

## **CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2015**

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

Dr SK Cowlam, Clerk

Fourteen members of the public were in attendance.

#### **15/13 Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies for absence were received from David Nellist. There were no declarations of interest.

#### **15/14 to approve the Minutes of the January Meeting and Matters Arising**

RESOLVED: the minutes of the January 2015 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising were as follows.

- 15/11 The Clerk had still to contact OCC Highways Department to request movement of the 30 mph signs further from the village.

#### **15/15 County Councillor's News**

None reported.

#### **15/16 District Councillor's News**

District Councillor Anthony Hayward reported as follows.

- Following the fire at Crowmarsh Gifford offices, VWHDC is renting premises at Milton Park, possibly for 2-3 years. The Planning Department has been the most severely disrupted, but planning matters are being dealt with in a timely manner.
- VWHDC has agreed not to increase its council tax.
- The Local Plan is being heard by the Minister. Adoption of the Plan is about a year away.
- Ward boundaries have been revised, so that Charney Bassett will be part of the Kingston Bagpuize/Southmoor ward, and we shall have a different district councillor.

#### **15/17 Clerk's Financial Report**

The Clerk presented the financial report CBPC/FIN/15/02 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The report represented the situation at 20 February, and had been approved by the internal auditor. Routine PC expenditure has been unexceptional.

RESOLVED: the report was adopted.

#### **15/18 Defibrillator Project**

Although the defibrillator is now fully operational, refurbishment of the telephone kiosk needs a modest amount of work to complete. Materials are to hand for this, and work only awaits some good weather. The Chairman thanked Richard Starkey for the work that he had done. He also

thanked Richard Podd who had agreed to check the kiosk and its equipment weekly and report any defects.

### **15/19 Neighbourhood Plan Project**

The steering group had completed its draft Neighbourhood Plan and passed it to the PC for consideration. The Plan does not identify any sites for development, and this prompted the PC to seek advice from VWHDC and ORCC on the value of a Neighbourhood Plan whose intended purpose is a land use plan if it does not identify land and make proposals for their development. This prompted a meeting of members of the PC and the steering group with officers from VWHDC and ORCC. The advice that we were given is that Charney Bassett does not need a Neighbourhood Plan now that it is to be designated as “open countryside” (when the VWHDC Local Plan 2031 is adopted, possibly in a year’s time). In fact, a Neighbourhood Plan could be counterproductive as it would alert potential developers to prospective building sites. Instead, we were advised that a Community-led Plan would be more appropriate. The steering group had had the foresight to craft their work well enough that they could switch to the pursuit of a Community-led Plan. Councillors discussed the matter among themselves, and then with the steering group and residents present.

RESOLVED: that further work on the Neighbourhood Plan would be discontinued shortly, after the draft has been finalised, and instead, effort would be devoted to the preparation of a Community-led Plan.

### **15/20 Village College**

The new Village College Manager, Christine Trotman, reported as follows.

- Patchwork & Quilting classes are held on three half days per week, and are well attended.
- Yoga and Pilates classes continue on Fridays and Mondays respectively, both with waiting lists.

### **15/21 Clerk’s Correspondence**

- Letters and emails of thanks had been received from most of the charities to which the PC had made donations recently.
- Information relating to the Emergency Plan had been provided to David Nellist, and further discussion of the Plan awaits his return and availability.
- The Clerk had distributed information from VWHDC on the forthcoming election on 7 May.

### **15/22 Information Exchange**

- Now that arrangements with Charney Manor over allotments there have been agreed, any unused allotments should be made available to new users. We should ask residents who are interested to apply. We believe that demand outstrips supply, and this will prompt the PC to ask VWHDC to make more land available for allotment use.
- David Sibbert reported a growing interest among some of the surrounding villages for a Community Speedwatch arrangement whereby trained residents would check speeds of vehicles driving through the village and report those speeding to the police. Equipment would be shared among user villages (costing £2-3 thousand). Councillors and residents at the meeting had mixed views on this proposal.

RESOLVED: David Sibbert was asked to provide more information on the proposal.

- David Sibbert advised that Community Police would be in attendance in Charney Bassett from 12-12:30 on 23 March. Residents could use that occasion to relate concerns that they have about matters such as speeding vehicles, pavement parking, etc.

**15/23 Date of next meeting**

13 May 2015, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:40pm.

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