

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2000

PRESENT:

Mr G Beer (Chairman)
Mrs B Douglas
Mrs E Dahele

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Mrs J Bath, Mr J Harper and Mr Terry Cox, District Councillor. Nine members of the public attended.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the meeting on 12 July 2000 and matters arising.
2. Clerk's Financial Report.
3. Planning Matters
4. Playing Field.
5. Charney Mill.
6. Clerk's Correspondence.
7. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions.
8. Any Other Business.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 12 JULY 2000 AND MATTERS ARISING.

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk had obtained pre-paid cards for reporting highway defects and had placed some in the Post Office.

The long grass in front of the bench on Ock Green had been cut.

The Clerk was awaiting amendments to the Welcome to Charney leaflet.

The Clerk had written to Councillor Marjorie Evans expressing concern at the possible increase in the price of Charney Field, with all its implications, and had copied the letter to Councillors Terry Cox and Brian Hook.

The Clerk had informed the Vale that the Council was generally in favour of the scheme to charge for collection of garden rubbish. The Council agreed to buy 50 bags for sale by Mrs Cox in the Post Office.

The Clerk publicised the result of the Best Kept Village Competition in the Cherbury News.

The Clerk had obtained information on making tree preservation orders. It was agreed to do a tree survey during the next village clean-up.

The Clerk had not been able to decide how to deal with the damaged "No Parking" sign on the Green. Mr Rumble offered to obtain a quotation from Falcon Signs for a replacement.

Matters arising from the Village College discussion were taken as a separate item (see below).

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his financial report, which was adopted. Responding to a question from Mrs Douglas, The Clerk agreed that a number of items were over budget, but the contingency and savings in other items, notably grass cutting, would compensate for this.

3. PLANNING MATTERS

The Council had examined four applications since the last meeting. Alterations to The White House, The Chequers and Charney Manor had been supported. The first two have been approved, a decision on the last is awaited. Councillors had met with Mr and Mrs Vacher who had briefed them on their proposals for Minmere Farm. This did not move the Council from its initial response, which was to object to an inappropriate

development. The matter now goes to public inquiry on 19 September 2000. A proposal for a new garage at Green Farm has been received.

The Clerk had learned about a proposed grain dryer in West Hanney, which would involve the movement of HGVs, possibly through Charney Bassett. It was agreed that this would result in a highly undesirable environmental impact. Accordingly, **The Clerk** was asked to write to the planners to inform them, in no uncertain terms, that any proposal to route HGVs to or from the dryer through the village would be unacceptable.

4. CHARNEY FIELD

The Clerk had received a letter from OCC offering the field for a purchase price of £26,500, including the Bridle Path. In a site meeting, councillors raised concerns about the definition of Bridle Path and local residents appeared to contradict OCC's account of its status. There were further concerns about the ownership of the trees at the end of Bridle Path and the liability for damage resulting from a tree falling. The Clerk was asked to return to OCC to try and resolve these matters before proceeding. It would obviously benefit the Parish Council if legal matters could be resolved at OCC's expense before the Parish Council needed to engage legal advice. It would be necessary to arrange a site meeting and survey to resolve boundaries before the Parish Council could commit to purchase.

5. CHARNEY MILL

The Clerk had pursued the question of the insurance of The Mill with OCC and awaited their response.

The Clerk had contacted the Environment Agency about restoration of water through Charney Mill and they stated that they hoped to do a feasibility study during the 2001/2002 financial year.

6. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

A site meeting with the Vale Council had been arranged for Tuesday 19 September to discuss the Amenity Tree Planting Scheme and its application to Charney Field.

The Clerk had received an invitation to the Council from M. Foltier, the new owner of Sedges Farm to come and see the progress he was making in setting up an equestrian centre. With M. Foltier's agreement he had extended the invitation to Dr Myatt, Chairman of Denchworth Parish Meeting. It was suggested that 16th or 23rd of October would be suitable and **The Clerk** was asked to contact M. Foltier again.

The Clerk had received a letter from Thames Valley Police appealing for a contribution to the cost of a speed detection device. It was agreed to donate the sum of £20.

A letter had been received from Abingdon CAB in which it hoped that the Council would see fit to continue to support its work, possibly with a higher grant than before. It was agreed to consider this when a formal grant appeal was received.

The Council briefly discussed two letters from OCC, one concerning bus shelters and the other Ring-a-Ride services in the county. Neither required a response.

7. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

In response to a question about the Old School, the Chairman reported that he and Mrs Dahele had met Mr Ronald McBain to discuss his plans. He had a number of options for developing the site and his yard but was not proposing any immediate action. He would like to demolish the school building but had been prevented from doing so by the planners. He agreed to clear up the site without removing all the greenery. He would put up a new fence around the building within the next few weeks.

The footpath past McBain's yard was again overgrown and **The Clerk** was asked to see if this could be cleared again.

Mrs Adamson reported that a stray dog had been seen in the vicinity and co-incidentally she had experienced dog fouling, actually on the steps of her house. **The Clerk** was asked to report this in the Cherbury News. He pointed out that if a stray dog was spotted, the Vale Dog Warden should be contacted to take action.

It was reported that the ditch beyond Ock Bridge was being filled with spoil, a considerable quantity of which had been dumped in that area over a long period. The Clerk was asked to see if Ms Quirke could shed any light on this.

Mr Paske asked whether the Parish Council was taking any action during the fuel crisis, for example to ensure Meals on Wheels were kept operating. The Clerk, backed by the Chairman, pointed out that the Parish Council had no remit in this area and any problems should be referred to and dealt with by Social Security.

The question of replacement of street signs was raised and the Chairman reported that Charney was on the list for this but funds had run out for this year.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The railings around Ock Green needed painting and **The Clerk** was asked to see if this could be arranged.

The autumn village clean up would be held on Saturday morning, 4 November 2000 at 10.00 a.m.

9. VILLAGE COLLEGE

Costing had been received for the installation of a telephone line. The Village Hall Committee had agreed to pay the installation costs, as an improvement to the Hall facilities. An appeal for a grant from the Charney and Lyford Education Trust for the running costs (£255 per annum) had been made. This meant that the Parish Council would only be asked to contribute to the running costs if the Trust appeal was unsuccessful and in the event that this happened, the Council would be convened to discuss its contribution.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8 November 2000 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.17 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....
Chairman