

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2014

Present:

Mr M Cox, Chairman
Mr D Nellist, vice Chairman
Mrs J Fry
Mrs S Dobson
Mr D Roberts

Dr SK Cowlam, Clerk

County Councillor Melinda Tilley and 16 members of the public were in attendance.

14/01 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence had been sent by Village College Manager Lynn Brookes. There were no declarations of interest.

14/02 To Approve the Minutes of the November Meeting and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: the minutes of the November 2013 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman. Matters arising from the November 2013 meeting were as follows.

- 13/74 RESOLVED. The Clerk had arranged for the PC and Neighbourhood Plan team to be briefed by Wildlife Oxfordshire.
- 13/77 RESOLVED. David Roberts had volunteered to lead a project to obtain a defibrillator for the village.
- 13/77 RESOLVED. The Clerk had made a request to Melinda Tilley for a grant from her discretionary fund towards the cost of a defibrillator.

14/03 County Councillor's News

- Work continues on OCC's budget, taking account of further expenditure constraints.
- Melinda received our application for £1000 towards our defibrillator project.

14/04 District Councillor's News

None reported.

14/05 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented the financial report CBPC/FIN/14/01 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The figures represented the situation at 20 December 2013, and had been approved by the internal auditor. The PC account holds £300 of Jubilee funds on behalf of CHAFT/Jubilee Committee, and £1506.63 remains of a previous flood grant. We have now received a further grant from VWHDC of £1500 towards the cost of our flood risk reduction project. The position is satisfactory.

RESOLVED: the report was adopted.

Councillors considered which organizations to favour with its annual charitable donations.

RESOLVED: these were agreed as Wantage IAC, Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance, Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, Hanney RBL, South & Vale Carers, MS Therapy Centre Oxfordshire.

14/06 Estimating the 2014/15 Precept

The draft budget was presented by the Clerk in paper CBPC/FIN/PRE1415. Calculations show that the basic funding requirement is £3468 excluding VAT. Inclusion of the usual 20% contingency takes this to £4162. Although this exceeds the 2013/14 precept, we generally do not spend more than 90-95% of it, and we have adequate accumulated funds. The Clerk recommended that the precept remain unchanged (for the fifth year) at £3800.

RESOLVED: the PC agreed to seek a precept of £3800.

14/07 Communication Improvement Project

The project team (David Sibbert, Rosemary McClintock, Jane Fry, Roger Watson, and John Wright) had progressed the project. The main points are as follows.

- The January edition of Charney Chatter was the last bimonthly paper version.
- To date 70 requests have been received for the new monthly electronic version, and four to receive a paper version. One person has declined to receive either.
- Our current printer will be advised of revised arrangements for sending paper copies to residents who would prefer that medium.
- A (paper)mock-up was shown to councillors of the new electronic version of Charney Chatter.
- An email messaging system will be established (for those residents who would like to join it) to alert residents to newsworthy information.

RESOLVED: Councillors and the Clerk were asked to comment to the project team on typical content and detail shown in the mock-up.

14/08 Flooding/Project CHAFFINCH

- The PC has received a grant of £1500 from VWHDC towards the cost of the flood project.
- The Charney Army and David Godfrey have completed clearing vegetation along the causeway after four sessions amounting to about 70-80 man-hours of work.
- A next step is for Jim Gardiner and Keith Harris to mark the land showing where the ditch needs to be dug and the causeway built up. Then we can hire earth-moving equipment to do this phase of the project.
- The Clerk had contacted the Environment Agency to suggest that we do not need their consent, as no work is involved with the Charney Wick Ditch. No reply has been received, so we presume that EA acknowledges that it does not need to regulate the project.

14/09 Neighbourhood/Community Plan Project

Cynth Napper of Wild Oxfordshire gave a presentation on our duties under the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006, with particular reference to conserving biodiversity.

- This should form part of the consideration in the development of a Community or Neighbourhood Plan.
- She warned of the tension between sustaining and enhancing the natural environment and the development of the built environment, and alerted us to be vigilant in ensuring that the former is not overridden by the latter.
- She would follow up by providing details of organizations that could provide information and advice to us.

- Typical considerations for inclusion in a plan are: allotment gardens, set-aside land for pollinating insects, a community orchard (we have one), connectivity (using trees and hedges), linkage (to other communities via cycle ways and footpaths), street trees (to protect against climate change), community woodland, water catchment and harvesting.

Ron Smith provided a progress report on the work of the Neighbourhood Plan team.

- 42 residents had attended the briefing that the team had held recently in the village hall.
- Good progress is being made against the timetable set, with guidance from ORCC.
- The next step is to consult residents (via a mail shot) on how they would like to see the parish evolve.
- The team proposes to advertise the project with banners on the Green.
- A draft budget of about £6000 has been estimated over the next 18 months.

14/10 Village College Report

Lynn Brookes had provided a report as follows.

- Patchwork & Quilting classes resume this term, weekly, with morning and afternoon sessions on Wednesdays.
- Yoga and Pilates classes continue, both with waiting lists.
- Two Saturday workshops are proposed: discovering drawing, and dancing to Latin music.

14/11 Clerk's Correspondence

- OCC had asked for information about the PC's policy on street lighting in the parish.
- Pye Homes had asked to meet the PC to discuss their revised proposals for house-building in Charney Bassett.
- VWHDC have advised that the house name of Narrogin in Longworth Road is to be changed to Rainbow's End.

RESOLVED: Parish Councillors wished to continue the policy of no street lighting in Charney Bassett.

RESOLVED: Parish Councillors wished to meet Pye Homes' representatives to discuss their proposals.

- David Roberts reported on the defibrillator project. He had sought volunteers through Charney Chatter to be trained in equipment use. This would be provided by a representative of Community Heartbeat Trust. He had applied to Melinda Tilley's discretionary fund for £1000, and had been offered £300 remaining in the Jubilee fund. He proposed to undertake fundraising in the community shortly.

14/12 Information Exchange

- OCC had installed the new salt bin by the bus shelter. We await an invoice for £300.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk advise residents that they could make use of the salt/grit during winter conditions.

- Residents had asked if they could have wood from the recently-felled trees.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk advise residents that they could take wood in return for a contribution to PC funds, particularly for the defibrillator project.

- A request was made to consider making a pedestrian footway from the Chequers to the junction of Buckland Road and Longworth Road.

RESOLVED: Councillors to consider such a footway.

14/13 Date of next meeting

12 March 2014, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:40pm.

Signed..... Date.....
Chairman