

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCILMINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 1996

PRESENT: Mr C Eld (Chairman)
Mrs T Cox
Mrs J Fry
Mr W Lindsey
Mrs Wason-Cooper

Apologies were received from Col John Walton, County Councillor, Terry Cox, District Councillor and Chic Wolage, OALC Parish Representative. 8 members of the public were in attendance.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last meeting.
2. Matters arising from those minutes.
3. Clerk's Financial Report
4. Planning Matters
5. Playing Field and Affordable Housing
6. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions
7. Any other business.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 11 September 1996 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

Dogs: The Clerk had not had any feedback from PC Foster about Dr. Robertson's dog. **The Clerk** was asked to contact him for news.

Manor Farm Road: The Clerk was still waiting to hear from the County Archivist who was undertaking some research on this problem.

Glebe Cottage Manhole: This has been fixed satisfactorily.

Road Safety: Mrs Tabor had written to her MP about road safety in the village and a copy had been circulated to Councillors.

Garden Rubbish: The Clerk had included a message to villagers not to dump garden rubbish at the entrance to the playing field in his Cherbury News report.

Old School: The Clerk had written to Mr. McBain about the old village school and had had a reply. This was discussed under planning matters (see below).

New Road Pavement: The Clerk had reported the uneven pavement in New Road but the County Highways Department had replied there were no funds available to relay it.

3. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk's regular report was adopted on the proposal of Mrs Cox, seconded by Mrs. Wason-Cooper. Mrs Wason-Cooper reported that she and her husband had started street cleaning and she submitted an invoice for the hours worked and the tools it had been agreed she should purchase. **The Clerk** was asked to settle this.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

The retrospective application by Mr Callaghan for internal alterations to his barn had been approved and the application for a dwelling behind "Jalna" had been rejected on appeal.

The proposal by Mr. McBain to demolish completely the old school and build houses in its place (subject to planning permission) was discussed. It was the unanimous opinion of the Council that the school should not be demolished but should be incorporated in any development, as had originally been agreed. **The Clerk** was asked to write back to Mr McBain to inform him of this view and to write to VWHDC on the planning issue.

5. PLAYING FIELD AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Clerk had received a draft of the new lease for the playing field. He had compared it with the existing lease and was satisfied that it was substantially the same. The only changes were in the length of the lease and the area of land covered by the lease which allowed for the piece needed for affordable housing to be sold to OCHA, should their scheme go ahead. It was agreed that **The Clerk** should write to OCC confirming that the terms of the lease appeared to be acceptable but that Councillors were being given the opportunity to study it. If three executors were still needed, they should be Mr Eld, Mrs Cox and Mrs Wason-Cooper.

Drafts of the parish opinion poll pamphlet had been sent to Councillors and after some lengthy discussion **The Clerk** was asked to produce a second draft for consultation, taking on board amendments agreed during the discussion. After this it would be sent to OCHA for comment before printing. In response to a question from the floor it was stated that there would be no opportunity on the voting slip for villagers to make comments on the proposal.

The arrangements for the poll were discussed and agreed. It would be based on the electoral roll and a pamphlet, suitably numbered, would be delivered to every elector. A date would be set for return of the voting slip about one week after delivery and collection points would be the Post Office and the Clerk's residence. Arrangements would be posted on the notice board and those who had not voted by the closing date would be approached to see if they wished their opinion to be registered. All the votes would be counted at a specially convened meeting of Parish Councillors.

6. QUESTIONS ETC. FROM RESIDENTS

In response to a question about "Mount Pleasant", the Clerk reported that to the best of his knowledge the property had been bought by a Mr. Townsend who had already spent some time clearing the garden and boarding it up.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Wason-Cooper reported that the Village Hall Committee would be seeking a grant from the Parish Council towards the cost of essential repairs to the roof. It appeared that VWHDC would only consider a grant if the Parish Council also gave a grant. Although the Parish Council has clearly stated in the past that it was not its policy to contribute to the costs of maintaining the Hall, in this instance there were compelling reasons to change that policy. If a grant was a prerequisite for a VWHDC grant it was in the village's best interest to make one. The Hall was owned by the Parish Council, the repair was a non-recurring cost, at least in the foreseeable future, and the Parish Council finances could afford it. The consensus was that a grant of £100 would be appropriate and **The Clerk** was asked to check the legality of this. Mrs. Wason-Cooper was asked to convey the message back to the Village Hall Committee that a formal request for funds should be made.

Mrs. Wason-Cooper asked advice on the use of weedkillers in keeping village streets clear of weeds. **The Clerk** was asked to consult VWHDC on environmental aspects of the matter before using any.

A questionnaire from OCC about road safety was discussed and it was agreed that it was a poorly thought out document which did not warrant a reply. **The Clerk** was nevertheless asked to write to OCC expressing this view and using the opportunity to press for a speed limit through the village.

It was agreed to make donations to OPFA (£25), Abingdon Citizens Advice Bureau (£25) and Hanney British Legion (£15 for a poppy wreath).

The Chairman agreed to represent the Council at the AGM of the OALC at Kidlington on 2 December 1996

The Clerk was asked to reply to a letter from VWHDC about mediation services with the view that it was outside the Parish Council's remit.

The Clerk reported that Mr. David Poolman was grateful for the forbearance of villagers while he was transporting maize through the village.

The Village Appraisal pack had been circulated to councillors who unanimously agreed it was a good idea. **The Clerk** was asked to invite a speaker from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council to the Parish Assembly in April 1997.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8 January 1997 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman