

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2002

PRESENT:

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

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Apologies had been received from Mr Harper and District Councillor Terry Cox. Five members of the public were present.

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.

The Chairman opened the meeting, on the anniversary of the New York Trade Centre terrorist attacks, by expressing condolences, on behalf of the Council, to those who lost loved ones in the atrocities.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk had met Mr Albert Rayner and had invited him to become "village tree surgeon", an offer he accepted. The Clerk had established that planning permission was not required for trimming the lilac tree by the bus shelter and Mr Rayner had been asked to carry this work out.

Mr Harper had spoken to Mr John Daghish who had agreed to replace the seat on the Village Green.

All other matters arising were on the agenda.

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his Financial Report, observing that the budget had already been exceeded but there was no cause for concern. There was currently one matter to be resolved which would have an effect on the Council's expenditure. The application for the jubilee celebration grant had been rejected as it was made retrospectively. The Clerk believes this was a misunderstanding on the part of the Vale Council and has appealed against the decision. This is due to be resolved at a meeting on 3 October; the Clerk will determine how to lobby for reversal of this decision. The grant applied for was £371.67 and if the appeal is unsuccessful, this sum will have to be found from the precept. The report was adopted.

The Clerk had invited Mr Leaver to act as internal auditor for the Council. Mr Leaver had accepted and The Clerk had written back to Mr Leaver accepting his terms of engagement.

It was noted that, as a result of the jubilee celebrations, the Council had acquired bunting. It was agreed that this would be given to Charney Hall & Field Trust (CHAFT) for use at suitable events.

Mrs Rumble, street cleaner, had requested the purchase of a new wheelbarrow. She had sought prices from at least four sources and had concluded that Haynes of Challow offered the best deal. It was agreed that this should be purchased.

3. PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk had written again to the Chief Executive of the Vale of White Horse District Council, Mr Terry Stock concerning the Council's complaints about the way approval was given for the replacement for "Pennar" in Longworth Road. It was agreed that this second reply still failed to address the Council's concerns and **The Clerk** was asked to discuss the matter with OALC before deciding how to take the matter forward. Meanwhile, Mr Stock should be informed that the Council had discussed his reply and had found it unsatisfactory.

The retrospective application for the balcony at The Chequers was to be considered at a Development Control Committee meeting on 16 September. It was agreed that it was unnecessary for a councillor to attend but **The Clerk** was asked to write to the planners reiterating the Council's earlier view that this application should be rejected.

The appeal against the refusal to grant planning consent for a 2 metre high wall at "Coral Oaks" would be heard at an Informal Hearing on 3 January 2003. **The Clerk** was asked to find out more about what this involved and why the hearing was so delayed.

The Chairman asked if the Council had been informed of the planning decision over the large house at Pusey. The Clerk had not received any notification of the decision but would make enquiries as to the outcome.

4. CHARNEY FIELD

Upgrading the footpath from Buckland Road to the Stanford bridle path had gone ahead although formal notification of the change was awaited. It was agreed to ask CHAFT to erect a temporary barrier, possibly in the form of a tape, to prevent further encroachment of horses onto the Field.

Mrs Metcalf had reported a dead tree on footpath No. 3 on which children were climbing, risking injuring themselves if they fell on her shed. The Clerk had established that the responsibility for the tree lay with OCC but as there was no immediate risk to footpath users, they were not prepared to meet the full cost of removing the tree but would pay 50%. **The Clerk** was asked to get an estimate from Mr Rayner for this work and to arrange the 50% payment from OCC; the Council would meet the other 50%.

The Clerk was asked to speak to Mr Baxter about regular cutting of the Field, a request for this having been received from CHAFT. **The Clerk** should also seek quotations and advice from contractors on the most cost-effective way of repairing holes on the Field caused by horse riding.

It was noted that CHAFT were planning a bonfire and firework display on the Field on Sunday 3 November.

5. CHARNEY MILL

Mr John Mant, Council solicitor, had reported that OCC had written to him on 20 August saying they were in the process of drawing up the lease. OCC want to issue a press release on this and **The Clerk** was asked to liaise with them on its content. In response to a question about the roof repairs, The Clerk was able to assure the Council that these would go ahead whether or not the lease had been signed.

The question of possible parking alongside the Mill has not been resolved as the landowner is still not known. It was noted that the pollarding of the willow alongside the Mill made access to this area much easier.

6. VILLAGE COLLEGE

Mrs Dahele reported that the third academic year of the College would start shortly with courses in water colour painting, French conversation, desktop publishing, spreadsheets and yoga (2). Two courses were one person short of the number Abingdon and Witney College require to make the course viable. Mrs Dahele had sought CLET support to meet the shortfall but if this did not materialise she asked whether the Council would be prepared to pay the "missing" persons fees (2 x £45 = £90) to allow the course to go ahead. There was some doubt as to whether this proposal would be acceptable to the College but if it was, it was agreed in principle to do this, using the surplus funds built up in the Village College account.

Mrs Dahele said that despite her proposals for a revision of the way the Village College is run, the existing administrative arrangements did seem to be working and she was therefore content to leave things as they are.

7. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had received an application from Wantage Silver Band for a contribution to their fund raising for new premises. In view of the close association with the Band through its many appearances at Feasts and fetes, it was agreed to give a donation of £50.

8. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

On behalf of Mr Harper, Mrs Dahele reported that he had expressed an interest in a Village Plan and would be following this up using the information pack which The Clerk had obtained. It was agreed that this was worth pursuing.

The Buckland Road/New Road hedge needs cutting again and **The Clerk** was asked to arrange this.

It was revealed that there had been a number of instances when two Airedale dogs from the Manor Farm barn conversions had threatened people, including an instance when Mrs Mills had been bitten and had had her blouse torn. Although this was not strictly a matter in which the Council would normally get involved, **The Clerk** was asked to have a word with PC Martyn Holder, to whom the bite incident had been reported, to see if it had been followed up.

In response to a request from Mr Harper, The Clerk had surveyed potholes in the road to Longworth and had asked OCC Highways to carry out repairs.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 13 November 2002 at 7.30 in the Village Hall. Mr Cox had apologised that he would be unable to attend.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.14 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....