

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2000

PRESENT:

Mr G Beer (Chairman)
Mrs B Douglas
Mrs J Bath
Mrs E Dahele
Mr J Harper

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Also in attendance were Mr Terry Cox, District Councillor and three members of the public.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the meeting on 13 September 2000 and matters arising.
2. Clerk's Financial Report.
3. Planning Matters
4. Playing Field.
5. Charney Mill.
6. Village College.
7. Clerk's Correspondence.
8. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions.
9. Any Other Business.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2000 AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Mr Rumble had obtained a quotation from Falcon Signs for a No Parking notice on The Green. While the sign was suitable, the fixing posts would be obtrusive and it was agreed to defer this matter to a later meeting.

The footpath past McBain's yard is passable but will need clearing again in the Spring

The Clerk duly reported the dog fouling in the Cherbury News.

OCC have no funds to paint Ock Green railings, some posts of which are rotten. **The Clerk** had determined that replacement of the railings would probably qualify for a Village Improvement Scheme grant and was asked to follow this up. It was suggested that the No Parking on the Green sign might also qualify. Street signs were still on the Vale list for replacement but funds were not yet available.

The autumn village clean up was held on 4 November 2000 but the working party found very little litter. **The Clerk** was asked to record, in the Cherbury News, thanks to those who turned out and those who had responded to the appeal to tidy their own patches. There had been a noticeable reduction of overgrown hedges although there were still some which needed attention and councillors would talk to the owners of these.

Mr McBain had honoured his promise to tidy up the Old School site and **The Clerk** was asked to write thanking him.

The donation to Thames Valley Police towards a speed detection device had been paid.

The Clerk reported that he had delayed ordering green sacks as he had received a number of adverse comments on the cost of the scheme from people least able to afford it. After a prolonged discussion, to which Mr Cox made a valuable contribution, it was agreed that the scheme was unworkable in Charney Bassett and The Clerk should inform the Vale Council that the Council no longer proposed to take part. Mr Cox informed the meeting that facilities were available to the elderly or infirm, on application to the Vale Council, for "back door" collections of bins or bags to be made. **The Clerk** was asked to advertise this in the Cherbury News. The new scheme for disposal of bulky waste items was mentioned by The Chairman and Mr Cox.

Other matters arising were dealt with under agenda items.

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his financial report, which was adopted. The report shows an artificially high balance for two reasons - the Charney and Lyford Trust grant (£515) for the Village College and a saving of around £300 on the grass-cutting budget. The latter would be useful in helping to pay for Charney Field clearance.

3. PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk duly wrote to the planners about HGVs to or from the proposed Hanney grain dryer; there has been no response so far as the matter has yet to be resolved by the planners.

The Council met with M. Foltier of Lyford Stud on 23 October to hear his proposals for setting up an equestrian centre. The report on the visit has been sent to the planners and Environmental Health at Vale of White Horse Council and to OCC and Councillor Cox. **The Clerk** was asked to write to M. Foltier expressing thanks for his hospitality and to send him a copy of the Council's report.

There was a discussion of the appalling state in which the site had been left by Mr Taylor and concern was expressed that little or no action was taken in response to numerous environmental complaints. It was apparent from the debris remaining that little attention had been paid to the welfare of the pigs. The state of the site suggested that there must have been a real risk to public health from the blatant disregard for basic hygiene in what was, in effect, a food production unit. Mr Cox offered to seek a response to the report from officials in the Vale of White Horse Council who had been responsible for monitoring activities at the site. However, it seemed that there were divisions of responsibility between Government departments and this may have allowed Mr Taylor to get away with the one relatively light fine which he had received during his tenure. **The Clerk** was asked to discuss the matter with the RSPCA to see if they could ensure Mr Taylor was not embarking on a similar (third) venture somewhere else.

Three applications have been resolved since the last meeting. The alterations to Charney Manor and an extension at Jalna have been approved, the garage at Green Farm has been rejected.

The Chairman and Mrs Douglas had attended the first day of the public inquiry into the proposed development at Minmere Farm and had made oral representations; the Chairman had also attended the second day. The outcome is not yet known and awaits the report of the Inspector. The Chairman commented that he was pleased that Mrs Jane Fry attended and engaged in the democratic process to determine this planning appeal.

The Council had met to discuss the Draft Local Plan for 2011 and had made a submission on the particular point that development in small villages such as Charney Bassett should be even more tightly controlled. The submission had been acknowledged.

