

## CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2003

PRESENT:

Mr G Beer (Chairman)  
Mrs P McGuire  
Mr J Stiles  
Mr S Taylor

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

District Councillor Mrs Elsa Boyce and 9 members of the public were present. Apologies had been received from County Councillor Andy Crawford and Mr J Harper.

#### 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. Residents' Questions.
9. Any Other Business.
10. Next meeting

#### COUNCILLOR BOYCE

Councillor Boyce reported on her District Council activities indicating that District Councillors were increasingly busy and this was her fourth meeting of the day! She made particular reference to the proposal to transfer decisions on licensing public houses to councils, causing a significant increase in work load without adequate guidance on how this new regime was to be conducted.

#### 1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk had written to the Manor accepting the revised terms of the Ock Green lease and to Mr Baxter about cutting the grass on the Inner Green.

The telephone box has been painted but there was some confusion as to whether resurfacing of Orchard Close pavement had been started.

The Clerk had obtained a supply of stickers to deter dog fouling and would place these strategically around the village. The question of dog fouling was discussed under the Charney Field agenda item.

#### 2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his Financial Report which was adopted. Despite the fact that the contingency of £435 had been overspent by £120, there were sufficient savings on other budget items to more than compensate for this and the financial position remains healthy. Cheques for street cleaning (£25), footpath materials (£34.25), the annual subscription to the OPFA (£25) and the annual grant to South and Vale Carers (£30) were signed

#### 3. PLANNING MATTERS

There has been no progress on the proposal by Mr McBain to build on his site. The application had been awaiting a discussion between the planners and District Councillor Boyce to confirm that minor changes to the

plans are acceptable. Councillor Boyce stated that she had discussed the application with the planners and had given it her blessing. The planners have reported that they have not been chased by the developer to date.

The Clerk had been sent another set of drawings for Gunton Barn with further detailed changes. However, the proposal was still for a two-storey building, albeit in a slightly different position with a reduced footprint from previous proposals. The Council agreed that while this made the proposal marginally more acceptable, the objection to the overall bulk of the building and the fact that it could be a separate dwelling remained. **The Clerk** was asked to convey this view to the planners.

The Council has objected to the building of an extension at Mill Cottage on the grounds that the proposed building would be almost as large as the Cottage itself and of an inappropriate design for the sensitive location, both factors placing it in breach of Policy H14 (iii) in the 2011 Local Plan.

### 3. CHARNEY FIELD

The Bonfire party on 2 November had been very successful with no incidents. From the floor, Mrs Adamson, on behalf of CHAFT, thanked all responsible for the bonfire, the food and other activities during the evening.

The footpath from Bridle Path to the Field has been improved with rails and a chippings bed. An application for a 75% grant from the Vale Village Improvement Scheme has been made. It was agreed that while some of the nettles at the entrance to the footpath could be cleared where they interfered with access, as a general rule, nettles should be left as they provide a natural background to the rural setting.

Estimates have been obtained for completing the task of placing railings around the children's play area. Expenditure to date on second-hand fencing from Taylor-Made is £405. The Clerk had obtained an estimate for completion of the work by a contractor (£800) and would follow this up by seeking funding for the work.

This agenda item prompted a long discussion on the continuing problem of dog fouling on the Field, which had been observed during preparations for the bonfire party. The Council discussed an idea put by Mrs Dahele from the floor, that the Council should write to dog owners inviting them to promise to collaborate with Council efforts to stamp out this problem. While it was agreed that this idea had merit, the disadvantages of it were many and it was agreed to adopt other tactics. It was suggested that dogs should be banned from the Field if fouling continues but the Chairman felt this was an action of last resort which should only be adopted after warning notices had been posted. The Clerk advised that there was no legal problem in the Council banning dogs and he agreed to produce suitable notices for the Notice Board and the Field to give warning of the Council's intentions should fouling continue. He reminded the meeting that the Vale Council was looking for someone to be fined the maximum penalty of £1,000 as a deterrent to others.

### 5. CHARNEY MILL

Attempts have continued to get WS Atkins' contractors to return to the Mill to complete repairs to the weatherboarding and to finish painting the exterior. The contents of the interim report produced by Mr Stafford Taylor have been drawn to the attention of the contractor who has been requested to rectify the unacceptable items in the repair, especially the roofing nails used. It was agreed that it would be useful if Mr Taylor could carry out a wider survey to add to his interim report, thereby providing the Council with some indication of any maintenance expenditure likely to arise in the longer term.

Mr Cotterell has not yet responded about the parking area. The Chairman believed that work should proceed on the assumption that he would have objected by now if he was not happy with the arrangement.

### 6. VILLAGE COLLEGE

CLET had given due consideration to the review paper produced by The Clerk which it welcomed. In order for all the trustees to be involved in the review, CLET has invited representatives of the College to attend the next CLET meeting on 21 January 2004. CLET has not taken up the suggestion that they could be represented on a College Board although this may be discussed at the next CLET meeting. Meanwhile, the College will

continue under the management of Jackie Cross and The Clerk with Mrs Dahele acting as advisor. Mrs Dahele was very happy to advise and commented that she was delighted that Jackie Cross had taken over her role.

The College now has a separate bank account from that of the Council. Brief details of the College finances were included in a report submitted by The Clerk and adopted.

Mrs McGuire asked about eligibility for courses and whether they would be open to teenagers. She was assured they would be and Mrs Dahele, from the floor, reminded the Council that CLET had agreed in principle to support football coaching courses, with an Abingdon and Witney College coach, specifically aimed at younger people. The Chairman pointed out that publicity had invited people with ideas for courses to get in touch with Jackie Cross, College Manager. The only additional course currently being considered is First Aid and Councillor Boyce expressed an interest in being a student for that if one should be organised.

#### 7. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that having submitted a between-meetings piece, the Cherbury News editor had explained that space is so limited that Charney PC must be restricted to a bi-monthly piece. In the light of this, The Clerk proposed the production of a separate "Charney News" to coincide with the issue of Cherbury News and to be included in it for delivery by Mrs Mills, (who could be offered an inducement for her troubles). He had produced a four-page folded pamphlet pilot edition, giving councillors an idea of what it might contain. The Council unanimously agreed that this was a good idea and **The Clerk** was asked to follow this up. The suggestion that the name "Charney Chatter" was more appropriate was accepted. In response to a question from the floor, it was believed that virtually every house in Charney Bassett received the Cherbury News and Charney Chatter would therefore reach its target audience.

The Clerk reported that Mr Townsend had told him that the long-running saga of the ownership of Mount Pleasant, Longworth Road had been settled without a High Court case and he had retained the property.

#### 9. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

Mr Daglish asked whether the rumours that The Chequers was changing hands were true. The Clerk reported that Mr Curtis, Landlord had told him that that he would like to move to France but had no definite plans to do so yet.

Mrs Nellist asked what was happening to the trees along the Lyford Road, some of which had been damaged. The Clerk reported that the farmer had been ordered to remove them but it was not known when this would be done.

Mr Daglish reported that trees on the bridle path overhanging Bridle Cottage looked ominously precarious. The Clerk reported that he had been approached by Mrs Lindsey and would be raising the matter with OCC who owned them.

#### 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

#### 11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 January 2004 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....