

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 15 JANUARY 2001

PRESENT: Mrs B Douglas (Vice-chairman, in the Chair)

Mrs J Bath

Mrs E Dahele

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Mr G Beer, Mr J Harper and Mr Terry Cox, District Councillor. One member of the public attended.

AGENDA

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

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2000 AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman, subject to an amendment concerning funding for the Village College. Mrs Dahele reported that the statement that Abingdon College had "yet to apply for funds for the laptop computers" was not correct. They had applied but the funds had not yet been received.

All the actions placed on The Clerk had been carried out with the exception of notifying the Charney and Lyford Educational Trust that it wished Mrs Joanne Scott to continue in the role of the Council's nominated Trustee. **The Clerk** was asked to confirm that Mrs Scott was willing to accept re-nomination and, if this was the case, to write to Mrs Peters confirming this.

Other matters arising were dealt with under agenda items.

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

No financial report was presented as the paper on setting the precept contained the relevant information

The Council considered the detailed paper prepared by The Clerk on setting the precept for the financial year 2001/02. This recommended that the precept could be reduced because of the funds held in the bank but that as there were uncertainties over the costs of acquiring The Mill and clearing Charney Field, this would be unwise. Keeping the precept at the same level as last year would presumably be acceptable to villagers while providing an additional contingency, possibly allowing some scope for improving the state of Charney Field and providing some additional features.

The councillors discussed the paper, particularly its assumptions and were satisfied that the estimates of expenditure contained in it were reasonable and covered all known eventualities. Accordingly, Mrs Dahele proposed and Mrs Bath seconded that the precept be set at £2,000 and this was carried.

3. PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk reported that he had heard nothing further about the proposed Hanney grain dryer.

The Vale Council had written to explain why a barn had been erected on land adjacent to Buckland Road when a planning application to do this had been refused. The simple explanation was that the owner had found a way to circumvent the planning rules. The Council recognised that it could not do anything about this but felt it should have been informed, rejecting the Vale's claim that the 28-day consultation timetable was too short to allow this. The barn had had a significant impact on the western skyline and this might have been avoided if the Council had known of its location. It also considered that painting it green, claimed by the Vale to mitigate the impact, was not necessarily the right colour. **The Clerk** was asked to convey this view to the planners. He was also asked, as the planning application had been for "replacement of inadequate buildings", to request removal of the derelict chicken house.

4. CHARNEY FIELD

There has been some progress with the purchase of the Field and both parties' solicitors had been in correspondence. The Clerk had written to OCC seeking permission for Vale Council to plant trees on the Field, in anticipation of the purchase going ahead. The Vale needed to know before the end of January whether they could order the trees. He had also made enquiries about the result of the damaged tree survey but the report on this was not yet available.

5. CHARNEY MILL

There had been further correspondence with Ms Quirke of Mill Cottage who had informed the Council that she was taking legal advice on disturbance to her peace and quiet. The Clerk had written to explain that the transfer of ownership to the Parish Council would not change the current situation in which the Vale Industrial Archaeology Group was continuing with a long-running programme to restore The Mill to working order.

OCC are in the process of drafting the terms under which the transfer would take place and when the Council has agreed these are acceptable, it will discuss them with Ms Quirke. One specific matter which gives rise to concern is Ms Quirke's belief that turning the mill wheel may cause structural damage to her property. The Council will need to consider whether some evidence of the current state of both buildings may be needed for use in case of a damage claim.

6. VILLAGE COLLEGE

The College had made a very encouraging start with a well-attended open evening on 8 January 2001. Two further "taster" sessions were planned for 22 January 2001. Sufficient people had signed on to make the IT courses viable although no start date had yet been fixed; this is a matter for Abingdon College. Mrs Dahele undertook to act as "hostess" for the sessions, which would be held on Mondays.

7. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

A letter had been received from Victim Support, appealing for grant aid. On the basis that this organisation was known to have helped a number of villagers, it was agreed to donate £25.

Oxfordshire Playing Field Association had invited the Council to renew its membership and it was agreed to pay the annual subscription of £25.

Notification of the annual National Spring Clean Week had been received and it was agreed to take part as usual. A village working party would be held on 31 March 2001, with a fall-back date of 7 April, if the weather was unsuitable on the former date. This should ensure the village is tidy for the Best Kept Village Competition, which starts judging in May. The Clerk had not yet received an invitation to enter but this should be received in time for a discussion at the next meeting.

8. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Hook asked whether the new field should bear the name "Millennium Field". It was explained that it had been named Charney Field, although it was associated with the millennium. Councillors agreed that when a suitable artefact to register ownership of the new field was placed on the Field, it would carry a reference to the millennium, if only by recording the date of acquisition.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Douglas reported that, in her capacity as transport representative, she had received two documents seeking consultation on transport matters. However, as neither was relevant to the village situation, she did not propose to respond. This provoked a long discussion on transport, which was inconclusive and not appropriate for the minutes.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14 March 2001 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Mrs Douglas tendered her apology in advance, as she would be unable to attend this meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.27 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....
Chairman