

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Charlton Park Residents' Association

May 23rd, 2024, at Sacred Hearts Hall

Present

Committee: Felicity Parnham; Chair, John Rowland; Treasurer, Lynda Rowland; Minutes Secretary, Cliff Carter; Neighbourhood Watch, Helen Ledger; Newsletter Secretary, Sue Rockett, Sue Clark, Lloyd Surgenor, Donald Hawkins.

Residents: Frances Arrow, Caroline Priest, Donald Hawkins, Janette Hawkins, Stephen Watts, Anne Berry, Andy Parnham, Sue Taylor, Lucille Lean, Jenny Lazenby, Anne Surgenor, Christine Wisdom.

Also present: Speaker Alison Hutson and Councillor Paul Baker.

AGENDA

Minutes of the last Meeting – not presented but see attachment.

Chair's Report – See Page 2 onwards, below.

Address by Councillor Paul Baker:

Update on extension of yellow lines in King Arthur Close: As part of a Traffic Regulations Order these should be painted by the end of this year.

Paul is happy to look into potential locations for further alterations to parking restrictions around the estate. These can be investigated by the committee and then subsequently put out to consultation with the wider residents for consideration in the next financial year.

Friends of Cox's Meadow: Paul is planning to set up a group which would be similar to those based in Hatherley and Naunton Park, and has had the broad approval of the owner of the Meadow Café, as well as 12 potential volunteers so far. He plans to organise a meeting to gain feedback from the community around the Meadow, including Charlton Park, in the coming months.

Treasurer's Report – See Page 7, below.

A vote was taken to keep the amount of £5 per household as the Residents' Association Subscription. The vote was carried.

Neighbourhood Watch Report – See Page 8, below.

Election of Officers

The following were proposed, seconded and re-elected:

Felicity Parnham; Chair, John Rowland; Treasurer, Cliff Carter; Neighbourhood Watch, Lynda Rowland; Minutes Secretary, Helen Ledger; Newsletter Secretary

AOB

Lloyd offered a vote of thanks to Charlton Kings Parish Council, and particularly to Felicity who advocates so effectively on behalf of Charlton Park in her role as a Parish Councillor.

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, June 11th at Sue Clark's, 30 King William Drive.

The Meeting was closed

There followed a talk on the work of the Cornerstone Centre and Food Pantry by its manager, Alison Hutson.

Chair's Report

This evening, we are joined by **Alison Hutson** from the Cornerstone Centre who will tell us about the work they do and how the food that residents donate on Charlton Park is distributed and who benefits.

Also joining us this evening is Cheltenham's new Mayor **Cllr Paul Baker**. Paul is also CBC Cllr for the Charlton Park Ward and our Glos County Councillor.

We will hear from Cllr Baker a bit later as he has been working with the Committee to introduce new yellow lines where there are traffic issues and, he is planning to set up a Friends of Cox's Meadow and would like our help.

Apologies

Minutes

Vote to agree minutes.

We will start the evening with the AGM and then refreshments, followed by a presentation by Alison.

Chair's Report

Charlton Park Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

23 May 2024

Charlton Park Activities 2023/24

Events:

The Charlton Park Picnic was held on Saturday 1 July. It was a lovely evening – which was ably supported by the Music Man. Thank you to all who helped to make it happen.

Treasure Hunt in September - Our thanks go to Sarah Evans and family for organising an enjoyable quiz walk around Charlton Kings. The winners were Helen Ledger and Sue Rockett. We will be asking them to do the 2024 quiz for residents later this year.

Freecycle was held on the Green on Saturday 30 September. Thank you to everyone who turned out and took part. It is ideal to move things on to a good home. Our next event will be this coming weekend, on Sat 25 May.

The Halloween Event took place on Sunday 29 October. The date had to change due to the awful weather, but we made it happen the following day! Our thanks go to Holly Cameron, Sue Clark and their families for making this event happen, and also a big thanks for Donald and Janette Hawkins who coordinate the food and treats. It was a very busy and enjoyable event, so many children, costumes, and pumpkins.

