

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 11th JANUARY 2006 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Mr G Beer, Chairman
Mr J Harper, Vice-chairman
Mr J Stiles

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

8 members of the public were also in attendance.

06/01 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr G Rumble who was attending a meeting of Charney and Lyford Education Trust as Council representative, County Councillor Melinda Tilley and District Councillor Elsa Boyce.

Subsequent to the November meeting, Mrs Penny McGuire had tendered her resignation from the Council as she was moving out of the village. The Clerk had placed a notice on the Notice Board inviting applicants to fill the vacancy but nobody had come forward, thus requiring the Council to co-opt a replacement as soon as practicable. In the absence of a nomination from any councillor it was agreed to defer the co-option until a suitable candidate could be identified.

06/02 Minutes of the 9th November Meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the November meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.

06/03 Matters Arising

The Clerk had written to Mrs Pam Hodgkins, widow of Mr Vic Hodgkins expressing the Council's condolences and informing her of the entry in the minutes which recorded the considerable debt owed to Vic by the Village for his public service over a long period.

06/04 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented his regular financial report CBPC/FIN/06/01.

An addendum to the report discussed the donation policy of the Council. At the November 2005 meeting, the Council considered, but deferred a decision on, whether to continue membership of CPRE, the Campaign to Protect Rural England. A request for financial support had also been received from the Independent Advice Centre in Wantage which showed that 89 drives by volunteer drivers had been made for residents in the Charney Bassett area during the twelve months ending in October 2005.

RESOLVED that:-

- a) The report be adopted.
- b) Donations in the current financial year of £30 each should be made to Hanney Royal British Legion, South and Vale Carers, Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau, the Independent Advice Centre and Oxfordshire Association for the Blind.
- c) Membership of CPRE would continue.

06/05 Setting the Precept

The Clerk presented his paper on setting the precept and updated the information in it by explaining that the Vale Council had had a change of heart and the street cleaning grant of £160 would be paid in 2006/07. He also updated the quotation for hardcore for the Mill parking from £200 to £280.

RESOLVED that the precept for FY 2006/07 should remain at the 2005/06 figure of £2,300.

06/06 Planning Matters

The Council had considered two planning applications since the last meeting, CHA/9584/2: a conservatory at "Oldwalls", Buckland Road and CHA/139/14 & 15: modifications to Charney Manor outhouses.

RESOLVED that the Council had no objections to either of these applications.

06/07 Charney Field

The Clerk had obtained a quotation of £60 + VAT from Falcon Signs for a "No Parking – Turning Circle" sign with a 1.5 metre post to be placed at the end of Bridle Path.

RESOLVED that The Clerk should purchase the sign and arrange for its erection.

06/08 Charney Mill

The proposal to purchase hard core from OCC Highways at a special rate involving Mr David Godfrey as lorry driver was in abeyance due to his temporary incapacity with a broken leg. However, Mr Godfrey has visited the site and has estimated that up to 5 lorry loads of 8 tonnes each will be needed, costing £280.

RESOLVED that:-

- a) the proposal be followed up again when Mr Godfrey returns to duty.
- b) The Clerk should contact the farmer seeking his permission for the work to proceed.

06/09 Village College

The Clerk, in his capacity of College Administrator, presented a verbal report. College finances are very healthy as it has not yet proved possible to spend the £1,000 grant made last year by CLET. Efforts are continuing to seek suitable courses, including First Aid for parents.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

06/10 Clerk's Correspondence**06/10.1 Land Ownership**

At the September meeting, The Clerk had been asked to look into the ownership of the various pieces of land around the village. He had been in contact with the Gloucester Land Registry who had informed him that with one exception, none of the small pieces identified on a map submitted to the Registry were registered and The Clerk could now take steps to get them registered in the ownership of the Council. The one exception is Orchard Green which is registered with two owners, Olymgrand Property Co Ltd and Southern Electric, the latter because of the location of the electricity sub-station on the piece. The Clerk has found no trace of Olymgrand which may well have gone out of business. By tending the piece the Parish Council could claim ownership, but if the owner has gone into receivership the land may have reverted to the Crown and this might not apply. The Chairman commented that what was needed was documentary evidence of ownership.

RESOLVED that The Clerk should pursue this issue further, bearing in mind that it seemed likely that the best course of action was to do nothing about claiming ownership.

06/10.2 Web site

Following on from the discussion at the last meeting on ways of communicating the Council's activities to a wider audience, The Clerk had revived the idea of creating a Council web site. Agreement that he should do this had been reached at a Council meeting in 2003. Councillors commented favourably on the development so far. The web site, which is in the process of construction will go live shortly on the Internet and will contain information including the Council finances, projects, minutes of meetings etc.

RESOLVED that:-

- a) The Clerk's expenditure of £50 + VAT on registering the web site be approved
- b) The Clerk should continue to develop the web site.

06/11 Residents' Questions

RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned to deal with questions from the public and be re-convened when the questions had been dealt with..

NOTE: The questions asked and the actions arising from them are contained in an addendum to these minutes.

06/12 County and District Council News

In her apology for not attending the meeting, County Councillor Melinda Tilley said there was no news from the County Council to report as it was a quiet period. She had, however, made a newsy contribution to the latest edition of Charney Chatter.

06/13 Exchange of Information

06/13.1 Village Pond

Mr Harper reported on the subject of creating a pond at Ock Bridge Green. A representative from the Ponds Action Group had inspected the area by the bridge where the Ock used to form a pool and he had made recommendations that had been circulated to Parish Councillors. There were several interested parties to be consulted and he would continue to do this. He was reminded that the owner of Mill Cottage, Steve Champion should be among the consultees. The Chairman suggested a site visit would be appropriate once more information was available.

06/13.2 Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Mr Stiles asked whether the Council should be addressing its responsibilities under the new Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, especially the question of Fixed Penalty Notices. The Clerk pointed out that Defra was intending to publish a "How to" guide on the new law in March 2006 which would hopefully explain how the law would work.

RESOLVED that The Clerk should put this item on the agenda of the next meeting.

06/13.3 OALC

The Chairman reported that he had attended the annual meeting of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils on behalf of the Parish Council. He had noted that there would be no increase in the annual subscription and that the first Oxfordshire Parish Council, Barford St John and St Michael, had achieved Quality Council status.

06/14 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th March 2006 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.....

ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES - RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

06/Q1 Mrs Johns, Bridle Path, reported a potential noise problem from a trial bike rider and asked how to deal with it. She was advised to contact the Environmental Health Dept at the Vale Council and to keep a record of occasions when the noise causes a nuisance. If the Vale Council considers the noise to be creating a statutory nuisance they will write to the offender asking them to take action to reduce the noise.

06/Q2 Mrs Hook, The Green, asked whether, in the light of the discovery that Southern Electric own part of Orchard Green they might be invited to contribute to the cost of mowing it.

ACTION:- The Clerk should follow this suggestion up and report back to the next meeting.

06/Q3 Mrs Hook also asked what the position was with regard to parking on Main Street, something which caused a hazard at night for vehicles exiting from The Green.

ACTION:- The Clerk should clarify this matter with PC Martyn Holder and report back to the next meeting.