

## CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 1998

PRESENT:

Mr G Beer (Chairman)  
Mrs B Douglas (Vice-chairman)  
Mrs E Dahele

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Mr N Boyd, Mr S Callaghan and Mr Terry Cox, District Councillor. 4 members of the public were in attendance.

#### AGENDA

1. Minutes of the meeting on 13 May 1998.
2. Matters arising from those minutes.
3. Matters arising from the Annual Assembly
4. Clerk's Financial Report.
5. Village Hall.
6. Playing Field.
7. Clerk's Correspondence.
8. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions.
9. Any Other Business.

#### 1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 13 MAY 1998.

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM 13 MAY MEETING

Manor Farm Road: A meeting of residents had not yet been arranged. The Clerk had been to the Vale Offices to see the Manor Farm file but it did not help to determine ownership of the road. The Clerk had written to Thames Water asking whether downgrading the road to a farm track would affect their operations at the sewage farm.

Clerk's Correspondence: The Clerk had consulted BBONT over the Ock Green improvement scheme and after a site visit they agree with the EA that it should not be touched, at least not while there is no water in the stream. **The Clerk** was asked to raise the question of water flow with the EA again.

Residents' Questions: The Clerk had established that the strip of land along Buckland Road where the hedge was removed belongs to OCC who will maintain it. A suggestion (from SC) that we plant trees there has not been welcomed by OCC as it could affect the sight line. **The Clerk** was asked to see if a new hedge could be planted along the line of the ditch.

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PARISH ASSEMBLY

Playing field: There was continued concern at the use of the existing playing field as a racetrack. A further concern was the discovery of syringes. After discussing ways of preventing car access, including notices, **The Clerk** undertook to look at the possibility of putting up a simple chain and padlock. The Clerk pointed out that the best way to stop cars using the field was to take the number of any car involved and report it to PC Foster. **The Clerk** would report the syringes to PC Foster.

New Road hedge: **The Clerk** was asked to arrange for the hedge at the junction of New Road and Buckland Road to be trimmed.

Village speed limit: **The Clerk** was asked to chase progress on provision of a speed limit in the village. The Council was anxious to keep the pressure on this vital scheme.

Pavements: The Clerk reported that previous attempts to make a pavement at the New Road/Buckland Road junction and in Longworth Road had been rejected by the Highways Authority because of limited funds for

such work. The former would require kerbs etc. but the latter could be achieved through DIY. **The Clerk** was asked to investigate the cost and feasibility of providing a hard core path.

Traffic calming: The proposals to make a proper left turn into New Road from High Street and/or impose a one-way system in the village were dismissed as impracticable, largely because of lack of Highway funds but also because of adverse side effects. The village speed limit to be introduced in 1999/2000 should help to calm traffic.

Best Kept Village Competition: It was agreed that the village stood little chance if it entered this competition until a number of eyesores had been removed. It was agreed to review the situation at the November meeting. There was some discussion on the need for villagers to maintain verges and The Clerk referred to the “adopt a road sign” idea which Mr and Mrs Rumble had started. It was agreed to advertise for ideas in the August Cherbury News.

Old School: **The Clerk** was asked to contact Mr McBain to ask what he intended to do with the Old School.

Lyford and Charney Bassett Educational Trust: Mrs Dahele would keep the Parish Council informed of developments.

#### 4. CLERK’S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk’s financial report was adopted. It was agreed to try the OALC publication, Local Council Review for one year and The Clerk was asked to order it. It would be circulated to councillors who would evaluate its usefulness.

#### 5. VILLAGE HALL

There was nothing to report on the repair project as work would not start until August. Mrs Gardiner reported that a small hitch over disabled access was being dealt with separately from the repair work.

#### 6. PLAYING FIELD

The sub-committee met on 1 July 1998 and agreed a number of actions to move the project forward. The Clerk had written to all the original members of the sub-committee seeking their continued support. He had produced a summary “prospectus” which would be sent to possible funding bodies after consulting with OPFA. He had discussed the project with John Tabor of Vale of White Horse Council and had been encouraged by his positive response. Provided the Parish Council could raise a reasonable proportion of the total cost (say 20%), the Vale Council would look sympathetically at an application for funding. The July report to the Cherbury News would concentrate on correcting the impression that the Council was committed to purchase.

Mrs Douglas questioned whether “Playing Field” was the right name for a field which would become a general leisure facility. It was agreed that the name could be changed if it were to be purchased but The Clerk counselled against changing the name just yet as he felt it was important to link the project to the loss of the existing playing field.

**The Clerk** agreed to inform the councillors of the site visit which a representative of the Valuation Office would make in the next few weeks so that they could attend if available.

#### 7. CLERK’S CORRESPONDENCE

An invitation from Vale of White Horse Council to local organisations to seek funding for millennium events was passed to Mrs Marian Gardiner.

Mrs Douglas and Mrs Dahele accepted an invitation from Vale of White Horse Council to the annual liaison meeting with the District Council on 15 September 1998. **The Clerk** would forward their names.

#### 8. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS’ QUESTIONS.

Mr Ackland reported that dandelions were coming up through the newly laid pavement in New Road. The Clerk was asked to draw this to the attention of Highways.

The Council was asked whether it intended to mark the millennium in any way. Nothing had been planned and it was agreed to discuss the matter at the September meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Dahele reported that she had attended a lobbying meeting at Westminster as part of the campaign to maintain services at Wantage Community Hospital. Response to the lobbying had been encouraging and it appeared possible that there would be a re-consideration of the options open.

Mrs Dahele also reported that she had attended a meeting of the Planning and Engineering Dept. of Vale of White Horse Council at Uffington. The main theme was the Government's 15-year plan which was mainly to do with plans for increased housing, a subject of little relevance to Charney Bassett.

Mr Beer reported that he had attended the AGM of the OALC on 29 June 1998. The main theme of the meeting was the modernisation of local government, making it more open to scrutiny. The Government was planning a White Paper on this topic.

The Clerk reminded councillors that they were entitled to claim out of pocket expenses for attendance at meetings on behalf of the Council.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 9 September 1998 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....

Chairman