The Carol Singing was a great event. We met on Saturday 10 December just as it was getting dark. Our thanks to John & Lynda Rowland for organising the music, and to Helen Ledger for sorting the mulled wine and mince pies. We collected £100.70 for the Cornerstone Centre and were able to donate some boxes of mince pies to Cornerstone.

Easter Egg Hunt Thank you to Holly Cameron and her family for setting up the trail and meeting families on the day. The weather was great and there were about 20 children who turned out.

Other items:

Bus Stop Garden – this is a joy to behold. The garden has developed and grown giving us a garden full of blossom and flowers to enjoy all year round.

Thank you to our volunteers – Sue Rockett, John Rowland, Jane Robertson and especially to Patricia Bielby who occasionally sends her gardener to help. All volunteers are welcome. Please speak to Sue – she will be delighted to hear from you.

Balancing Pond – it is a long running saga due to the reliance on Bovis (now Vestry) to get the pond into good shape. We have been told they will only clear it every 2 years. When there are rodent problems we look to CBC to manage. Please report if you see them! Thanks to the persistence of Helen Ledger that we got the fence fixed but it took a long time to get it sorted.

Food Donations – thank you to everyone who gives to the Cornerstone Centre. They are immensely grateful for our continued and consistent support.

Planting on Charlton Park – thank you to Cliff Carter and John Rowland for planting 20 kilos of bulbs on the CPD grass verges. We have had a lovely display this year. They are planning to do more this autumn so if you want to join the fun please get in touch with John or Cliff.

Facebook - Charlton Park Community page continues to grow. We now have regular contributions and we have now 204 people signed up. Thank you to Rachel Lavin (KHC) for continuing to coordinate and be the admin.

Web pages – We were fortunate to receive a £200 grant from CKPC to update the Charlton Park web pages. Thanks to Cliff Carter (KWD) for managing the Charlton Park website (KWD). <http://charltonparkcheltenham.org.uk/>. The Constitution, Welcome Letter, dates of events and the history of Charlton Park can be found on the website – please take a look. We aim for the updated version to be in place by September.

Yellow Lines - Our thanks go to Helen Ledger and Sue Rockett who have coordinated the Charlton Park response to getting yellow lines considered for the entrance to KAC to stop the poor parking which had the potential to lead to accidents. Cllr Paul Baker took this forward on our behalf, and we have been successful in our application. The lines will go down sometime in this financial year.

Alert Glos Highways to the state of the roads and any other issues eg fallen trees. Thank you to the resident who cut back the fallen tree on CPD in late December. The only issue was no one reported it to Glos Highways and they didn't come and take away the residue until mid Jan because they were not aware. If you see it, report it.

Wildlife - we are happy to report that the bird boxes on King William Green, Charlton Park Drive and out toward Moorend Road continue to be used. They were inspected last autumn and lots of old nesting material removed, ready for new occupants this year. Our thanks to Steve Watts (KGC) for cleaning out the bird boxes in the area.

The Queen's Green Canopy –the CPRA applied to the commemorative tree planting scheme and we received 15 saplings via the Woodland Trust in 2023. Most saplings have survived the winter, and we have a rota to look after them. To cut back the grass, water if it gets hot etc. We welcome anyone who wants to join the rota as they are most vulnerable to changing weather conditions, animals and human activity! Please contact John if you wish to help.

Poppy appeal –The generous people of Charlton Park donated the sum of £607.87 for the 2023 Poppy Collection. Thank you! And especially to Donald Hawkins who visits every home on Charlton Park to collect.

Charlton Park Poetry Group – The Charlton Park Poetry Group is still going strong after six years. Meetings take place approximately once a month with a different theme each time. Members choose poems to read to the group as well as having the chance to write and present their own work. If you would like to join, please contact Lynda, the group organiser and CPRA secretary.

Litter Picking and Weeding - Thank you to everyone who litter picks and does some weeding. So many people on Charlton Park do their bit – it makes a real difference. The area has lots of people walking through, driving and parking and unfortunately occasionally leaving litter. Despite this the area is well maintained by people who care about their environment. You know who you are!

