

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCILMINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 1995

PRESENT: Mr C Eld (Chairman)
Mrs T Cox
Mr W Lindsey
Mrs T Teale

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Mrs J Fry and County Councillor Col. John Walton. 6 members of the public were in attendance.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting
2. Matters arising from those minutes
3. Treasurer's report
4. Planning matters
5. Playing Field
6. Ten minutes for Residents' questions etc.
7. Any other business

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 10 May 1995 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

2a. Manor Farm Road: The Clerk had received a statement from Mr Hodgkins recording his recollection of the contents of the Parish Meeting minute book. He had still not had an opportunity to visit Berks CC archives at Reading. The Chairman had asked the new residents of The White House if their solicitor had discovered anything of relevance in the deeds and he had not. Residents were considering clubbing together to have repairs done. There was concern that this might create a precedent for future repair work. Mr Lindsey asked about the pre-paid postcards for recording road defects and was informed that these were available from the Post Office.

2b. Signs: Mr Hodgkins was complimented on the standard of work in replacing the No Through Road sign at the entrance to Chapel Lane.

2j. Speed Limit: The Clerk had circulated a letter from OCC rejecting the request for a speed limit. It would be necessary to continue to press the case if there was to be any prospect of a limit in the future.

7. Grass Cutting: The Clerk had arranged for the builder of the conversion of the Old Forge, Mr V K Cox, to pay for the extra cost of cutting the verge alongside the plot and he had agreed to place the onus for cutting this piece on the eventual owner of the new property.

3. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his report which had been circulated. There was little to report except the lack of expenditure on street cleaning in the absence of a replacement for Mrs Venn. The report was adopted on the proposal of Mrs Cox, seconded by Mrs Teale.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk reported that an extension to "Whitegates" in Longworth Road had been considered by the Planning Committee on 22 May and referred back to the developer. Approval had been given for conversion of the Cheese House, Old Manor Farm and for a conservatory at The Mill. Retrospective planning approval had been sought for the now-demolished Old Forge. There was some confusion over the two applications for the Old Forge and **The Clerk** was asked to check them, with particular reference to the wall.

The Clerk had made inquiries of the planners as to the procedure to be followed when demolition was involved and as a result Mr Dijkstra had offered to meet the Council to discuss this and planning matters in general. **The Clerk** would arrange a suitable date.

The Chairman reported that he had attended the OALC AGM. An item of particular interest was the review of the Oxon Structure Plan which would require Parish Council consultation.

5. PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk read out a letter from Mr Seddon stating OCC's latest position on land disposal, giving three options: the existing field (with modified boundaries to accommodate low-cost housing) at £12,000; the 3.68 acre field at a revised cost (after informal consultation with the District Valuer) of £24,000 and a one acre portion of the 3.68 acre field at £7,000.

The Chairman stated that the time to consult the village was now close but, after consulting those members of the public about any other ideas for a field, he suggested that two other options, neither of which involved OCC, should be pursued to complete the picture. These were: the possible sale by the Cox family of about 2 acres to the west of the Cherbury Camp footpath and the possible sale of land to the north of the furniture warehouses in Longworth Road.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Michael Cox about the former and to Mrs Daphne Saunders about the latter. He was also asked to make an informal approach to the VWHDC planners about the prospects of getting planning permission for change of use from agricultural to leisure land. Once this information was available, **The Clerk** would put together a discussion paper containing costings of all the options (including the cost of fencing etc.), information on the planning situation and prospects of funding. This information should be available so that the public could bring their views to the next Parish Council meeting.

Mr Lindsey had earlier referred to a recent circular about registration of new village greens and whether it was relevant to the current situation. **The Clerk** was asked to look into this.

OCHA had written to the Parish Council confirming that their intention to build social housing on the existing playing field remained. The Parish Council was divided on whether to support the OCHA proposal, despite the show of hands at the 11 January 1995 meeting which indicated a positive village attitude to the scheme. In particular, Mrs Cox reported that numerous discussions with her Post Office customers suggested there was a strong body of village opinion against it. The main issue was whether sufficient village inhabitants or dependants could be found to fill them. If this was not the case, fears were expressed as to where tenants, or part-owners, would be found, particularly in the long term. **The Clerk** was asked to seek further information from OCHA, as offered in their letter.

6. QUESTIONS ETC. FROM RESIDENTS

It was reported that the pavement outside "Rosewood" in New Road was in poor condition and could cause injury to pedestrians. **The Clerk** was asked to write to the Highways Authority reporting this. At

the same time he should report the drain cover outside Glebe Cottage and the large number of puddles which form in the road surface in the village after rain.

Mrs Venn again raised the matter of dog fouling which was getting worse. The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council was powerless to take any action unless the offending dog or dogs and owners could be identified.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman read out a letter from Mr Bill Clarke, thanking the Parish Council and villagers for their retirement gifts. **The Clerk** offered to inscribe the book on cricket with suitable words.

The Chairman read out a letter from Henry, Jomilla and Sabina Callaghan, the children of The White House, who had written to thank the Parish Council for their £2 VE-Day coins. **The Clerk** was instructed to acknowledge their letter.

The Hanney Playgroup had written seeking a grant towards the purchase of new tables needed to comply with modern safety standards. As a significant number of the Playgroup members come from Charney Bassett, it was proposed by Mr Lindsey, seconded by Mrs Cox and agreed to donate the cost of one table at £58 plus VAT, or £68.15. **Action - The Clerk.**

The pamphlet "Welcome to Charney Bassett", produced by Mrs Gardiner and Mrs Teale had been produced and copies were distributed to Council members. It was agreed that the cost of production (£74.40) would be met by the Parish Council. **Action - The Clerk.**

In response to a question from Mrs Cox, it was noted that the Parish Council was not proposing any event to mark VJ-Day, although The Chequers was believed to be organising something. **The Clerk** was asked to contact Mr Clarke to see if the British Legion was doing anything.

The Clerk was reminded by Mrs Cox to look into the provision of a notice board cover.

There was unanimous praise for the efforts of Mr Joe Ody in organising a very successful Charney Feast. The final profit was not known, but everyone agreed it had been an excellent day. **The Clerk** was asked to write to Mr Ody congratulating him.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 September 1995 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman