

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 2001

PRESENT:

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

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Mrs B Douglas and Mr Terry Cox, District Councillor. 4 members of the public attended.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the meeting on 15 January 2001 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 15 JANUARY 2001 AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman. All the actions placed on The Clerk had been carried out. Other matters arising are under agenda items.

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk's presented his financial report which was adopted. It was agreed to pay the outstanding budget items, namely Clerk's expenses (£50), donation to Hanney British Legion (£25) and hire of the Village Hall (£24.50). It was also agreed to purchase The Parish Councillor's Guide from OALC at a cost of £11.00.

Turnover is well up on last year due partly to the Village College. It was agreed to pay the latest BT account for line rental of £64.73, bringing telephone expenses up to £228.44 to date. It was also agreed to pay for the hire of the hall for the College (£30). Expenditure on the College to date is therefore £258.44 out of the grant of £515 from the Charney and Lyford Education Trust.

3. PLANNING MATTERS

The Council had received notification that the planners and Environment Agency had met with Ms Quirke and had resolved the question of the planning condition on the garage and workshop in the grounds of Mill Cottage. Work had been carried out to provide alternative routes for flood water so that the planners were able to relax the original condition requiring air bricks and gaps under doors to relieve flooding.

The Clerk reported that he had discussed the proposed Hanney grain dryer with the Vale planners. He had been informed that should permission for the dryer be granted, it would have a condition attached that vehicles would be required to use the A338 to and from East Hanney. This condition would meet the Parish Council's objection to the possibility of vehicles travelling through the village. The Clerk had written to the planners expressing the Parish Council's support for this condition, provided it was enforced.

The Clerk had written to the planners conveying the views of the Council on the new barn on Buckland Road and asking for removal of the derelict chicken house. The planners had noted the comments but rejected the request for notice of such developments in future. They also stated that they had no powers to request removal of the chicken house. It was agreed that **The Clerk** should write to Mr Fitzgerald-O'Connor asking him if he intended to remove it.

4. CHARNEY FIELD

The Council's solicitor, Mr John Mant had received the results of the OCC searches of the Land Registry and was now undertaking local searches before advising the Council on the draft contract of purchase. There were a number of questions concerning the boundaries and access but these would be resolved before accepting the contract. Meanwhile, 100 bushes and 70 trees have been planted in the south-west corner of the Field under the Vale Amenity Tree Planting Scheme.

The result of the damaged tree survey was not yet available.

Ms Fiona Danks of the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment had requested a visit to the Field on 22 March 2001. The Chairman, Mrs Dahele and Mr Harper hoped to be able to meet her. John Daghish also expressed an interest in the visit and he was invited to attend.

5. CHARNEY MILL

There had been a further exchange of correspondence with Ms Quirke of Mill Cottage on the question of what constitutes "no change" to the current situation. OCC have produced heads of agreement outlining the terms under which the transfer would take place. However, these are not complete as the question of insurance is still to be resolved. OCC are now minded to carry the insurance risk but they may seek a *quid pro quo* with the Parish Council in the form of an annual rent.

There were two items in the heads of agreement which would require negotiation. There would need to be a better definition of "nuisance" and the requirement that restoration be completed in no more than ten years was unacceptable. The Council is therefore not yet in a position to discuss these terms with Ms Quirke.

6. VILLAGE COLLEGE

The College got under way on 12 March 2001 with 18 students enrolled on three computing courses. The course for absolute beginners runs for 11 weeks and the two Intermediate courses for 15 weeks. The College would be reviewed at the end of term in July to determine whether it would continue and, if it did, what courses should be run. As reported in the Clerk's financial report, expenditure to date is £258.44 against the CLET grant of £515.

Mrs Dahele raised the question of a formal agreement between Abingdon College and the village which could result in rebate of some funding. After some debate it was agreed that such an agreement would need to be between the Parish Council and Abingdon College.

7. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

An invitation had been received from the Best Kept Village Competition and it was agreed to enter for this. The village clean-up was planned for 31 March 2001 and this should tidy up the village in time for the judging. Mr Harper again agreed to deploy his notices a day or two before this date to remind villagers of the clean-up.

The proposed new electoral arrangements had been published and seemed to accept as a *fait accompli* the linking of Charney Bassett with hitherto unrelated villages. **The Clerk** was asked to write again expressing the Council's concern at the new arrangements, in particular drawing attention to the reference to the A420 as a natural boundary.

8. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

Concern was expressed from the floor at the recent spate of burglaries and questions were asked about the Neighbourhood Watch arrangements for the village which did not appear to be working. **The Clerk** was asked to consult with the police, both the local bobby and Wantage Police Station on the status of the Scheme. It was agreed that the Scheme needed overhauling and the Parish Assembly was a good place to debate it.

Mr Ackland asked what could be done about dog fouling in New Road. The answer lay in catching the dog responsible and its owner. The Clerk was asked to mention this problem in his Cherbury News report.

The pile of garden refuse remains on Ock Green. It was agreed to tackle this during the village clean-up on 31 March 2001. The railings around the Green have not been repaired as **The Clerk** has had difficulty contacting the contractor recommended by the Vale Council; he would try again.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Dahele asked about the builder's rubble at Green Acres. **The Clerk** explained that these premises belonged to Mr Terry Morgan who was working in the village and he would try and have a word with him.

The Clerk reported that he had registered www.charneybassettpc.org.uk as a web site and sought the Council's approval to develop this further. He outlined the kind of information which would be presented on the site and the opportunities for improving communications in the village. The Council agreed that this was a good idea and **The Clerk** should continue with the development, reporting back to the Council should there be any expenditure involved.

The Chairman commented that he was pleased to see that M. Foltier, the new owner of Sedges Farm, had made good progress in restoring the site after the environmental vandalism of the previous owner.

Mrs Bath suggested tubs of flowers could be placed at the entries to the village and asked whether the Village Improvement Scheme could help fund them. It was agreed that this was an attractive idea and should be followed up by seeking suitable sources of tubs, as had been done on The Green. The Clerk reminded the meeting that there had been a proposal in the past for an "adopt a village street sign" scheme in which residents could plant bulbs under street signs. It was agreed to bring this up at the Assembly.

It was agreed to use the playing field goal posts for the Village Feast and then to return them to the Village Hall for safe keeping. The Clerk reminded Mrs Bath that the posts needed to be fixed when in use to avoid accidents.

10. NEXT MEETING

It was decided that the best date for the Parish Assembly was that on which the next Council meeting was due. Accordingly it was fixed for 9 May 2001 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.. The May Council meeting would be held a fortnight later (23 May) at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall and could deal with matters arising from the Assembly. **The Clerk** was asked to produce a Green Paper, as in past years.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.37 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....
Chairman