Flood Warden

Cheltenham Borough Council set up a Flood Warden Scheme in 2022. It is voluntary and Charlton Kings only has a handful of volunteers and Andy Parnham is the Flood Warden for Charlton Park. He monitors the river levels and flow from the bottom of Cox's Meadow to Moorend Road and he reports any debris e.g. fences, garden ornaments to CBC who get them removed. Thanks to Andy for taking on this role.

Local Trades

It is great to see so many people offering such a range of services. Yoga to financial planning, window cleaning to chauffeur, cake making to electrician. We will do our best to get your information on the noticeboard and in the newsletter.

Charlton Kings Parish Council – as a Charlton Kings Parish Councillor I get involved and lead other Charlton Kings initiatives e.g., CK Futures the Parish Council response to climate change. Also, it ensures Charlton Park is included and actively involved in discussions and initiatives. I hope you have all received a copy of the CKPC Annual Report and I would be interested to have any feedback.

Please look at the **CKPC website** <https://www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk/> and Facebook page for regular updates.

Library of Things

In October CKPC in collaboration with Gloucestershire Libraries, Vision 21 and Planet Cheltenham started a Library of Things at CK Library. We now have over 20 items to borrow with some duplicates – pressure washer, carpet cleaner, gazebo. These are free of charge to borrow and all you need is the Glos library card. At the 4 month point over 78 items had been lent, an estimated £6k had been saved and the emissions of a petrol car being driven 51,000 miles had been avoided. Please make good use of it – it is the only one in Glos for now.

Anne Berry & Christine Wisdom

A big thank you to former committee members Anne Berry and Christine Wisdom who stood down from the Committee this year. They had been on the Committee over 25 years between them and made a significant difference.

Welcome to new residents – Charlton Park is a great place to live and we want to welcome anyone who moves to CP. There is a welcome letter on our website. If you know of any newcomers, please let someone on the committee know and we can say hello.

Committee membership

The Committee has 11 active members – to whom I would like to say thank you. Lynda and John Rowland, Helen Ledger, Lloyd Surgenor, Donald Hawkins, Sue Rockett, Caroline and Cliff Carter, and we welcome Sue Clark and Lorraine Cox who joined this year. Plus, the NHW volunteers and our road reps. We are always looking for more volunteers to support activities. and you don't have to be a Committee member. We need people to step forward as these activities only keep going due to goodwill and getting involved. Please speak to any Committee member or me if you can help. Thanks!

The next committee meeting is to be held at 30 KWD on Tues 11 June at 7.30 if anyone wants to join us. All welcome.

East Glos Development Project

The East Glos Tennis Club got in touch earlier this year to inform us that they were planning some building work on the site and were hoping to add new padel courts. They invited the committee to attend a meeting at the end of April. In summary:

There are 3 padel courts at the club, they are planning for an extra 3 or 4 due to the high demand. These will be placed in the centre of the site. Two of the original courts which back on to the Croquet Club hedge will be covered by an 8m high cover. This will be visible to users of the croquet club and possibly residents of Charlton Park Gate.

The Club will be applying for planning permission in August 24.

Next Events are the Freecycle on **Saturday 25 May**. Please place any items you want people to take at the top of your drive. Don't forget to take them in at the end of the day.

Also, the Summer Picnic on the Green on **Saturday 29 June** from 5pm. Please join us for a lovely evening of music – remember to bring your own food.

Thank you again to everyone for all their contributions to make Charlton Park a great place to live.

Gifts of thanks to:

Holly Cameron for coordinating both the Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween activities this year.

