

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCILMINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 1996

PRESENT: Mr C Eld (Chairman)

Mrs J Fry
Mr W Lindsey
Mrs T Teale

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Mrs T Cox. 14 members of the public were in attendance together with Mr Terry Cox, District Councillor.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting
2. Matters arising from those minutes
3. Clerk's Financial Report and setting of the Precept
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 11 November 1995 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

Manor Farm Road: The Clerk had still not had an opportunity to visit Berks. CC archives.

Street Cleaning: The Clerk reported on his discussions with Richard Knight of VWHDC Environmental Dept and it was agreed to drop the idea of hiring a contractor for street cleaning. **The Clerk** was asked to examine the possibility of sharing the services of a street cleaner.

Old Forge Grass: The builder had paid for cutting this grass which would now be done by the owners.

Bus Shelter: Mr Bert Smith suggested removing the front walls from the bus shelter and it was agreed this should be done. **The Clerk** would arrange it.

Any other business: Donations had been paid to CAB and OPFA. The Clerk reported on his discussions with OCC on verge cutting and it was agreed to consider the matter after monitoring the 1996 cutting programme. The Clerk had written to OCC about the A420 and a village speed limit and had a negative response. Mr Cox reported that he had passed the OCC response to VWHDC engineers for comment, especially as the problem seemed to be resources to draw up the necessary legal documents.

Affordable Housing: The outline planning application submitted by OCHA had been discussed by VWHDC on 2/1/96 at which a letter from the Clerk clarifying the Parish Council's position was read out. Mr Cox gave a clear account of the meeting which decided to defer approval, pending further consideration by the Parish Council on the issues which concerned it.

After a long discussion, the Parish Council agreed that it could not give its approval for outline planning without certain assurances that its concerns would be dealt with. **The Clerk** was asked to write to VWHDC planners to explain that the scheme would not be supported (a) as long as the access was to be from Buckland Road and (b) until the form of legal agreement on such matters as landscaping, site

management and catchment area for occupants of the proposed houses had been scrutinised. Mr Cox suggested that it should be possible to provide examples of such agreements covering the special circumstances of an exception site. There was a consensus that the decision could not be rushed as the unresolved matters were a major concern

3. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his report which was adopted on the proposal of Mrs Teale, seconded by Mrs Fry. The question of a donation to the St Katherine's House appeal was considered but **The Clerk** was asked to convey the Parish Council's regret that this was an inappropriate use of the limited funds at its disposal.

The Clerk presented his report on the precept estimate for 1996/97. After some debate a compromise was reached to set the precept at £1,400. This would be adequate for the projected expenditure and would provide a contingency of around £1,500 for possible expenditure on the playing field and/or Manor Farm.

The Parish Council agreed to pay the sum of £40 to the Clerk for his expenses.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk reported that decisions were awaited on: (a) the revised extension to Willow Cottage, (b) Minmere Farm barn conversion and (c) Brilia replacement by a single dwelling. The revised Bagmere Farm bungalow has been approved while the proposal to build a bungalow behind "Jalna" has been refused. The "loft conversion" at "Whitegates" (which has now been demolished) had been approved.

The reason for rejection of the Jalna proposal was queried from the floor and The Clerk produced the refusal letter from VWHDC, rejecting it on grounds of poor access and site cramping.

The Clerk was asked to return the questionnaire on the Oxfordshire Structure Plan indicating that the Parish Council would accept an increase in housing stock in the village of 3 to 5% between 2001 and 2011.

5. PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk had received a verbal response in the affirmative to his letter to VWHDC seeking their views on whether the change of use of 2 acres of agricultural land adjacent to the Cherbury Camp footpath to leisure use would receive planning consent. Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association had provided advice on the preparation of a scheme for fund seeking.

The Clerk had written to OCC seeking an extension to the existing playing field rent until the new field is available and had received an indication that this would be favourably considered.

6. QUESTIONS ETC. FROM RESIDENTS

There were no questions from residents.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk had received a draft licence from The Manor solicitor concerning the leasing of Ock Green which had been circulated to Councillors. Subject to a few minor amendments, **The Clerk** was asked to write back accepting the terms of the licence.

The muddy state of the road to Lyford was raised and **The Clerk** was asked to write to Mr Pike asking whether he could do anything to prevent this happening as it appeared to be an annual occurrence.

Mrs Cox reported by letter that an Alsatian dog owned by Mr Robertson had bitten a villager. The matter had been reported to the police who had taken action. It was noted that the behaviour of the dog should be monitored and any recurrence of this incident should be reported immediately.

Mr Lindsey asked whether VWHDC had ever followed up the question of the legality of planning applications such as that for the LOX airport. **The Clerk** was asked to make suitable inquiries.

Mrs Teale had tendered her resignation as she had moved out of the village. This was accepted with regret by the Chairman who thanked her for stepping into the breach when sufficient candidates for election failed to come forward and for her contribution to the Council's business during her membership of it.

PC Roger Foster had given a warning that police resources would be stretched during policing of the Newbury By-pass protests and that coverage of the village would inevitably be reduced.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 March 1996 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.13 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman