

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2002

PRESENT:

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

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Andrew Crawford and District Councillor Terry Cox. Three members of the public attended.

AGENDA

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

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Mrs Douglas asked whether there had been any progress on moving the "No Parking" sign on the Village Green. Mr Harper reported that he and the Chairman had looked into this and had concluded that it was not necessary and in any event not feasible as the sign was firmly concreted into the ground. Mrs Douglas expressed concern at the continuing problem although there was evidence that it had diminished with the very persistent offender now parking elsewhere. Nevertheless, there was now a car continually parked on the Green outside "The White House" and **The Clerk** was asked to write to Mr Callaghan to ask that it be parked elsewhere.

All other matters arising were on the agenda.

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk did not present a formal financial report as a summary of accounts had been prepared for the Parish Assembly on 8 May 2002. The Clerk accepted Mrs Dahele's comment that the Village College accounts, which were an appendix to the main account, had been in error when last presented (£130 had been omitted from the itemised list of expenditure) and would be corrected in the next report. The error did not affect the main account report which was correct as it was always reconciled with the account bank statement.

An application for a grant had been received from Abingdon St John's Ambulance, much of whose equipment had been destroyed in an arson attack in December 2001. It was agreed to grant the sum of £25.

3. PLANNING MATTERS

The Council discussed the replies from the Vale planners concerning the granting of approval for the replacement for "Pennar" in Longworth Road and were unanimous that they were unsatisfactory and should be taken to the next level of complaint. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Executive of the Vale of White Horse District Council seeking his comments on the advice given to the Development Control Committee by the planners.

4. CHARNEY FIELD

Mrs Bath reported that the Charney Village Hall and Field Trust had looked into the provision of fences, stiles, seats and gates on the Field and had obtained telephone quotations, including about £1,000 for fencing. The Council accepted that the proposals were appropriate for Council expenditure and seemed to fit in with the funds available. **Mrs Bath** was asked to convey to the Trust that a costed scheme with at least two quotations for each purchase should be presented to the Council for approval.

The Clerk reported that he had raised the upgrading of the footpath at the western boundary of the Field to a bridleway with OCC and had had written confirmation from them that they had no objection. It would be necessary, as a courtesy, to inform Mr Fitzgerald O'Connor, the adjacent landowner that this was proposed. Once this was done, the footpath authorities in OCC could be asked to arrange the upgrading.

The children's play area had been given a grant from CLET and would now go ahead.

5. CHARNEY MILL

The Clerk had received a final letter from OCC on the proposed Heads of Terms for leasing the Mill to the Parish Council and considered that negotiations were now at an end. The final outcome was that OCC were prepared to repair the Mill roof at a cost around £7,000 to meet the requirement that the building should be in a condition commensurate with its listed status. They were not, however, prepared to vary the termination of lease clause which the Council wanted to include consultation with itself and the owner of Mill Cottage, nor were they prepared to pay the Council's legal expenses which would be £482.

Although the Council considered that spending this sum on the lease was not in the spirit of the original offer to take the Mill off OCC's hands for a purely nominal sum, it was considered that as so much effort had been expended on this project and the cost of the roof would be paid for, the costs should be accepted. The Clerk was hopeful that some form of grant could be found to offset the cost but his initial enquiries to the Vale historic buildings grant scheme had drawn a blank as this had been discontinued. Mrs Douglas proposed and Mrs Dahele seconded that the Heads of Terms should be accepted and **The Clerk** should proceed to arrange the lease. A number of minor associated matters were discussed, including keyholders but it was felt that none affected the lease and could be dealt with at a later date.

The question of possible parking alongside the Mill has not been resolved as the landowner is still not known. Nothing is yet known about the Environment Agency feasibility study of water supplies to the Mill.

6. VILLAGE COLLEGE

Mrs Dahele reported on another successful term at the College (with a minor extension to allow for IT hitches) which had now had some 50 students through the various courses. The College will continue with the next term in September and courses in French Conversation, Yoga and IT for beginners will run thorough to Easter 2003. Other courses being considered include IT workshops on dedicated topics and possible spots tuition. Liaison with Abingdon and Witney College was continuing. An application had been made to CLET for funding for the next academic year.

The question of the future management of the College was raised by Mrs Dahele who had circulated a paper on some proposals before the last meeting. In discussing the issues raised by this it was agreed that the College should continue as a Parish Council project for a number of reasons. Mrs Dahele would work on the proposals in her paper to form a "planning team" to plan the future of the College and to spread the

organisational load over more people. The team should consist of interested parties and could be expanded to include people with interests in music and the arts and topics to encourage youth involvement.

7. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk and Chairman had drafted a letter to OCC Highways concerning the recent diversion through the village and the problems it had created. It was agreed that this should be sent in an attempt to ensure that any future diversion was better planned.

8. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Rumble asked whether anything could be done to the bus shelter which was in a sad state of repair. The Chairman invited her to obtain quotations for what she thought was necessary so that the Council could consider funding implications. The Clerk thought this might qualify for a Village Improvement Scheme grant and Mrs Douglas reminded the Council that grants for bus shelters had been offered in a recently circulated letter.

Discussion of the bus shelter prompted further discussion of the area around the shelter and the need to prune the lilac tree. **The Clerk** was asked to see if Mr Albert Rayner might be retained as "village pruner" to undertake such tasks as this on an annual basis. It was agreed that the electricity sub-station constituted an eyesore and ideas were needed on how to reduce its visual impact.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Harper updated the Council on the arrangements being made to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee on Monday 3 June 2002. The Clerk had negotiated a grant from the Vale to cover such items as the mugs and tree hardware. Mr Harper agreed to provide the Clerk with a detailed costed list to enable him to claim the grant.

In discussing the need to do something about the railings on Ock Green it was suggested that as it belonged to the Manor, they should be asked to carry out the replacement of the posts.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 July 2002 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Mrs Douglas tendered her apologies for being unable to attend this meeting; this was noted.

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

Signed.....
Chairman