

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2004

Present:

Mr G Beer
Mrs P McGuire
Mr J Stiles
Mr S Taylor

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Six members of the public attended. Apologies had been received from County Councillor Andrew Crawford, District Councillor Elsa Boyce 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. CHAFT
6. Charney Mill.
7. Village College.
8. Clerk's Correspondence.
9. Residents' Questions.
10. Any Other Business.

1. MINUTES OF THE 12 MAY MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING.

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

The Clerk reported that he had applied for a Village Improvement Grant towards the cost of replacement of posts and use of the old rails on Ock Green, which amounted to £650; a decision is awaited.

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his regular financial report which had little noteworthy content as it was early in the financial year. He reported that the Internal Auditor, Mr Peter Leaver, had approved the annual accounts which are now with the External Auditors. The report was adopted.

Approval was given for payments for grass cutting and renewal of CPRE membership.

3. PLANNING MATTERS

There appears to have been no progress on the proposed change of use of McBain's yard. There were no other outstanding planning matters.

4. CHARNEY FIELD

The Clerk had applied to TOE for a £1,000 grant to repair Bridle Path to a condition suitable for disabled access to the Field. As a result of a "lost" e-mail at TOE, this application would not be considered until the September TOE meeting.

An application for a grant towards four seats at £207 each, three of which would be placed on the Field has also been made. As it would be some time before this grant would be considered, it was proposed that a much

cheaper seat from B&Q would be purchased as a stop gap. **The Clerk** was asked to obtain one seat, taking advantage of the discount available to pensioners at B&Q on Wednesdays.

There was a long discussion about the trees along the western border of the Field, the oaks of which had again died, probably due to lack of watering. The Clerk was asked to write to the Vale Council about the loss of trees, explaining that plans were being made for watering in the future and suggesting smaller trees might survive better. Several options were considered including an offer of two rolling barrels from Mr and Mrs Nellist which was gratefully accepted. Mr Daghish offered to make his trailer available if suitable containers could be found to carry water from the trough at the Buckland Road end of the footpath. **The Clerk** undertook to follow this up by purchasing a drum from Haynes of Challow and by obtaining quotations for pipe which could be laid to a point nearer to the trees and a new bowser.

5. CHARNEY HALL AND FIELD TRUST (CHAFT)

Mr Taylor reported on the unsatisfactory situation with CHAFT which had been unable to appoint a new committee at its last AGM at which both the Chairman and Secretary wished to resign. As there was nobody from CHAFT present to explain the current situation, it was agreed that **The Clerk** would convene a special meeting between the Parish Council and CHAFT to see what could be done. Mr Stiles and Mrs McGuire had both indicated their willingness to get involved and Mrs McGuire reported that her husband, Colin, would also like to offer his services, provided he knew what was expected of him.

The Council paid tribute to the efforts of the retiring officers over the past years and asked that this be recorded in the letter proposing a meeting.

6. CHARNEY MILL

The Mill had again been open on the afternoon of the church fete with plenty of visitors. The parking area alongside the mill had been cleared sufficiently by the “Charney Army” to act as a limited car park on this occasion.

The Clerk had received a list of the expenditure (£456) incurred by the restorers to meet the needs of the lease to improve safety and security at the Mill. He had forwarded this to Richard Munroe of Cultural Services who had undertaken to arrange a grant towards these costs, as “compensation” for the legal expenses incurred by the Parish Council in arranging to lease the Mill.

Mr Taylor presented a report on his more detailed survey of the state of the building. It drew attention to defective work carried out in the recent refurbishment of the roof and also some structural defects which, while not of immediate concern, should be addressed in the longer term. It was agreed that the report should be sent to Grant Audley-Miller, Conservation Officer at the Vale Council, for his comments before passing the report to the restorers.

A very successful social evening had been organised by restorers for councillors and partners on 19 June; this was much appreciated.

7. VILLAGE COLLEGE

The Village College is continuing with Yoga through the summer and has a number of other courses planned for the autumn term starting in September.

8. CLERK’S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had received two documents, “The Social and Health Care Business and Commissioning Plan”, published by OCC and “Proposed Changes to Regional Planning Guidance for the South East” published by the Government Office for the South East. The latter, which deals with Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Tourism, and Related Sport and Recreation, is a public consultation document which **The Clerk** was asked to circulate.

9. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Rumble asked whether anyone had noticed that the silver birch on Ock Green appeared to have died; nobody had. She also asked who was now looking after the flower box at the Buckland Road entrance to the village, Mrs Lemmer having departed. It appeared nobody was, although the grass around it had been cut, and Mrs Rumble was invited to approach the new occupants of the Lemmer's old house to see if they would take it on.

Mr Rumble reported that he had seen some cast iron/hardwood seats on sale in B&Q which appeared to be suitable for Charney Field - and a lot cheaper - and asked whether one could be purchased while the grant for more expensive benches was processed. This question resulted in the action on **The Clerk** recorded in paragraph 4 above.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Stiles produced a newspaper article which revealed that a woman raising funds for charity by means of an event in her back garden, to which the public were invited, had been charged more than the sum she raised for an entertainment licence. He asked whether CHAFT had the necessary licence for the Village Feast on the Green. It was not known whether it had (although it was believed it had) and it was agreed to raise the question when the Council met with CHAFT.

Mrs McGuire expressed the thanks of horse riders to those who had cleared the Stanford Bridle Path. It was not known who had done this but The Clerk thought it would be an OCC footpath working party. It is important if horses are to avoid the badger sett entrances, which are not allowed to be filled in, that riders can see them.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 September 2004 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....