

## CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY 2000

PRESENT:

Mr G Beer (Chairman)  
Mrs B Douglas  
Mrs J Bath  
Mrs E Dahele  
Mr J Harper

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

An apology was received from Mr Terry Cox, District Councillor. Eleven members of the public attended.

#### AGENDA

1. Minutes of the meeting on 31 May 2000 and matters arising.
2. Clerk's Financial Report.
3. Planning Matters
4. Playing Field.
5. Charney Mill.
6. Clerk's Correspondence.
7. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions.
8. Any Other Business.
9. Village College

#### 1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 31 MAY 2000 AND MATTERS ARISING.

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk had included Planning Matters on the agenda.

The Council had not yet had an opportunity to visit Mr McBain to discuss his plans for the old school.

The Clerk had discussed the state of the Stanford bridle path with OCC but there was little to be done at present as the damage was caused by badgers, a protected species. A dialogue would be maintained to seek a solution.

Mr Harper referred to a letter from "Home-Start South Oxon" which was a body devoted to helping families in stress. He asked that anyone knowing of such a family in the village should get in touch with him.

**The Clerk** had reported the offending pothole and had obtained a quantity of pre-paid cards for reporting others. He would place some in the Post Office.

The long grass in front of the bench on Ock Green remains in need of cutting. **The Clerk** would look into this.

The Clerk had placed a notice on the Notice Board concerning the withdrawal of the shoppers' bus; nobody had contacted him to complain about this. The availability of the morning school bus to Wantage was also made known.

**The Clerk** had not yet heard from the Environment Agency about restoration of water through Charney Mill.

The tyres behind the bus shelter had been removed.

#### 2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his financial report, which was adopted. Although a number of items were over budget, the contingency and savings in other items would compensate for this.

A cheque was handed to Mrs John Daghish for the cost of producing the Charney Booklet. It was observed that the booklet contained a number of minor errors, including the telephone number of Mrs Douglas and **The Clerk** was asked to publish amendments in the Cherbury News when these had been collated.

## PLANNING MATTERS

There were no outstanding planning matters for the Council to deal with but since the last meeting amended applications had been made for The Chequers and The White House. As in both cases these went some way to meeting the objections of the Council to the original applications, it was generally supportive.

There was some discussion on ways of making the Council's decisions on applications more public although it was acknowledged that letters of objection could be viewed on Vale Council files. It was agreed that it was impractical to convene special planning meetings but summaries of decisions taken since the previous Council meeting would be minuted. The Chairman explained that the Council would continue with its policy of making site visits wherever there was likely to be controversy over an application.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that he had agreed some time ago to make plans available to villagers to save them having to go to a Vale Council office to see them. He would give priority to councillors but thereafter would respond positively to any request made at a reasonable hour.

### 3. CHARNEY FIELD

The Clerk had written to OCC offering to purchase the field for £26,000. He awaited a formal response but in conversations with OCC had been informed that the price may have risen. **The Clerk** was asked to write to Councillor Marjorie Evans expressing concern at this possible development with all its implications, copying the letter to Councillors Terry Cox and Brian Hook.

### 4. CHARNEY MILL

The Clerk reported on his efforts to resolve the question of insurance for The Mill. The insurers considered that as the Vale had conceded that there was no prospect of rebuilding in the event of a total loss of the Mill, there was no need for insurance, except possibly site clearance cover. The Clerk suggested that if OCC would agree to take over the site for possible development should this happen, there was not even a need for this cover. **The Clerk** would pursue this with OCC and would ask them to provide a redrafted set of conditions for the Parish Council to consider before committing to taking the Mill over. As far as cover for damage to the adjoining property was concerned, this would be covered by the public liability policy held by the Council.

### 5. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had written to Councillor Terry Cox asking him to seek assurances that the Local Plan will always include protection against development of the land associated with the sale of Manor Farm. Mr Cox had forwarded a reply from the Planning Policy Department giving such an assurance and indicating that development policies for small villages such as Charney were moving in the direction of tighter controls on infilling and other development.

A letter had been received indicating that the Vale Council was proposing to introduce charges for collecting garden rubbish. The Council was invited to take part in a scheme where the bags could be purchased for 35p each and sold for 65p. **The Clerk** was asked to inform the Vale that the Council was generally in favour of the scheme and would be prepared to take part in a pilot. It was suggested from the floor that as there was a profit element in the scheme, the Post Office might be prepared to be the outlet, thereby swelling its turnover to help its viability. **The Clerk** was asked to pursue this.

A letter asking if the Council wished to take part in the Amenity Tree Planting Scheme during the winter of 2000/2001 had been received. **The Clerk** was asked to suggest that, with OCC's permission, planting could be done on Charney Field.

The Clerk gave a summary of the recently received report on the Best Kept Village Competition. It commented that there were odd scruffy patches around the village which residents might be encouraged to

tidy up. It also commented on the adverse effect of new development and infilling which was at odds with the older houses. **The Clerk** was asked to publicise the result in the Cherbury News. He was also asked to mention the need for villagers to keep hedges trimmed where these were likely to impede walkers on footpaths in the village.

#### 6. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

Mr Hook asked whether a tree audit should be carried out in the village to identify trees that warranted a preservation order. He had in mind the three trees on the Village Green. The Clerk said that to his knowledge there was only one tree in the village carrying a preservation order at present - that in the front garden of the Cottage on the Green. **The Clerk** was asked to follow this up.

Mrs Daghish reported that the railings around Ock Green needed painting and **The Clerk** was asked to see if this could be arranged.

#### 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The autumn village clean up would be held on Saturday morning, 4 November 2000 at 10.00 a.m.

Mrs Dahele asked whether there was any prospect of holding millennium celebrations of Charney Field this year. The Clerk said he was optimistic but there were numerous details to be sorted out before a purchase could be completed.

Mrs Dahele pointed out that in a recent communication, Oxon Health Authority had offered a speaker to report on Oxon health issues. It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting with the Annual Assembly possibly the best opportunity to take advantage of the offer.

The Chairman asked whether any progress had been made on replacing street signs. The Clerk reported that Charney was on the Vale list to be done when funds were available. **The Clerk** was asked to do something about replacing the damaged "No Parking" sign on the Green.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the speed limit through the village was now in effect. The Clerk reminded the meeting that PC Holder, who had now passed a radar speed gun course, was anxious to help enforce it.

The Chairman reported briefly on his attendance at the recent AGM of the Oxon Association of Local Authorities at which the main item on the agenda was the periodic electoral review about to be undertaken. This could possibly lead to ward changes.

#### 8. VILLAGE COLLEGE

Mr Steve Bilcliffe from Abingdon College gave a short presentation on Village Colleges, which had been set up in the area at Appleton and East Hendred. These provided learning facilities within these communities, with a wide range of topics for study. He considered that the creation of a village net including Charney Bassett could be feasible, together with the villages of Lyford, Kingston Bagpuize, Longworth, Southmoor and the Hanneys. Although computer courses are generally predominant, there is plenty of scope for meeting demands for topics such as playing bridge and French language. A schedule of classes could be developed which rotated the location of the classes around the villages in the net.

The location in Charney would be the Village Hall and this would need to be equipped with telephone lines for computer connections to the Internet, via other specialised equipment. There would be no need to purchase computers as Abingdon College would provide (and bring along) laptops but a printer would be needed. Mr Bilcliffe explained that what was wanted were the "three C's" - Cash, Commitment and Communication. Some cash would come from Government sources and students and possibly from the Charney and Lyford Education Trust, the aims of which appeared to be close to the concept of the College.

After a long discussion of all the implications, The Council agreed that there was sufficient interest to take part in a pilot scheme. Subject to a costing being done, it would give its full support to setting the College up.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 September 2000 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended. He also particularly thanked Mrs Dahele for her efforts in promoting the Village College and Mr Bilcliffe for attending to explain how it would work.

Signed.....  
Chairman