

## **CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2014**

**Present:** Mr D Roberts, Chairman  
Mr D Nellist  
Mrs J Fry  
Mrs M Castle

Dr SK Cowlam, Clerk

Sixteen members of the public were in attendance.

#### **14/65 Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies for absence had been sent by District Councillor Anthony Hayward, Parish Councillor Sue Dobson, and Village College Manager Lynn Brookes. There were no declarations of interest.

#### **14/66 to approve the Minutes of the September Meeting and Matters Arising**

RESOLVED: the minutes of the September 2014 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman. Matters arising were as follows.

- 14/42 The Clerk to progress replacement of the notice board on the bus shelter. Supplier brochures are awaited.
- 14/51 The Clerk had placed a notice in Charney Chatter to encourage residents to maintain tidy road gutters and remove obstructions from overhanging trees outside their properties.

#### **14/67 County Councillor's News**

- Melinda Tilley had forwarded a notice to Parish Clerks on safeguarding young and vulnerable people. It advises on the action to take if there is concern that somebody in the community is at risk or is being harmed.
- OCC is concerned that if rumoured further reductions in its budget are required by Government that it will be bankrupt by 2016/17.
- Residents expressed concern over increased and speeding traffic through the village during diversions for railway bridge works.
- A recent medical emergency in the village required the use of a nebuliser. Councillors asked whether a nebuliser could be provided in the same way that defibrillators are.

RESOLVED: The Clerk would contact Melinda Tilley for advice on traffic calming and a nebuliser.

#### **14/68 District Councillor's News**

None reported.

#### **14/69 Clerk's Financial Report**

The Clerk presented the financial report CBPC/FIN/14/06 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The report represented the situation at 20 October, and had been approved by the internal auditor. The PC had received the second tranche of the precept. Routine PC expenditure has been unexceptional. An expired unrepresented cheque for £30 has been shown in the accounts in accordance with the internal auditor's advice.

RESOLVED: the report was adopted.

#### **14/70 Defibrillator Project**

Refurbishment of the telephone kiosk is proceeding. Installation has slowed but it is planned to be operational by the end of the year. The telephone kiosk is now ready for installation of the defibrillator into its housing. We expect the Ambulance Service to train 16 volunteer users in the new year.

#### **14/71 Flooding/Project CHAFFINCH**

The Environment Agency had responded to a request to peer review the proposed project to improve flood defence of the village. Trevor Brown had arranged the meeting with Shaun Shackelford (EA) on 18 September. The Chairman and the Clerk, and (briefly) Colin McGuire attended. We briefed Shaun, provided him with written material, and visited the project site. His view was that the project is sound, connection to the Charney Wick Ditch does not need EA consent, and advised on the elevation of the proposed weir with respect to the culvert in the CWD. He also advised that a flat crested weir is preferable to a pipe. The Clerk issued a note of the meeting to residents who had been flooded in 2007 and had expressed concern over the project, and sought their views. The response from these households is as follows. Four supported the project. Two continued to have reservations, and were joined by a further three who had not previously been involved. Two were a bit noncommittal, and eight did not respond. The Parish Council concluded that there is insufficient support for the project, and that it should be abandoned. Accordingly, we must return the £1500 grant that VWHDC provided to support the work. During the EA visit, Shaun commented on the benefit of maintaining unrestricted flow in watercourses. The PC and residents could do much to remove debris and maintain banks in good condition throughout the parish, and indeed riparian owners are required to do so. He offered a half day's support by one of his working parties to work with residents to show best practice as an aid to future self help. The Chairman wished to record his thanks for the work that had been done on the project, particularly by Jim Gardiner and the Clerk, since 2007. If Charney Bassett is threatened by flooding again, as it was in 2007, residents may like to know that there is a sound, approved, and peer reviewed project that could be implemented; but it will need to be managed by a new project team.

#### **14/72 Neighbourhood Plan Project**

Ron Smith had provided a report on progress, as follows.

- ORCC has completed analysis of the questionnaire. The steering group and the PC are considering the results.
- Planned data gathering activities have been completed, though more may be needed as the plan is developed.
- A first draft of the plan is intended by the end of 2014. Further detail will be added in early 2015 with assistance from ORCC.
- It is planned to submit the plan to the Independent Inspector by May 2015, and for a referendum in September.

The steering group wished to express its thanks to the community for its continued support to the project. Equally, the PC thanked the steering group for its hard work to date, and to residents who had responded to the questionnaire and the various workshops.

#### **14/73 Village College**

Lynn Brookes had provided a report as follows.

- Patchwork & Quilting classes on Wednesday mornings and afternoons are well attended. A new Thursday beginners' class has been a great success.
- Yoga and Pilates classes continue on Fridays and Mondays respectively, both with waiting lists.

Lynn Brookes wishes to retire as VC manager. Christine Trotman has volunteered and agreed to take over. Lynn will liaise and support Christine during a handover period. The PC wished to thank Lynn for her hard work and the success of the programme of activities that she has arranged.

#### **14/74 Clerk's Correspondence**

- Allotment holders will not now have to quit their allotments at Charney Manor. Agreement has been reached instead that the allotments will be let to the PC, which will administer the allotments. Details of the terms of reference are being negotiated with the Trustees of Charney Manor.
- New arrangements for the PC to pay for electricity at Charney Mill have still not been implemented with the electricity company.
- Jim Harper reported on a meeting of Longworth Charities Trust. A trustee had been reappointed. The boundary had been examined within which applicants may be considered.
- VWHDC had issued its revised Local Plan for consultation and for Government approval. We infer from the document that Chaney Bassett continues to be designated as "open countryside".

#### **14/75 Information Exchange**

- Some residents complained about speeding traffic in the village using the "rat run" created by closure of roads during railway bridge rebuilding.
- Some residents had complained about vehicles parked on pavements, particularly in Main Street.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to seek information on traffic calming.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to place a notice in Charney Chatter about car parking.

#### **14/76 Date of next meeting**

14 January 2015, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:20pm.

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

