

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCILMINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 1995

PRESENT: Mr C Eld (Chairman)
 Mr G Rumble (Vice-chairman) (part-time)
 Mr E J Clarke
 Mrs T Cox
 Mrs J Fry

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

14 members of the public were in attendance.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Matters arising from those minutes
3. Treasurer's report
4. Planning matters
5. Playing Field
6. Manor Farm Paddock
7. Commemoration of VE-Day
8. National Spring Clean
9. Clerk's expenses
10. Ten minutes for Residents' questions etc.
11. Any other business

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 11 January 1995 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Manor Farm Road: Acting on advice from OALC, the Clerk had asked further questions of OCC who had replied, again denying ownership of the road. **The Clerk** was asked to forward the response to OALC to seek further advice; to return to Berks CC archives at Reading to seek evidence of ownership and to write to frontagers of the road and Thames Water as a first move of a contingency plan to get their agreement to pay for the repairs. Although the Parish Council owned the Green, it should argue that this did not make it a frontager as it did not use the road.
- b. Signs: The street signs for New Road and Chapel Lane had been repaired but Mr Rumble had complained to VWHDC about the removal of a recently placed "no through road" sign. VWHDC had replied but with no apology. The Clerk had written to OCC seeking repair of three footpath signs and had reported two damaged hydrant signs to Thames Water.
- c. Litter bin: A new litter bin from VWHDC had been placed adjacent to the bus shelter at a (subsidised) cost of £40.40.
- d. Street cleaning: There was still no response to the adverts for a street cleaner. This matter will need to be raised at another meeting.
- e. Village Green Seat: Mr Bert Smith has repaired the seat.
- j. Speed Limit: The Clerk had sent the case to Col Walton and he had forwarded it to OCC. The County Traffic and Works Sub-committee had presumably discussed it at their February meeting; the outcome was not known.
- k. Donations: The donations agreed at the last meeting had all been made.

1. LOX: The Chairman presented a verbal report referring to the success of the campaign to stop the proposed airport LOX but sounded a warning note that the matter was not completely dead until Government policy was confirmed.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The report was adopted on the proposal of Mr Rumble, seconded by Mrs Cox.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

Two amended applications, for an extension to "Whitegates" in Longworth Road and replacement of "Brilia" in The Bridle Path with two new properties had been circulated to councillors. Their unanimous view was that neither of the amendments changed their original recommendation to reject both proposals. The Chairman had conveyed the Council's views on the first amended proposal to VWHDC as the Clerk had a personal interest in it. The Clerk had conveyed the Council's views on the second proposal.

A planning application for change of use of land on the North side of Buckland Road together with outline permission for three dwellings had been circulated for comment. Mrs Cox declared an interest in this proposal and was excluded from the discussion. *(Note: It was argued from the floor that Mrs Cox should withdraw from the meeting for discussion of this item but the Chairman ruled she could stay and she had not been excluded from previous discussions. The Clerk examined the rule book after the meeting and found that it was not a requirement that councillors declaring an interest should actually withdraw from the room but that they ".may, by standing order, be excluded.."* [Local Government Act 1972, Section 94(4)]. *As the Council has no formal standing orders, the Chairman was entitled to allow Mrs Cox to remain).*

The Council noted that there was clearly opposition from affected residents to the proposal, particularly the form of development given as an example in the plans. However, as this was one of the options for provision of a new playing field and the developer had been encouraged by the Council to make the application, it should be supported in its present form. **The Clerk** was asked to convey this view to VWHDC together with a caution that if planning consent were to be granted, the Council would expect to see any development dealt with sensitively and the example shown in the application was inappropriate.

The Clerk reported on correspondence received from Mr Seddon which hinted that OCC might consider offering land for a playing field on similar or even better terms than the proposal being discussed. **The Clerk** was asked to write back to Mr Seddon seeking more information on what such a scheme might involve.

5. PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk had written to Mr Seddon seeking a price for an alternative one acre plot but the latter was not yet in a position to make an offer as he had consulted Mr McBain on his intentions and was awaiting a reply. Following sale of land behind Orchard Close for garden use, the existing playing field might have some value if used in a similar fashion with Mr McBain's plans.

6. PADDOCK ON THE GREEN

The Chairman declared an interest and handed over to the vice-chairman for discussion of this item. The Clerk had met Mr Tabor to determine his requirements for purchasing part of the Paddock and had forwarded a plan with alternatives to Mr Seddon. Mr Eld had retracted his expression of no interest which had been conditional upon the Paddock being added to Mr Poolman's tenancy and had expressed a wish to purchase the entire Paddock to maintain the *status quo*. Mr Seddon had replied on behalf of

OCC expressing the view that, in order not to cause a conflict with the Village Feast, they would revert to the offer of the small triangle of land originally made to Mr Tabor, retaining the rest as part of Mr Poolman's farm tenancy.

