

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 1996

PRESENT: Mr C Eld (Chairman)

Mrs T Cox
Mrs J Fry
Mr W Lindsey
Mrs A Wason-Cooper (from item 4 onwards)

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Col John Walton, County Councillor and 6 members of the public were in attendance.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last meeting.
2. Matters arising from those minutes.
3. Membership of the Council.
4. Clerk's Financial Report.
5. Planning Matters.
6. Playing Field and Affordable Housing.
7. National Spring Clean Week and Best Kept Village Competition
8. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions
9. Any other business.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 10 January 1996 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. Following discussion of the options for progressing this matter, **The Clerk** was asked to approach Thames Water to determine how they got right of way to the sewage farm and to see if they would pay to repair the road.

Street Cleaning: The Clerk had advertised for a street cleaner in the Cherbury News with no success. The search for a street cleaner should continue.

Bus Shelter: As a result of discussions after the meeting, the demolition of the front walls was postponed. The matter would be raised at the Parish Assembly.

Affordable Housing: The Clerk had conveyed the Council's views to VWHDC planners and had circulated sample agreements to Councillors. OCHA had not submitted a revised scheme.

Clerk's Financial Report: The Clerk had written to the St Katherine's House appeal.

Planning Matters: The Clerk had returned the Oxfordshire Structure Plan questionnaire

Any Other Business: The Ock Green lease had been agreed and a bill for £1 rent had been received.

The Clerk had discussed the Lyford Road with Mr Pike who explained that the problem should be resolved later in the year with the construction of a slurry lagoon at Lyford Manor Farm which would eliminate the need to transport muck along the Lyford Road in the winter.

The Clerk had asked Mr Cox whether VWHDC were following up the question on LOX raised at the last meeting. Discussions were continuing with central Government.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman explained that with the departure of Mrs Teale from the village, there was a vacancy on the Council and both Mrs Amanda Wason-Cooper and Mr Albert Lemmer had expressed interest in filling it. In order to avoid an expensive election, he proposed that Mrs Wason-Cooper be co-opted as she had been first to express an interest; Mrs Cox seconded the proposal. The Chairman explained that Mr Lemmer had valuable experience in running a cricket club and he hoped he could be persuaded to assist in the procurement of a new playing field, while waiting for another vacancy on the Council to materialise.

4. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his report which was adopted on the proposal of Mrs Cox, seconded by Mrs Fry.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk reported that approval had been given for: (a) the revised extension to Willow Cottage, (b) Minmere Farm barn conversion and (c) Brilia replacement by a single dwelling.

The Chairman commented that the house to replace Whitegates ("Coral Oaks") was so huge that it was out of character with the rest of the houses in Longworth and Buckland Road and the Council's objections to the proposal had obviously been entirely justified. Col. Walton commented that the development could be raised at the next planning seminar as a good example of the planners failing to listen to Parish Councils.

6. PLAYING FIELD AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Clerk had now received a written 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 was likely to receive planning consent. The Clerk had also received a letter from OCC confirming they were willing to extend the existing playing field lease until the end of 1996.

It was agreed that the issue of a playing field could now move to the stage where villagers' views could be sought at the Parish Assembly. Mr Lindsey commented that VWHDC "approval", a lease extension and support of the VWHDC for leisure facilities were all factors in the Parish Council's favour.

The Clerk was asked to obtain an update on the affordable housing scheme for the Parish Assembly.

7. NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN WEEK AND BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

It was agreed to take part in National Spring Clean Week, after which a decision could be made on whether to enter the Best Kept Village Competition, although it was generally felt that this was not likely, due to the unfortunate number of eyesores in the village. Arrangements for the spring clean would be advertised.

8. QUESTIONS ETC. FROM RESIDENTS

It was reported that there were two beehives adjacent to the Cherbury Camp footpath and bees from them had stung a footpath user some 30 times after a fire had enraged them. It was pointed out that the landowner was responsible for maintaining footpaths and Mrs Cox was asked to discuss with Mr Bill Humphries, the bee keeper, the removal of the hives from their current location.

[Clerk's Note: Under Section 137 of the Highways Act 1980, criminal proceedings may be taken against a landowner or any other person causing a "nuisance" to members of the public using a footpath. A

nuisance is any act which puts the reasonable user of the footpath "in fear of injury". This would suggest that the keeping of bees alongside a footpath is causing a nuisance.]

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In the light of the number of matters to be placed on the agenda for the Parish Assembly, **The Clerk** was asked to prepare a "Green Paper" of the issues to be posted in every villager's letter box.

Mr Paske had still not resolved the problem with his wall which was now the subject of a removal order, despite no objection to it from the Parish Council or the majority of villagers. A site meeting was due to be held on Tuesday, 26 March 1996 and **Mrs Cox** would attend to explain the Parish Council's views.

Mr Lindsey asked whether the lack of a verge between the parish boundary and the Goosey turn could be rectified before there was an accident to a pedestrian. As this part of the road is in Goosey parish, **The Clerk** was asked to contact the Goosey Clerk to see if they could get something done.

It was agreed to sponsor the one yard of the Royal British Legion Great Poppy Chain at a cost of £36 and to join the Oxfordshire Branch of the CPRE at an annual subscription of £17.50.

From the list of meetings read out by The Clerk, the Chairman announced he would attend the police presentation at Witney on 18 June 1996.

Mrs Wason-Cooper agreed to fill the vacancy for a Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee.

The Clerk reported that Mount Pleasant had again been broken into. Interest in buying the property continued apace but the owner appeared to have gone to ground.

10. NEXT MEETING

The Annual Parish Assembly would be held on Wednesday, 24 April 1996 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8 May 1996 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.49 p.m.

Signed.....

Chairman