

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2008 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr G Rumble, Chairman
Mrs J Bath
Mr J Stiles

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Prior to the opening of the meeting, Mr Rumble, on behalf of the Council, presented the outgoing Chairman, Geoff Beer with a decanter to mark his ten years service and Mrs Beer with a bouquet of flowers. Mr Beer responded appropriately on behalf of himself and Mrs Beer.

08/33 Apologies

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

08/34 Co-option of a new councillor

The vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr Beer had been advertised but no candidate came forward and no election was sought. Accordingly, the Council was required to co-opt a replacement as soon as possible. Mr Michael Cox had been approached by councillors and had indicated his willingness to be co-opted. He was proposed by Mr Stiles and seconded by Mr Rumble and duly co-opted. He signed the Acceptance of Office form and the Register of Members' Interests form.

08/35 Minutes of the May 2008 Meeting

Mr Stiles had pointed out that the proposer and seconder for the position of Vice-chairman had been reversed in the version of the minutes sent out to councillors on the 18th of May. The proposer was Mr Stiles and seconder Mr Rumble. This error had been corrected in the version presented to the Chairman for signature. There was one matter arising, Council representation on the Minibus Committee. Mr Beer had resigned from this committee and there was therefore no representation at present. It was agreed to take no action unless and until the Committee noticed.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the March 2008 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.

08/36 County Councillor's News

Councillor Tilley had sent her apologies for her absence due to a family commitment following the birth of another grandchild earlier in the day. However, in sending her apology she included the important news that she has been elected to the Cabinet of the County Council with the Portfolio of "Member for Place". In this role she will be required to liaise with other County Councillors, Voluntary Agencies, the Primary Care Trust, Police and District Councils about communities around the county to see what the County Council can do for them. The Clerk noted that there were several issues which could be raised with her in this role.

08/37 District Councillor's News

District Councillor Anthony Hayward reported that the Vale Council would shortly be voting for a proposed part-merger between the Vale Council and South Oxon District Council resulting in further development of the

shared use of common services with a potential saving of around £750,000. Details were yet to be finalised but the indication was that there would be a single Chief Executive and common services would include such things as waste management, although such area-specific services such as planning would remain separate. There would be staff reductions and redundancy costs but calculations indicated a pay-back period of around two years. The main aim of the merger would be to continue the drive to eliminate duplication, something which had already been achieved by combining financial services. The combined council would be the largest district council in the country, serving 250,000 people.

08/38 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/08/04 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. He indicated that he wished to see the cheque signatories list amended so that cheques must be signed by any two councillors. This change was proposed by Mr Rumble, seconded by Mr Stiles and carried.

RESOLVED:-

- a) that the report be adopted
- b) that cheques must be signed by "any two of the five councillors".

08/39 Planning Matters

An application had been received for changes to the roof of the parent annexe at Rectory Farm House; councillors had no objection to this.

The Clerk had been notified that Mr Walker had lodged an appeal against the refusal to permit two workers' dwellings at New Manor Farm. The Council had raised no objection to this development when it considered the original application and saw no reason to make any further submission.

08/40 Flooding

Despite the absence of Mr Harper, whose portfolio includes waterways and flooding, The Clerk had placed flooding on the agenda in order to keep the momentum going on this vital topic. The topic had come to the fore with an e-mail from Colin McGuire suggesting a number of actions which could be taken to reduce the risk of future flooding and inviting the parish council to get involved.

The Clerk reported recent activity and he displayed an OS map, produced by the Vale Council, showing the watercourses in and around the village. However, he had had a discussion with knowledgeable villagers in which omissions and errors on the map had been identified. The first action would therefore be to walk the various streams and ditches to ensure the map was accurate and to identify any pinch points where action should be taken to remove restrictions to flow. He hoped to involve the Vale Council land drainage engineer, Peter Dela who would return from holiday on 14th July. A meeting to undertake the walk would be convened after Mr Harper's return from holiday on 19th July.

08/41 Clerk's Correspondence

OCC Highways had informed The Clerk that it had devised diversion routes to be used in the event of a road traffic accident on the A420 between Kingston Bagpuize and Watchfield. The routes would be marked by geometric symbols and it was not yet known whether Charney Bassett would feature in any of these diversions; the situation would be monitored in case it was.

Mrs Rumble had resigned as street cleaner as she feels she can no longer carry out the task to the high standard she has maintained in the past. Although efforts should be made to find a replacement, it was considered that it might be better to arrange for Spring and Autumn village clean ups. Mr Stiles reminded the meeting that these had been discontinued some time ago on health and safety grounds and wondered whether anything had

changed. The Clerk produced a cutting from Vale View which offered advice on - and the loan of equipment for - such an activity and he was asked to contact the environmental wardens for more information.

The Council had been invited to respond to the Oxfordshire 2030 consultation which aimed to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy for the next twenty years. When this was circulated to councillors, Mr Rumble had produced a response which seemed to meet the requirement for a Council response. The Clerk was asked submit this response to the Oxfordshire Partnership which is conducting the consultation.

The Clerk had received two letters from Thames Valley Police, one inviting Council representation at an event on July 21st which would seek views and concerns about crime and the community safety issues. The other was seeking people interested in becoming Special Constables or joining the Volunteer Support Team.

The Chairman of the Vale Council has expressed a wish to visit all the parishes in the Vale to meet those actively engaged in community life. The Clerk would send her a copy of Charney Chatter to keep her informed of village activities which she could attend.

08/42 Information Exchange

The Clerk reported on the recent activities of the Faringdon East Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG2) of which he and Dave Sibbert were members. Good progress was being made in getting this NAG up and running and there were significant moves afoot to address the principal concern of villages in the NAG2 area - speeding. The Faringdon Neighbourhood Team was going to be trained in the use of laser speed detectors which could be used to prosecute speeders and this would be a major step forward in tackling this issue.

The Clerk summarised the situation regarding the possibility of a weight limit for vehicles passing through Charney Bassett. He intended to collect together all the bits of evidence collected during recent exchanges concerning the new grain barn at West Hanney with a view to making a case for such a limit.

In response to a question about activities at McBain's yard, which had now been completely cleared with the doors to the main building removed, there was no knowledge of Mr McBain's intentions. Planning permission for houses on the site had lapsed but permission for change of use was still valid.

Mr Rumble reported on his attendance at the AGM of OALC at which he had seen a demonstration of the newly launched E-planning hub which allows planning applications to be made and be tracked by anyone with Internet access making significant cost savings where drawings were concerned. He also reported that there was a serious proposal to create a new OALC post to vet the deluge of material sent out to Clerks to reduce the load on them, particularly those who were part-time.

Mr Rumble expressed annoyance at the production of a self-glorifying, costly, glossy annual report from OCC Highways which claimed they were doing a first-class job when the reality was a proliferation of potholes.

Concern was expressed by a number of people at the amount of parking on the Village Green although it was accepted that this was a temporary situation arising from the building work on The White House.

08/43 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday September 10th in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.58 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed
Chairman