

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13 JANUARY 1999

PRESENT:

Mr G Beer (Chairman)
Mrs E Dahele
Mr N Boyd

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Mrs B Douglas (Vice-chairman), Mr S Callaghan and Mr Terry Cox, District Councillor. 15 members of the public were in attendance

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the meeting on 9 December 1998.
2. Matters arising from those minutes.
3. Clerk's Financial Report and setting of the 1999/2000 precept.
4. Village 30 mph Speed Limit.
5. Village Hall.
6. Playing Field.
7. Millennium Celebrations.
8. Clerk's Correspondence.
9. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions.
10. Any Other Business.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 9 DECEMBER 1998.

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM 9 DECEMBER MEETING

Longworth Road: The Clerk had written to OCC expressing concern that the lack of street lights at this location caused a hazard and had asked that a footpath be put on the list of jobs to do around the village when OCC funds permitted. He had reported the damage to the bollards at the New Road/Buckland Road junction.

Village Hall: See agenda item.

Christmas Tree: The Clerk had paid Mr Clarke's bill of £30 for the Christmas tree.

Millennium Ideas: See agenda item.

Green parking: The Clerk had provided councillors with notices to attach to offending vehicles.

Trees on The Green: The Clerk had drawn the attention of Mr Clarke to the problem with three trees on The Green. He (Mr Clarke) will deal with this by removing the dead wood, when an opportunity arises.

Grass Cutting: The Clerk had prepared a specification and would seek tenders.

Chicken House: The Clerk had asked OCC about this and they believe that the new owner has plans to replace it with a stable.

Cherbury Footpath: The Clerk had asked OCC to repair the damaged sign which is now on their job list.

Puddle outside Autumn Garth: The Clerk wrote to OCC complaining about the state of the roads in the village with particular reference to this puddle and some action has been taken.

Overgrown Hedge: The owners of "Duntulm" intend to trim their hedge in the Spring.

3. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk's financial report was adopted. The report included details of the financing of the Village Hall repair project which was now complete. The Clerk had written to Customs and Excise to determine whether any VAT could be reclaimed but was almost certain that it could not be. *(Note: this has since been confirmed)*

The Clerk introduced his paper on setting the precept for 1999/2000. An additional item which was missing from the calculations was the cost of the audit, estimated at £200. The councillors considered what sum should be granted to the 30 mph speed limit project and eventually agreed £150, being approximately 10% of last year's precept - a figure suggested by Mr Terry Cox at the last meeting. This sum could be paid in two instalments in two different financial years. The Clerk had established that there was no scope for payment "in kind" by assisting with site works. In addition, councillors felt a sum should be set aside to help celebrate the millennium. Taking these items into consideration, Mr Boyd proposed and Mrs Dahele seconded that the precept should be set at £2,000 - a conservative sum in a year of uncertainty. The Clerk pointed out that although this was apparently a large increase, it represented just over 1 penny a day on the council tax for the average property in the village.

The Clerk was asked to pay the bill of £225 for the playing field rent and a grant of £25 to the Citizens Advice Bureau in Abingdon. The Clerk, in response to a question from the Chairman, explained that the sum of £225 for the rent was made up of £150 for next year's rent in advance plus £75 for the period between the old and new lease.

4. VILLAGE 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT

This item was largely dealt with under item 4 above. The Clerk reported that the schedule of work on this project had Charney Bassett pencilled in for completion by February 2000. He would be inviting councillors to meet with OCC in the near future to agree siting of the limit signs.

5. VILLAGE HALL

As reported in the Clerk's Financial Report, this work has been completed. On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, Mrs Gildersleeves thanked the Parish Council for its contribution to the costs and its management of the finances. **The Clerk** reported that he would be preparing a statement of expenditure for VWHDC and Mrs Gildersleeves asked that a copy of this be sent to the Doris Field Memorial Trust.

6. PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk had discussed possible funding sources for purchase of the field with OPFA. It appeared that the best prospect was the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment, set up to allocate monies collected from landfill tax and he had contacted the manager of this scheme. She had confirmed that the scheme appeared to comply with the fund rules but could benefit from the introduction of some educational element, such as a nature trail. **The Clerk** was asked to modify the prospectus to take this into account and, with Mrs Dahele, to prepare an application. The Clerk had established that VWHDC would help with the design and planting of a small wooded area at the south end of the field, if this were appropriate.

Mrs Gildersleeves suggested and Mrs Gardiner confirmed that the scheme might benefit from the Charney and Lyford Trust, once it had been set up. It was too early to make an approach to this fund at present.

In response to a question from Mrs Gildersleeves, The Clerk reiterated the policy that the Council had adopted, namely to concentrate on purchase of the field and to leave future developments of particular facilities, such as a tennis court or a children's play area to be driven by interested parties.

7. MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

The Chairman opened discussion of this item by inviting those with ideas to list them before any debate. Ideas put forward included: a duck pond at Ock Green, restoration of the Mill stream and pond, creation of a children's play area on The Green, purchase of the paddock by the Green, a stained glass window in the church, a village car park, a music festival, a pageant, a barn dance, a village tea party after maypole dancing, seats, trees, a village sign, compilation of a village photograph album, publication of a village post card, mementoes in the form of mugs or plates and improved access to Cherbury Camp. It was agreed that planning for any

events should include the residents of Lyford and The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Pike, Secretary of the Parish Meeting, on this point..

In discussing the timing of the celebrations, the Council heard from Mrs Barrett, landlady of The Chequers, who outlined her current planning for events centred on the public house, but which could involve all the village. These included activities on both 31 December 1999 and also on 1 January 2000. This prompted the Council to agree that any celebration events should be in the Summer and not at the year end.

As a result of the brief discussion on these suggestions, **The Clerk** was asked to arrange for "voting slips" to be printed for Mrs Mills to insert into every copy of the Cherbury News delivered in the village and to publicise these on the Notice Board. They would be used to seek villager's views on their preferred forms of celebration. **The Clerk** was also asked to raise two matters with the appropriate persons, namely improved access to Cherbury Camp and the restoration of water flow through The Mill. **The Clerk** should also determine whether any blockage of footpaths had occurred in the vicinity of The Camp and, if so, to notify OCC.

8. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

A request from the Abingdon CAB for a grant was dealt with in item 3.

9. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

Mr Mills again stated that the hedge in New Road had not been cut short enough. **The Chairman** agreed to visit the site with Mr Mills to see if corrective action could be taken.

In response to a question from Mr Ackland about the provision of "green boxes" for recycling, The Clerk explained that VWHDC would shortly decide on whether to extend the scheme and if so, how. There is considerable expense involved and this is being taken into account. On its own, Charney Bassett is not viable for a collection scheme but could be linked to adjacent villages if the scheme is extended. One possible link would be with the Hanneys who are not yet on the scheme.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Boyd asked whether the Parish Council should have a contingency plan for disruption to utilities caused by the millennium bug. **The Clerk** said he knew that OCC and VWHDC had addressed this issue and he would seek further information.

Mr Bond asked whether the Parish Council had a position on the proposed new reservoir between East Hanney and Steventon. It was agreed that the absence of information on this project was disturbing but that no Council position could be taken until a proposal was forthcoming.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10 March 1999 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....

Chairman