

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 1997

PRESENT: Mrs T Cox (Vice-chairman)
Mrs J Fry
Mrs A Wason-Cooper

10 members of the public were in attendance.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last meeting.
2. Membership of the Council
3. Matters arising from last meeting minutes.
4. Clerk's Financial Report.
5. Playing Field
6. Street Cleaning
7. Annual Precept
8. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions.
9. Any other business.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 10 September 1997 were agreed and signed by the Vice-chairman.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

Mrs Cox resigns but only from her position as Vice-chairman following the resignations of Charles Eld, Bill Lindsey and Peter Davies (Clerk). Mrs Cox proposed that Mrs Wason-Cooper be appointed Chairman; duly seconded by Mrs Fry. The Council agreed that the declaration of acceptance could be made at or before the next meeting.

Mrs Wason-Cooper then took the opportunity to advise those present of the vacancies for two councillors and, providing the village did not request an election, these would be filled by co-option after the 2 December 1997. A vacancy had also arisen for a Clerk and Treasurer and volunteers were asked to approach the Council.

Letters of thanks were to be prepared and forwarded to the previous councillors and Clerk, thanking them for their past services.

Appointments to the Village Hall Committee and the Playing Field Sub-Committee will be made at a later date as will the appointment of a new Vice-chairman.

Mrs Cox will attend the Parish Liaison Meeting at Hanney on 20 November 1997.

In lieu of a Clerk, three new signatories have been appointed for the bank account. Mrs Cox proposed Mrs Wason-Cooper; seconded by Mrs Fry. Mrs Fry proposed Mrs Cox; seconded by Mrs Wason-Cooper. Mrs Wason-Cooper proposed Mrs Fry; seconded by Mrs Cox.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

Manor Farm Road: No success in confirming ownership. The previous Clerk had not had the opportunity to write to all frontagers but had prepared a draft letter which was duly discussed. The letter was duly adopted and will be forwarded in due course - regrettably in the absence of a Clerk, correspondence is likely to be delayed. The Council were also asked to check with the Land Registry regarding ownership but subsequent

review of previous minutes, dated 11 January 1995 confirm the road is unregistered. Villagers in attendance also expressed concern at the possibility of an increase in the annual precept.

Village Hall: No further information available. Mrs Wason-Cooper to report back from the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 26 November 1997.

Village Map: Councillors were unaware of any further action taken in this matter. Contact will therefore be made with John Daghish for updated copies which will then be laminated.

Telegraph Poles: Again Councillors unable to confirm whether the requested chaser letter has been sent. Full documentation requested from previous Clerk.

Playing Field: Discussed as a separate item.

Environmental Improvement Scheme: Letter dated 27 October 1997 received enclosing a summary of the local Environmental Agency Plan. Many items included but only two of particular relevance to the village were read out relating to the River Ock. The Agency requires views on any matters affecting the Ock and suggestions were made by the previous Clerk that these include a note that the work take into account lower water levels and less likelihood of flooding, resulting in restored flows to old water courses, especially the Old Mill. Agreement was given to conveying this to the EA.

Manor Farm Barn: Documentation to be examined to establish if a decision has been received.

Area Policing Plan: Unaware if letter acknowledged although PC Roger Foster was invited to attend. Council will follow through.

The Old School: CPRE were to be contacted again regarding their interest in the Old School. Council to chase.

4. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Chairman presented the report and informed the Council that an audit of accounts would be required following the Treasurer's (i.e. the Parish Clerk's) resignation. The report was adopted on the proposal of Mrs Wason-Cooper; seconded by Mrs Cox.

5. PLAYING FIELD

The Council is still looking to form a sub-committee which has been halted by recent resignations. It was stressed that volunteers were needed and that ideally some should be petition signers as it was a matter of particular importance to them and to which Marian Gardiner duly responded. In due course it was agreed that this sub-committee would be led by either a Parish Councillor or the new Clerk.

6. STREET CLEANING

The Council accepted with reluctance Doris Venn's resignation due to ill health. An official thank you has been forwarded. In the meantime there is now a further vacancy for a street cleaner which will be advertised as appropriate although volunteers are welcome. It was also proposed by Mrs Wason-Cooper that the hourly rate be increased to £4 per hour; seconded by Mrs Cox.

7. ANNUAL PRECEPT

This needs to be agreed at the January meeting. Early indications are that the Council would like to hold this figure at £1400. An estimate will be prepared.

8. QUESTIONS ETC. FROM RESIDENTS

Dog fouling: Mrs. Jackie Harrison drew attention to this problem in the playing field, seriously hampering children at play. It was decided to highlight this problem in the Cherbury News, reminding villagers that dogs are not permitted in this area. A replacement sign will be erected. Mrs. Anne Lemmer suggested contacting a pet company re the provision (hopefully free!) of dog bins etc. and will provide a name and address.

Grass cuttings: A pile found on Ock Green, deposited we think by Mr Baxter. We will confirm before any action is taken.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Village Speed Limits: Proposals to provide every village with a 30 mph speed limit are progressing slowly. Pre-empting this, Deddington have initiated a two week monitor of speed with the help of brightly coloured signs and the police. Agreed contact would be made with Deddington to assess the success of this scheme with a view to setting up our own survey.

Donation to Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association: Donation requested for £25 as in previous years. Allowed for in Council budget - agreed payment be forwarded.

Library Service Consultation: OCC advise further budget cuts may affect County's libraries. Return required from the Parish Council, copies of which will be available at the Post Office. Collective response to be forwarded.

Parish Litter Clearance Grant: VWHDC looking to withdraw grant. Part payment for our street cleaner may come from this source. Council will check before responding.

Proposed Inter-Parish Games Competition: Asked by VWHDC whether we are interested. Responded advising that in view of village size and lack of facilities there was little interest.

Village Improvement Scheme: VWHDC advise the Ock Green scheme falls within guidelines for funding. Further details required together with appropriate costings so that implementation can be during the Vale's current financial year. Original idea revisited, noting in particular that the Environmental Agency strongly recommend not disturbing the river bed due to the natural habitat. Mrs Cox to report back with further details from the Parish Liaison Meeting. River authority also to be contacted and consideration is to be given to a voluntary working party.

Village bonfires: Complaints received about the lighting of bonfires at the weekends. Acknowledged that whilst the Council has no powers in this respect, they would draw attention to the problem in the Cherbury News.

Planning Application - Home Close: No objections noted by Council to the proposed removal of a conifer tree.

Damaged Road Signs: George Mills expressed concern at the state of some of the road signs. Council to pursue with the appropriate authority.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14 January 1998 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman