

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 1998

PRESENT:

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

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

An apology was received from Mr S Callaghan. Mr Terry Cox, District Councillor and 4 members of the public were in attendance.

AGENDA

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

1. CARAVAN SITE

The Council, in the presence of the District Councillor who had been briefed on the matter, discussed correspondence from Ms Quirke, Mill Cottage complaining about nuisance from the caravan site adjacent to her property and asking the Council to intervene. The Council agreed unanimously that it had no power to intervene and **The Clerk** was asked to write to Ms Quirke explaining this decision.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 8 JULY 1998.

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM 8 JULY MEETING

Clerk's Correspondence: The Clerk had raised the question of water flow through the mill stream with the EA through the consultation process over the local EA Plan but had had no response yet.

Residents' Questions: The Clerk had established that a hedge would be planted along the line of the new fence on Buckland Road in due course, as one of the conditions of the sale of adjacent land.

Playing field: Both the Clerk and the Chairman had examined the possibility of fitting a chain and padlock to the field entrance but no conclusion had been reached. The Clerk had reported the syringes to PC Foster.

New Road hedge: **The Clerk** would arrange for a contractor to trim the hedge at OCC's expense.

Pavements: **The Clerk** was asked to investigate the cost and feasibility of providing a hard core path.

Best Kept Village Competition: The Clerk would automatically get an entry form in the New Year. It was agreed to review the situation when this was received.

Old School: The Clerk had written to Mr McBain about the Old School but had had no reply.

Lyford and Charney Bassett Educational Trust: Mrs Gardiner was able to report that in a recent meeting of the Trust and the Charity Commissioners, the latter reported that the legal problem preventing the setting up of a schedule for the charity had been overcome and this would now proceed. The timetable for this was not known.

New Road: The Clerk had reported the dandelions which were coming up through the newly laid pavement in New Road but with no result.

4. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk's financial report was adopted. The Clerk reported that as the grass cutting budget had been exceeded, he had asked the contractor not to undertake any further cutting. Should the grass continue to grow, a contingency plan might be needed.

Approval was given for a grant of £25 to OPFA but application from two other charities were regrettably rejected in line with the Council policy of not supporting charities which did not demonstrate direct benefit to the villagers.

5. VILLAGE HALL

The repair project appeared to be virtually complete but no invoice had yet been received. The Clerk reported that he had been concerned to receive a letter from OALC explaining that the rules for reclaiming VAT had been changed. He had, however, been assured by Mrs Gildersleeves, who had spoken to OALC, that this would not affect the Village Hall project.

6. PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk had sent a summary "prospectus" which included the Valuation Office estimate of £26,000 to the OPFA for comment and awaited a reply. The Chairman offered to help move the project forward if OPFA were not in touch soon. It was agreed that any thought of raising funds in anticipation was premature as the Council had committed itself to consulting the village before agreeing to purchase.

7. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Marian Gardiner had not been able to think of a project to put forward for Vale of White Horse Council millennium funding. The Clerk reported that the closing date for submissions had been extended to November. It was suggested that the mill restorers might qualify and **The Clerk** was asked to contact them.

The Clerk reported that he had been in discussion with Highways about shortcomings in their planning of the diversion of village traffic but the original proposal to divert through Lyford had been adhered to. He intended to write to Highways to suggest that, in future, local consultation should be undertaken when planning diversions.

The Council discussed the request from OCC for a contribution towards the 30 mph speed limit project. In the absence of any specific guidance on the amount required, Councillors agreed to discuss this again at the next meeting with a view to assessing the value of a speed limit to the village. Mr Cox indicated that early indications were that a relatively small sum of, say, 5-10% of the precept was typically being offered.

The Council discussed the question of the additional funds available from OCC for improving rural bus services. **The Clerk** was asked to convey the view that Charney Bassett could do with a return service to Oxford on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

8. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS.

Mr Peters asked what the "slurry" markings which had recently appeared on pavements meant; nobody knew.

The Clerk was asked to see if anything could be done about the huge puddle outside Autumn Garth which forms after rain.

A revised edition of the "Welcome to Charney" leaflet had been produced by Mrs Gardiner. It was suggested that as the Parish Council had paid for the original issue, it should pay for the revised one. **The Clerk** was asked to determine the cost from Mrs Gardiner so that she could be reimbursed.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Council discussed the proposal from Messrs Harper and Darglish for a millennium green opposite the church. The idea was, unfortunately, not viable as it involved land in private ownership. It transpired that efforts to improve the amenity of Ock Green had been made, presumably by EA, by clearing away brambles and weeds.

The Chairman referred to a letter received from David Wilson, former resident of Charney Bassett commenting that the village was in poorer condition than when he lived here, largely due to poor planning. **The Clerk**, who knew Mr Wilson personally, was asked to reply in suitable vein, copying the letter to the Vale planners, to whom Mr Wilson had copied his letter.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 9 December 1998 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. The January meeting would be held on 13 January 1999, returning the Council to its regular schedule of meetings.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.13 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....
Chairman