4. CHARNEY FIELD

A site meeting had been held to discuss the Vale Amenity Tree Planting Scheme and its application to Charney Field. An outline plan was agreed which would be implemented as soon as the Field purchase was completed. Mrs Dahele pointed out that we should have had a list of the trees proposed for planting and **The Clerk** was asked to chase this. In case completion was further delayed, The Clerk had alerted OCC to the desirability of planting in anticipation of completion. The Clerk had also written to OCC to tell them of the poor condition of the trees at the end of Bridle Path and they had agreed to investigate and lop of necessary. The Parish Council wished to ensure there was no liability for damage resulting from a tree falling before proceeding with the sale.

The Clerk had sought tenders from two solicitors to represent the Council, only to find that costs are virtually the same, regardless of solicitor. The Council accepted the opinion of The Clerk that the bid from John Mant

of Wantage, which included an additional item for a Common search costing £6, was the better of the two and he should be engaged. It was suggested that the Bridle Path should be included in the searches.

5. CHARNEY MILL

WS Atkins had written to The Clerk offering two options for ownership of The Mill: freehold or leasehold with a 99-year lease, both subject to OCC approval. The latter would resolve the question of what to do if The Mill were to be seriously damaged because the leasehold could then be returned to OCC. This would effectively remove the problem of insurance. The Council agreed that either option would be acceptable with a preference for the latter and The Clerk was asked to convey this view to OCC.

This latest offer effectively removed the last hurdle before serious negotiation of the sale of the Mill. It was therefore agreed that it was opportune for **The Clerk** to write to Ms Quirke of Mill Cottage to seek her views on the purchase before final Council commitment. Mr Harper agreed to deliver the letter to Ms Quirke personally to emphasise that the Council wished to be a good neighbour. When he met her, he could enquire about the dumping of spoil at the entrance to Mill Cottage.

The Council discussed the proposal by the Environment Agency to undertake a feasibility study into restoration of water through Charney Mill costing approx. £10,000. Mr Harper proposed that this was excessive and unnecessary and it was agreed that he should approach the EA to find a cheaper, more pragmatic way of proceeding.

6. VILLAGE COLLEGE

The Charney and Lyford Education Trust had granted £515 towards the costs of connecting the Village Hall to the telephone network. The telephone lines have been installed.

Mrs Dahele reported that there had been a disappointing response by Abingdon College, who had yet to apply for funds for the laptop computers needed for the courses. They had written to the Chairman apologising for this delay but had also confirmed their commitment to the scheme. Courses are now likely to start early in the New Year. An open day would be held to invite villagers to see what was on offer and a date of 8 January 2001 has been provisionally fixed for this event. Publicity would be managed by Abingdon College.

7. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

Letters had been received from Abingdon CAB, WRVS and South and Vale Carers Centre, appealing for grant aid. It was agreed to donate £25 to all three of these charities.

The Charney and Lyford Educational Trust had written asking whether the Council wished Mrs Joanne Scott to continue as Trustee, or whether some other nomination should be made. Mrs Douglas expressed the view that better contact with the Trust would be gained by nominating another councillor as Trustee. After discussing the pros and cons of this, **The Clerk** was asked to determine whether Mrs Scott was prepared to continue and if so her nomination should be renewed.

The Issues Paper for the OCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review and the Green Paper on Modernising Local Government Finance had both been circulated but there were no comments to be made on either of these documents.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that, once again, collection of recycling material in Longworth Road had become erratic. **The Clerk** was asked to draw this to the attention of Vale of White Horse Council.

Mrs Douglas reported that there were grass cuttings on Ock Green and over the adjacent wall, which had apparently been there for some time. These were unsightly and the practice should be stopped, if the culprits were found. **The Clerk** was asked to report this matter in the Cherbury News.

The Chairman reminded councillors that Mr Robert Jackson MP would visit Charney Field on Friday 10 November at 2.30. **The Clerk** had already sent him a brief on the Field but was asked to produce an additional brief to include the other Council activities in Charney including the Village Hall refurbishment, the purchase of The Mill and the Village College.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10 January 2001 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. The Chairman tendered his apology in advance for being unable to attend this meeting.

The Clerk reminded councillors that the January meeting was used to set the precept for the following financial year. He undertook to circulate his precept paper early so that the Chairman and any other councillor intending to be away around that time could make comments. It would be satisfactory for the precept to be decided by a quorum of three, should that arise.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.47 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....
Chairman