Alessia Urso for auditing the CPRA accounts

John & Lynda Rowland, Helen Ledger and Cliff Carter for their work on the Committee

Charlton Park Residents Association --Annual Accounts Yr Ending 31st Jan 2024

Income/Expenditure Account	year to	31/01/2023	31/01/2024
Income			
Subscriptions		£744.00	£825
Carol singing		£0.00	£100.70
Jubilee Grant		£192.50	
Charlton Kings Parish Council Lighting Grant		£650.00	
Misc. income			£15.52
TOTAL		£1,586.50	£941.22
Expenditure			
AGM room hire		£51.50	
AGM expenses (drinks, crisps, M Bradshaw)		£70.30	£20.00
Auditors expense (bottle of wine)		£7.99	£8.29
BBQ/Jubilee Event-Music man		£200.00	£200.00
BBQ/Jubilee Event-Expenses		£81.17	£0.00
Jubilee Expense -Royal Toast drink		£68.10	£0.00
Megaphone		£15.52	£0.00
Plants		£0.00	£30.00
Easter -prizes. Quiz		£14.97	£23.00
Website costs		£0.00	£17.99
Printing costs		£0.00	£50.00
Stationery/lamination		£9.99	£8.76
Halloween expenses		£120.51	£47.29
Carol singing expenses		£62.60	£63.91
Charity donation Cornerstone Food pantry		£0.00	£100.70
Zoom subscription		£14.39	£0.00
Treasure hunt		£14.50	£4.65
Public Liability Insurance		£56.00	£56.00
Queens Green Canopy Plaque		£61.59	£0.00
Bark Mulch for tree planting		£16.98	£0.00
Glos County Council Lighting Cost		£650.00	£0.00
TOTAL		£1,516.11	£630.59
Statement of retained funds			
Balance brought forward		£676.12	£746.51
Net change (surplus or loss)		£70.39	£310.63
Bank Balance carried forward		£746.51	£1,057.14

12/04/2024

CHARLTON PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT 2023/2024

Reported Crimes / Incidents

This table shows a table of incidents in Charlton Park reported to the police from April 2023 to March 2024. There were 9 incidents (The same number as the previous year)

Month	Violence Sexual	Burglary	Antisocial	Theft	Damage Arson	Vehicle	Public Order
Apr 23							
May 23	1 (KHC)						
June 23			1 (CPD)				
July 23	1 (KHC)				1 (KHC)		
Aug 23	1 (KHC)						
Sep 23	1 (KHC)			1 (KHC)			
Oct 23				1 (KAC)			
Nov 23							
Dec 23	1 (KGC)						
Jan 24							
Feb 24							
Mar 24							
Total 9	5		1	2	1		

Charlton Park is part of the Leckhampton Police area. A total of 428 incidents were reported in this area. In the neighbouring Charlton Kings area, a total of 692 were reported. Together this makes 1120 incidents - we in Charlton Park make up less than 1% of that total.

The incidents were reported directly to the Police and didn't come to my attention. Although the category term may sound serious, some might well be of a minor nature.

Property Crime

There have been no burglaries reported in the last year. 1 vehicle crime and 1 theft of a bike has been reported in that period.

Fraud and Cyber Crime

Because of the way crimes are reported these types of crime do not show up in these police reports. I am sure this type of crime is more common these days. Please let me know if you hear of this type of crime.

Footpath - Public Safety

I have continued to prune back the overhanging trees and bushes surrounding the lamp posts on the footpath from Moorend Road to Coxes Meadow. More pruning will take place this year. Volunteers would be very welcome! Good lighting helps people using the path to feel safe and deters criminal activity!

Signs and Stickers

Making criminals feel uncomfortable is an essential part of preventing crime. Window stickers are an important part of that process. New NHW stickers have been distributed every household on the estate with a recent newsletter.

I have had printed some new A5 size NHW stickers that can be stuck to the side of a wheelie bin. Please take one to stick on your bin.

Also, if you would like some free house number stickers to identify various bins and boxes please let me know.

Communication

I have recently changed the way we communicate within our Neighbourhood Watch and created a WhatsApp group. I feel this is a faster way to pass information around the estate.

If you wish to join the group please call me or send a message.

Cliff Carter, cliff@nametags4u.co.uk, 07739899341

Conclusion

Charlton Park is still a great place to live and to be safe.