The Council agreed that although its position had always been that it would prefer to keep the Paddock intact, this sale would not interfere unduly with the site of the Feast Dog Show and it would be churlish to deny Mr Tabor the access he needed. The Council therefore agreed to it, provided the rest of the Paddock was added to Mr Poolman's tenancy, together with a binding agreement that the Paddock could be used on Village Feast days.

7. COMMEMORATION OF VE-DAY

Mr Clarke reported that he had ordered 40 commemorative coins costing £2.00 each for village youngsters. The £100 grant from VWHDC would be used for this. It appeared that plans announced by The Chequers at the last meeting were going ahead independent of anything planned by the Council.

It was agreed to hold a children's and senior citizen's party on The Green on 8 May and Mr Eld offered to provide a marquee, an offer which was gratefully accepted. Mr Eld and Mrs Gardiner volunteered to join Mr Clarke on the organising committee.

It was agreed to seek wartime memorabilia from villagers for an exhibition in the Village Hall on VE-Day. Mr Rumble was asked to publicise this in Cherbury News.

8. NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

The Clerk reported that National Spring Clean Week would be held from 1 to 10 April 1995 and he had ordered 30 rubbish bags from VWHDC. It was agreed that this would be publicised in Cherbury News and villagers would be invited to collect a bag from The Clerk for filling. Collection point for full bags would be behind the bus shelter and VWHDC would arrange collection. *(Note: subsequent discussion revealed that Cherbury News would be published too late to announce this. The Clerk agreed to talk to Mr Rumble when the bags had been delivered to decide on a way to organise litter collection).*

9. CLERK'S EXPENSES

Mrs Cox explained that she had asked for this item to be put on the agenda as she felt the work of The Clerk merited a wage. A recent circular had suggested that for a parish of the size of Charney, this should be around £300. The Clerk declined to accept a wage as this would require an increase in the precept and a declaration to Inland Revenue. He was content to accept payment for the actual expenses (postage, stationery and phone calls) incurred in carrying out his duties. His records showed that these amounted to £40 in 1994/95. It was agreed to pay this sum to the Clerk.

10. QUESTIONS ETC. FROM RESIDENTS

In response to a question about planning blight cause by the LOX proposal, the Chairman reported on discussions he had had with Mr Baldry MP. A suggestion that the publishing of ill-considered schemes prior to planning proposals, such as LOX, which resulted in blight should constitute an offence had been aired. A similar line was being taken by VWHDC.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman commented on the usefulness of the pamphlet "Welcome to Charney" which had been circulated to the Council and congratulated those who had produced it. It was agreed that, in addition to giving them to newcomers, every household should have one and that the Council should pay for its

production. Mrs Gardiner was asked to obtain quotations and a sum of £50 was set aside for this. Mrs Teal had the master disk and offered to produce small quantities if the contents changed.

The Clerk reported that he had nomination papers for election to the Parish Council which would have to be returned to VWHDC by noon on 4 April 1995.

The Clerk reported that there had been some movement towards VWHDC compulsory purchase of Mount Pleasant. VWHDC were drawing up a Repair Order to serve on the owner who still resided in Hawaii. This would give them limited powers to preserve the property.

Mr Clarke suggested that the opportunity for Parish Councils to undertake minor road works published in a memo from OCC should be taken and a footpath from the Buckland Road junction with New Road to the playing field should be constructed. He had obtained an estimate for this from Mr Godfrey of £600. The Clerk cautioned against hasty acceptance of this proposal and it was agreed to look at the matter carefully again.

Mrs Cox reported that PC Foster, who had apologised for being unable to attend, wished to know if he should arrange for closure of Main Street for the VE celebrations. It was agreed that this was not necessary as it was a limited village function but his assistance in providing caution notices etc. would be appreciated. Mrs Cox was asked to convey this message to PC Foster.

The Clerk felt it should be recorded that Mr Poolman had made a significant improvement to the state of Longworth Road by digging out his ditch. Water now flowed from the village pond north to the parish boundary brook, eliminating the flooding which could have been hazardous in frosty conditions. He also felt that Mr Cox should be complimented on the improvements to the Cherbury Camp footpath, carried out last year, which removed the concerns he had expressed at previous meetings.

12. NEXT MEETING

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday, 19 April 1995 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10 May 1995 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.39 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman