

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11 JULY 2001

PRESENT:

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

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Nine members of the public attended. The Chairman welcomed newly elected County Councillor Andy Crawford to the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising.
2. Clerk's Financial Report.
3. Planning Matters
4. Charney 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 LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman. All the matters arising were under agenda items.

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his financial report which included an account of expenditure on the Village College. It was noted that after paying for the use of the Hall by the College, the balance of the grant from the Charney and Lyford Educational Trust would be £20.65. The report was approved.

It was agreed to pay three invoices: for grass cutting, for materials used to produce flower troughs and for the use of the Hall by the Village College. The last would be paid from the CLET grant.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

An application for modifications to the garage at New House, Bridle Path had been received and no Council comments were made on it. Approval had been granted to the erection of a house at Green Acres and to a conservatory at The Old Stables. Both these works are in hand.

5. CHARNEY FIELD

Signed copies of the purchase agreement had been exchanged with OCC and Charney Field now effectively belongs to the Parish Council. Completion, with full ownership transferred was expected within days. **The Clerk** was asked to write to Robert Jackson MP to inform him of the completion. There were no plans yet for a celebration but Mrs Dahele observed that as 2002 was the Queen's 50th jubilee year, this might be the time to arrange one.

The Clerk had written to OCC requesting repair of the railings at the junction of the Bridle Path and Main Street but to date there had been no reply which could reveal ownership of these features. Mr Harper had not heard from them either. **The Clerk** was asked to follow this up.

There was a long discussion on the proposal to ask the Village Hall Committee to undertake management of Charney Field. The main reasons why this proposal was being made were the charitable status of the Committee and the difficulty of assembling a new committee solely for Field management. Mrs Douglas was concerned at the possible conflicts of interest which could arise from a single committee but was reassured that this would be taken into account in the way the committee was structured. She believed there were villagers who might be prepared to get involved with the Field, but not the Village Hall. The Chairman accepted this could be the case but believed a working arrangement could be devised to allow for this. Such an arrangement was a detail for the Committee to thrash out, as was the question of a new name for the Committee.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs Gildersleeves, Secretary of the Village Hall Committee and formally invite the Committee to undertake this extension to its remit.

The Clerk had arranged for tree lopping to be carried out at the south-east corner of the Field where a large branch was hanging dangerously over the Bridle Path. OCC had agreed to pay for this work as a condition of the Parish Council's acceptance of the sale agreement. As damage caused by recent storms had revealed a badly decayed tree, **The Clerk** was asked to suggest to OCC that they may wish to ask their expert to re-inspect the trees.

The Council viewed with concern the threat to the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme and hence funding for the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment (TOE), revealed in a letter from TOE. **The Clerk** was asked to respond to a TOE request to write to Robert Jackson MP expressing, as a major beneficiary of TOE funding, concern at the threat. County Councillor Crawford, from the floor, observed that although there was a threat to TOE, the funding for such schemes as Charney Field could revert to OCC.

6. CHARNEY MILL

The Clerk had had a telephone conversation with a consultant to the Environment Agency who was preparing a report prior to assessing options for restoring water to the Mill. This topic is back on the EA agenda.

7. VILLAGE COLLEGE

The Council considered a draft letter to Abingdon and Witney College, raising matters arising from the running of the College. Mrs Dachele explained the background and felt it was necessary to write formally to ensure there was full understanding on the way the College would be managed in the future. Subject to a minor amendment, the draft was approved and **The Clerk** was asked to send it.

The College had an open day as part of the Village Feast on 7 July 2001. A press release written by the Clerk had produced a news item in the Wantage and Grove Herald.

It was agreed that an application on behalf of the Parish Council for a grant from the Charney and Lyford Educational Trust for continuing the College should be made through the Village Hall Committee and **The Clerk** was asked to do this. It was agreed to review the College at the end of each academic year.

8. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had received an application for a grant towards the cost of running "2001: A Health Odyssey" a health watch day organised by three local medical practices in Wantage and open to the whole community. It was agreed to make a donation of £10.00.

9. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

It was reported that the part of the Field where the trees were being lopped was once the village tip and this could provide an interesting archaeological site if work is carried out there in the future.

Mrs Gildersleeves asked whether it could be recorded that the Village Hall Committee appreciated the support of villagers for the Feast. **The Clerk** was asked to mention this in his routine Cherbury News report.

It was reported that once again the hedge at the junction of New Road and Buckland Road was overgrown and presented a hazard to road traffic, due to reduced visibility around the corner. **The Clerk** was asked to report this to OCC and to request it be cut. While discussing hedges, it was observed that there are several places in the village where hedges overhang the pavement and cause problems for old and disabled people. **The Clerk** was asked to mention this in his Cherbury News report and appeal to hedge owners to trim them where necessary.

Mr Daghish asked whether the post box and telephone box could be repainted as they are both in poor condition. **The Clerk** was asked to look into this.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Douglas expressed concern at the apparent increase in parking on The Green. The Clerk reminded councillors that a slip for placing under windscreen wipers, asking offenders not to do it again, was available from him. **The Clerk** was asked to have a discreet word with Mr Callaghan in the White House to determine the boundary of his drive and The Green.

Mrs Bath again asked whether anything could be done to restore the railings on Ock Green. **The Clerk** undertook to look again for a suitable contractor to do the work which would qualify for an 80% grant from the Village Improvement Scheme administered by the Vale Council.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12 September 2001 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.48 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....
Chairman