

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH 2002

PRESENT: Mr G Beer (Chairman)
Mrs Douglas
Mr J Harper

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Apologies had been received from. County Councillor Andrew Crawford, District Councillor Terry Cox, Mrs J Bath and Mrs E Dahele. Three members of the public attended.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising.
2. Clerk's Financial Report.
3. Adopting the Members Code of Conduct
4. Planning Matters
5. Charney Field.
6. Charney Mill.
7. Village College
8. Clerk's Correspondence.
9. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions.
10. Any Other Business.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

On matters arising, The Clerk was still trying to obtain quotations for replacement of the Ock Green railings. It was observed that there were similar railings on Mr Brown's property on the other side of the road. A possible solution to tidying these up was to remove them and use the components in the repair of the Green railings. The Clerk has spoken to the owners of Jalna and to the McBain's site manager and both had agreed to take action to trim the hedges on either side of the footpath to Charney Field, when the weather is suitable.

Parking on the Village Green provoked a long discussion, the outcome of which was to take positive action to deter parking. It was proposed that the new street sign could have added to it a "No Parking" sign, provided it could be produced in a matching material. The existing "No Parking" sign could be moved further along the track to where most of the parking occurs. **The Clerk** would investigate the former and **Mr Harper** would undertake the latter. It was noted that another stone trough would help to protect the Green, should one become available.

All other matters arising were on the agenda.

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his financial report which included a review of budget items yet to be paid. He reported a very healthy current account balance and this emphasised the point made at the last Council meeting that some of this money should be spent on Charney Field. The Clerk was asked to speak to the Hall and Field Trust who had indicated at the last meeting that they would come to this meeting with proposals for funding.

Applications for grants had been received from the Winged Fellowship Trust and the WRVS. It was agreed to grant each body the sum of £25.

The report was adopted.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

It was resolved that:

(a) In accordance with section 51(1) of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council adopts the Model Code of Conduct set out in the Schedule to the Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001 without amendment as the Council's Local Code of Conduct with effect from 15 April 2002.

(b) Every member of the Council shall sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office incorporating the statutory undertaking to observe the approved Local Code of Conduct and return it to the Clerk by 14 June 2002 at the latest.

(c) **The Clerk** shall inform the District Council's Monitoring Officer as follows:

(i) that the Council has adopted the Model Code of Conduct as the Council's Local Code with effect from 15 April 2002 within five working days of the meeting approving the resolution set out in paragraph (a) above; and

(ii) that each member of the Council has signed and returned to the Clerk the undertaking to observe the Local Code of Conduct by 20 June 2002 at the latest.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

Two planning matters had been resolved with the granting of permission to fell a tree in the churchyard and rejection of an application to replace the front hedge at "Coral Oaks" with a wall.

The Chairman had received a reply from Mr Rawlings, Director of Environmental Services concerning the granting of approval for the replacement for "Pennar" in Longworth Road, in which he defended the way the application had been treated by the Development Control Committee. It was agreed that the response was unsatisfactory in that it failed to address the fact revealed in the minutes that the Assistant Director (Legal) had apparently rewritten a Local Plan policy without consultation and that the statement that the plot was large enough for the proposed building was incorrect. The Clerk was asked to draft a further letter for the Chairman to raise these matters again.

The Chairman reported that he had heard nothing since being informed that the owners of the Chequers Inn were required to submit a retrospective planning application for modifications to an extension to the property, which overlooked Buckland Road gardens. The Clerk confirmed that he had not received such an application.

5. CHARNEY FIELD

The Clerk had been informed by the Council's solicitor that registration of the Field had been completed and a full copy of the Land Certificate was now in his possession.

The Council noted that there had been no progress on the part of the Hall and Field Trust in providing notices on the Field. **The Clerk** was asked to raise the matter with Mrs Gildersleeves. It was hoped that some progress could be reported at the next meeting.

Mr Harper reported that a number of villagers had complained to him about the damage being done to the Field by horses. The Chairman reminded the meeting that these matters were now the responsibility of the Trust and should be raised with them. As **The Clerk** was due to speak to Mrs Gildersleeves, he was asked to raise this issue also.

The Hall and Field Trust were considering a celebration of the Queen's Jubilee on the Field on 15 June. The Parish Council however felt unable to support a function on that date when the "official" celebration was a fortnight earlier.

6. CHARNEY MILL

The Clerk had received a final draft of the proposed Heads of Terms for leasing the Mill to the Parish Council and these had been copied to councillors. It was agreed that the Terms were acceptable subject to a satisfactory outcome of consultation with the new owner of Mill Cottage. Among the matters to be discussed with Mr Champion were the nuisance clause and the question of restoration of water. Although nothing had yet been heard from the Environment Agency, it was still the intention to make water available and this could interfere with the Mill garden.

The Mill restorers had been consulted and were content with the Terms, including the requirement for better security. The Clerk suggested that any expenditure on better security should be paid for by the Council and this was agreed. The restorers had reported there was minor work needed on the roof and weather boarding. They could tackle the latter, but not the former. **The Clerk** was asked to request OCC to carry out the repairs at their expense before signing the lease, although this need not hold up the legal process.

The question of possible parking space alongside the Mill was raised but the ownership of the land was not known. It was believed to belong to one of the Cotterell brothers at Grove. **Mr Harper** volunteered to speak to the owner, when determined, to raise the issue.

7. VILLAGE COLLEGE

College courses are continuing and now include French conversation, but with only five students. Mrs Dahele had distributed a proposal for the future management of the College. However, as Mrs Dahele and Mrs Bath were absent, it was agreed to defer this topic again to the next meeting, without discussion.

8. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

It was agreed to take part in the Vale Council Spring Clean week with a working party to meet on the Village Green at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday 13 April or, if wet, on the following Saturday. It was also agreed to enter the Best Kept Village competition, to support Mrs Rumble's efforts to keep the village tidy, for which she was thanked. **The Clerk** was asked to produce a flyer for the Cherbury News, advertising the working party and drawing attention to the BKV judging which would take place twice between 4 May and 16 June. Mr Harper suggested wider publicity drawing attention to the efforts of the Council to make Charney a better place to live in and inviting villagers to play a part. It was agreed to do this through the annual Green Paper but also by an article by **The Clerk** in the Cherbury News.

There was a discussion on the invitation by OCC to contribute to the consultation on the Planning Green Paper. It was agreed that **The Clerk** should write direct to DTLR, accepting the need for reform but expressing concern at the removal of strategic planning powers to a regional basis and the apparent omission of a local input, especially from Parish Councils to the planning process.

9. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Rumble asked whether the new gate to the old playing field indicated a sale of the land by OCC. The Clerk reported that he had not heard of any plans for a sale and believed this was just tidying up the site.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Harper asked whether the Council should, in the light of the pending lease of the Mill, appoint a "Mill Keeper". The Clerk suggested this would not be necessary as all that was changing was the legal status of the Mill and the restoration programme would continue. The restorers could communicate with the Council through The Clerk.

Mrs Douglas reported on two transport matters of concern: the closure of the A417 near Stanford on 2 April for eight weeks and the shortage of minibus drivers. The Council expressed concern at the possible effect on village transport if drivers could not be found.

11. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the Parish Assembly on the date for the next Council meeting, i.e. 8 May 2002. The next Council meeting would be held on 22 May 2002. Both meetings would be held at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Mrs Douglas tendered her apologies for being unable to attend the Assembly; this was noted.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.58 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....
Chairman