Parish Councillors Photographs and Profiles	
	Reminder to Councillors for photograph and paragraph profile.	
23.	Parish Clerk Vacancy	
	An abridged advert to be in the next parish magazine and a full one on the SALC website.	PJH
24.	Village Historian Update from John Fox	
	Main activity was assembling the display of Charsfield historical maps for the 19th October "Charsfield Past, Present & Future" event in the hall. Hosted visit by Leech/Leggett descendant on 3rd October. Subsequent contact made, via Ancestry website, by another Leggett descendant.	

	Paul Catchpole has passed on some information from his father Bernard.	
	Date of Next Meetings	
	Monday, 20 th January 2025 Monday, 17 th March 2025	
	The meeting closed at 20.48 pm.	