

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 11th JULY 2007 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr G Beer, Chairman
Mr J Harper, Vice-chairman
Mrs J Bath
Mr G Rumble

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

07/37 Apologies

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

07/38 Adoption of the Model Code of Conduct

RESOLVED the Model Code of Conduct for Parish Councils, including Paragraph 12(2) should be adopted.

07/39 Register of Members Interests

All councillors had now completed Register of Members Interests forms and these would be forwarded to the Monitoring Officer in the Vale Council.

07/40 Minutes of the May 2007 Meeting

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

07/41 County and District Councillors' Reports

Both County Councillor Melinda Tilley and District Councillor Anthony Hayward had sent their apologies for their absence from the meeting and neither reported anything relevant to Charney Bassett to report.

07/42 Residents' Questions

RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned to invite questions from the public and be re-convened when any questions had been dealt with. The questions asked are contained in an addendum to these minutes.

07/43 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/078/04 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. There was very little to report at this early stage of the 2007/08 financial year.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted

07/44 Planning Matters

A revised application had been received for changes to an approved conservatory and extension at 30 New Road. The changes were of a minor nature and did not affect the original decision of the Council not to oppose the development. The Clerk was instructed to register a "No objection" with the planners.

Development of The Bungalow, Three Ways, had been approved but with a number of conditions which appeared to have been introduced to meet neighbours' objections.

The Chairman raised the question of how to deal efficiently with planning applications, in the light of the requirement for speedy consideration of them. The Clerk proposed that as planning applications were published on the Vale Council web site, he could send councillors an e-mail directing them to the site so that applications could be viewed simultaneously and promptly by all councillors. They could then reply to The Clerk's e-mail either with a "no objection" comment or a request for a meeting to discuss it. Councillors would, in effect, have a "anti-veto" in that any one could request a meeting which the Chairman would then arrange. While this idea met with general agreement, there was also the feeling that the Council should return to the old arrangement whereby the application details were sent round, starting with the Chairman, together with a covering sheet for comments. It was agreed to use both methods and The Clerk would draw up a procedure to be followed in future.

RESOLVED that the system for dealing with planning applications would be overhauled and The Clerk would produce a new procedure to be followed.

Under this item, The Clerk reported that he had received an e-mail from Councillor Stiles requesting that in future when Council business (particularly planning) is discussed outside meetings by e-mail that all councillors should be copied in on any responses. The Clerk went further and requested that all councillors should ensure that when a reply to a message is sent that the original message is also included to ensure the topic under discussion is clearly identified.

RESOLVED that e-mail procedures between councillors on council business should be improved along the above lines.

07/45 Registration of green pieces in the village

The Clerk reminded the Council that it had been agreed at a previous meeting that this entailed an unnecessarily complex, costly time-consuming procedure and that things should be left as they are, i.e. that the pieces should remain unregistered. The cost of searching for ownership of a piece of land was £35 plus £15 for a copy of the Title Plan. However, in the light of discussion of ownership of the piece at the junction of Buckland Road and Longworth Road when considering tree felling, The Clerk was asked to proceed with registration of this piece as a "test case" for the other pieces in the village.

07/46 Clerk's Correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence between him and the Chief Executive of Brakspears Brewery on the future of The Chequers pub. The exchange had been placed on the Council web site and on the Notice Board. It was noted that the response from the brewery was positive and the long-term future of the pub was assured.

The Clerk had acted upon the request made at the Assembly to find out costs of devices aimed at reducing speeding through the village. He presented a series of pictures and diagrams illustrating what is available. While it was evident that any form of flashing sign was way beyond the financial resources of the Council, the provision of "gates", revised village signs and roundels etc. would be carried out free of charge by OCC Highways, (although there is a long waiting list for this work). The Council agreed to request gates and signs without roundels and The Clerk was asked to order these.

While on the subject of road signs, The Clerk reported that he had agreed with OCC Highways that the left turn sign south of the Buckland Road junction could be removed as a contribution to "de-cluttering". It was obvious from the finger post that there was a junction and the sign, which in any event was no longer reflecting, was superfluous. He also agreed with Highways that the junction white lines needed re-painting and they undertook to arrange this.

RESOLVED that the offer from OCC to provide, free, new signs and gates at village entrances be accepted.

Consultation documents had been received on the subjects of support for migrant workers and provision of sites for gypsies and travellers. These would be circulated to councillors for comment.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that a series of meetings to discuss the formation of a Neighbourhood Action Group which would cover the village had been arranged and details were on posts and the Notice Board.

07/47 Information Exchange

The Chairman was pleased to report that funding for the Stanford-in-the-Vale Community Minibus had been secured for the next four years. However, he also reminded the meeting that passenger loadings were light and that the old adage of “use it or lose it” applied to the service.

07/48 Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, September 12th at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES - RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

07/Q6 Potholes

Mrs Dahele asked whether the “ditch” at the road edge at four stone walls had been reported because it had not been filled in. It was agreed this should be chased possibly by one of the pothole post cards, a supply of which The Clerk had deposited in the Post Office.

07/Q7 Mill Parking

Mrs Dahele asked what was happening about the provision of parking at Charney Mill. It was reported that this task was still on the list to do but other tasks had been given priority. It was agreed that The Clerk should attend to this again and in so doing should tell the farmer it was going to be done.

07/Q8 Field Grass Cutting

Mrs Dahele asked whether grass cutting on Charney Field would continue in the light of Mr Fitzgerald O'Connor's notice that he would not be able to do it next year. The Clerk reported that Mr O'Connor had subsequently indicated he would probably continue next year but the situation would need to be kept under review and other options explored. There was unanimous agreement that the village owed a great debt to Mr O'Connor who had diligently cut the field for nothing for years and a way of acknowledging his efforts should be found. It was suggested that Oxfordshire Playing Field Association might offer advice on cutting methods.

07/Q9 Rubble at Mill Cottage

Concern was expressed at the unsightly pile of rubble at Mill Cottage. However, it was reported that Mr Champion had the matter in hand but was waiting for appropriate permission to place a skip on the highway. It was suggested that some of it could be moved to act as hard core for Mill parking.

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

Signed

Chairman