

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2001

PRESENT:

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

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Five members of the public attended. Apologies had been received from Mr Terry Cox and Mr Andrew Crawford.

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, subject to a minor amendment that it was Mrs Douglas who referred to the Queen's jubilee in 2002 and not Mrs Dahele. All matters arising were under agenda items except the painting of the post and telephone boxes and the cutting of the hedge at the New Road/Buckland Road junction which **The Clerk** had not yet dealt with.

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his financial report which included an account of expenditure on the Village College. Although the balance of the grant from the Charney and Lyford Educational Trust was only £20.65, it was agreed to pay the BT bill of £65.92 in anticipation of a further CLET grant or a refund from Abingdon and Witney College, or both. Mr Rayner's bill for the tree work on Charney Field had been passed to OCC for payment. It was agreed to pay the solicitor's fees and the OPFA membership fee. The report was approved.

In response to a question from Mrs Adamson, from the floor, The Clerk agreed that there might be scope for a reduction in insurance premiums as both the Council and the Village Hall Management Committee paid for insurance. He intended to discuss this with Mr Mark Peters to resolve this.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

The only significant application received since the last meeting was a replacement for "Pennar" in Longworth Road, to which the Council had objected. It was believed that this would go to the Planning Committee and a number of residents from Longworth Road had indicated they would attend to make their objections known.

It was noted that the hedge between Rectory Farm House and the green behind the bus shelter had been replaced with a wall. The Clerk reported that the hedge was badly diseased and the Vale planners had accepted there was no need for planning permission to remove it. It was, however, interesting to note that removal of

hedges bordering a village green or common land does require permission and the status of the green behind the bus shelter was not known. **The Clerk** was asked to look into this and the status of all other pieces of grass around the village. It was observed that the electricity sub-station behind the bus shelter was an eyesore.

The question was again asked about the new barn at Minmere Barn and the Clerk reported that this had been approved by the planners as an agricultural development which did not need planning permission.

5. CHARNEY FIELD

Completion of the purchase with full ownership transferred was achieved on 13 July 2001. The registration process is under way and this is due to be completed by the end of September 2001..

Mr Harper had discussed the railings at the junction of the Bridle Path and Main Street with OCC who indicated they would not repair them. Mr Harper said he and his neighbour would carry out the repair.

With the completion of the purchase of the Field, discussion turned to ways of celebrating this. Mrs Adamson reported on the decision taken by the Management Committee to arrange a firework display and meal on 4 November 2001, the latter as part compensation for the washed-out meal on The Green. The details were largely sorted out except for the cost of the display. Mr Harper proposed and Mrs Douglas seconded that the sum of £400 should be set aside for this from Council funds, which had always had a "celebration element" built in. This was carried unanimously. The Council congratulated the Committee on this initiative.

The Clerk agreed to seek competitive tenders for cutting the field on a per-cut basis. He would establish ownership of the hay bales stored on the Field.

The Clerk had responded, on behalf of the Council, to a TOE request to write to Robert Jackson MP expressing, as a major beneficiary of TOE funding, concern at the threat to the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. Mr Jackson had replied, somewhat pessimistically, and his response had been circulated to councillors.

6. CHARNEY MILL

There had been no progress on the leasing of the Mill.

7. VILLAGE COLLEGE

Mrs Dahele reported on the forward plans for the College which had had a very successful first term. There would be three IT classes as before, for beginners, intermediate and for Internet and e-mail, all starting before the end of September. Some 12 or 13 people had expressed an interest in conversational French and she was looking into the possibility of holding this in the more comfortable surroundings of the Manor after building alterations there had been completed at the end of the year. Around 10 people had expressed an interest in Yoga and this could also be a course in 2002.

8. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The police had invited Parish Councils to join the Countrywatch scheme to ensure that information on crimes affecting the countryside could be passed to villagers. Mr Harper agreed to take on the role of village representative on the Countrywatch net.

9. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Adamson asked whether the Council had received any information on the possible creation of a new freight depot on the Steventon Depot site and whether there were any traffic implications for Charney Bassett in this. The Council had not received any information and the Chairman felt that there would be no traffic implications with the proximity of the A34 meaning that routing lorries through Charney Bassett would be most unlikely.

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** had reported this to OCC with a request to cut it but this had not yet been done and should be chased.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk had discussed the replacement of the Ock Green railings with Mr Terry Morgan who intended to put in a quotation for doing the work. The Clerk would also contact Jonathan Terry who was interested in quoting.

Mrs Rumble asked whether the visibility at Ock Bridge on the Lyford Road could be improved by hedge trimming. There was general concern at the lack of visibility at junctions caused by infrequent cutting but The Clerk observed that this was a reflection of the reduction in the OCC Highways maintenance budget. The Clerk had reported the re-appearance of the dip in the road to the A415 just after North Cottages.

Mr Harper reminded The Clerk that the stream along the Bridle Path had been filled in, apparently to allow access for heavy plant and this should be reported to the EA.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14 November 2001 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

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

Signed.....
Chairman