

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2007 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AND THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Present: Mr G Beer, Chairman
Mr G Rumble
Mr J Stiles

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

07/26 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mr J Harper and Mrs Jos Bath. County Councillor Melinda Tilley, District Councillor Anthony Hayward and 20 members of the public were also in attendance. There were no declarations of interest.

07/27 Election of Officers

Mr Beer was proposed as Chairman by Mr Stiles, seconded by Mr Rumble and duly elected. Mr Harper was proposed as Vice-chairman by Mr Rumble, seconded by Mr Stiles and duly elected. Messrs Beer, Stiles and Rumble signed the acceptance form which confirmed their appointments as councillors.

07/28 Minutes of the March 2007 Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the March 2007 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.

07/29 Times and Dates of Future Meetings

It was agreed to continue with the existing arrangement of meetings at 7.30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every odd month.

07/30 Appointments to other Committees

Council representatives to other committees were elected as follows: -

- Minibus Committee: Mr Beer would continue to combine his role of driver representative with Council representation.
- Transport Representative: Mr Harper.
- CHAFT (2 representatives): Mr Rumble (*ex officio*). Appointment of a second representative would be considered when the absent councillors could be consulted.

The Clerk would look after grass cutting (liaising with the Chairman) and would be the Cherbury News reporter.

07/31 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/078/03 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The figures contained in the report had been approved by the internal auditor.

The Council approved both the Section 1 - Statement of Accounts and the Section 2 - Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Return which would now be submitted for external audit.

RESOLVED that:-

- a) the report be adopted
- b) The Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Return be approved.

07/32 Clerk's Correspondence

The Clerk reported on exchanges of correspondence between himself, Thames Valley Police and Ed Vaizey MP concerning the lack of a local bobby. He had had a meeting with the Wantage Area Commander and had received assurances that the matter would be resolved shortly.

07/33 Information Exchange

The Clerk produced the crime statistics for the village which compared the 12 months ending 31 March 2007 with the previous 12 months. It was encouraging to note that there were very few crimes recorded and the five in 2006/07 were four fewer than in 2005/06.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting followed immediately after the Parish Council meeting and opened with the presentation by The Chairman of the Council's Annual Report.

07/34 County Council Matters

Councillor Melinda Tilley reported that there was little to report on County Council matters as many of the councillors had been involved in the District Council elections. However, she did have two specific matters to mention. She asked people wondering about verge cutting to be patient as it was due to start very shortly; she also asked anyone contacting her on council business to be sure their names were clearly stated as with 13 parishes under her wing, she would not necessarily identify contacts who only gave Christian names.

07/35 District Council Matters

Councillor Anthony Hayward, who had only been elected for six days, had nothing to report as he had not yet attended a council meeting. However, he stated he would endeavour to provide any support which the Parish Council required of him in the future.

07/36 Matters Raised by the Public

The meeting was open to questions from the public and the following topics were raised:-

Road repairs

Mr M Cox commented that roads in the vicinity of the village were in poor repair a situation with which most present agreed. Councillor Tilley reported that an extra sum of £9M had been allocated by central government for road repairs in Oxfordshire and although this sounded a lot of money it would not, unfortunately go very far. The Chairman observed that much of the problem of potholes was caused by large-wheeled tractors which had gradually eroded verges, exposing road edges to damage. There was some discussion of the postcard reporting system which enabled serious potholes to be

reported direct to Highways. These were believed to be held in the Post Office but **The Clerk** offered to obtain more and make sure they were generally available and that they were advertised on the Notice Board. Councillor Tilley offered to pass on information to Highways of any potholes reported to her.

Elsa Boyce

Councillor Tilley reported that as a mark of her many years of devoted service on the District Council, Elsa Boyce (who had now relinquished her position of District Councillor for the village but who had nevertheless sent her apologies to The Clerk for not being able to attend this evening's meeting) would be made an Alderman at the next District Council meeting.

Grass Cutting

Mr Douglas asked that the attention of the grass cutting contractor be drawn to the poorer quality of cutting of the churchyard of late when not all clippings were removed. **The Clerk** undertook to do this.

Litter

In a discussion of the problem of litter being dropped in the village, The Clerk reported that he had been able to identify litterbugs from names in litter retrieved and had forward the evidence to the Vale Council who promised to take action against them. He asked people to retain any identifiable litter for forwarding to the Vale Council. He advised anyone finding litter or waste dumped, especially tyres, to contact the Vale Council on 520202 who would remove them. It was noted that the reason tyres are being dumped is the introduction of a charge if they are taken to a waste site for disposal.

Speeding

In a discussion of speeding, which was still considered a problem through the village, The Clerk reported that the police had advised him that there was no suitable location for the mobile camera van to park to catch the early morning speeders. Alternatives such as flashing signs were beyond the resources of the Council. Nevertheless **The Clerk** was asked to find out how much it would cost to paint the road surface at village entrances with roundels in order to draw attention to the speed limit.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed
Chairman