

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 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 J Harper and District Councillor Terry Cox. 7 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. Village Plan
9. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions.
10. Any Other Business.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Mr John Daghish had not yet obtained the oak needed to build a replacement Village Green seat but had located three suitable planks at a cost of £40 each.

Mrs Rumble reported that the old wheelbarrow had been repaired and a replacement was not necessary.

The dead tree on footpath No. 3 had been removed and OCC would be billed for 50% of the total cost of £50.

The Clerk had spoken about the dog bite incident referred to in the last meeting's minutes to PC Martyn Holder who, without going into detail, had dealt with the matter by speaking to the dog owner.

All other matters arising were on the agenda.

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his Financial Report which contained three items to note. The jubilee celebration grant of £371.67 had been recommended for payment but this decision had to be approved by the Vale Executive and Scrutiny Committees before the funds were released. Abingdon and Witney College had paid the telephone charges for the Village College and this account now had a balance of £342.22. Grass cutting costs were well under budget, thanks to free cutting by Mr Fitzgerald-O'Connor and Mrs Large.

It was agreed to make increased donations of £30 each to the South and Vales Carers and to the Royal British Legion, Hanney Branch.

It was also agreed to pay the annual subscription to the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association of £25.

3. PLANNING MATTERS

The retrospective application for the roof garden at The Chequers had been approved by the Development Control Committee amid some confusion.

The Clerk had consulted OALC concerning the Council's complaints about the way approval was given for the replacement for "Pennar" in Longworth Road. Their advice was that there were no grounds for continuing to dispute the Development Control Committee's decision to ignore the Local Plan. The Council noted this with regret. **The Clerk** was asked to copy the OALC ruling to Dr Etherington and Terry Cox.

The Clerk had not yet determined the outcome of the planning application for a large house at Pusey.

The Clerk explained that the Informal Hearing of the appeal against the refusal to grant planning consent for a 2 metre high wall at "Coral Oaks" (scheduled for 3 January 2003) simply meant that it would not take the form of the usual appeal format and would be heard by an Inspector without legal representation.

4. CHARNEY FIELD

The Clerk had not yet spoken to Mr Baxter about regular cutting of the Field. He had discussed the repair of holes on the Field with Mr Fitzgerald-O'Connor who had strongly recommended harrowing in the Spring - a task he was prepared to undertake at no cost to the Council. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Fitzgerald O'Connor thanking him for his help in reducing Council expenditure and in keeping the Field in good order.

Mrs Dahele reminded the Council that it had been intended to erect a suitable marker, possibly in the form of an engraved rock, to mark ownership of the Field; it had also been agreed that a seat or seats would be an attractive addition. Councillors were asked to give some thought to these two items at the next meeting.

The Council expressed pleasure that the Field was being used by villagers and it was particularly pleased at the fireworks party. This was attended by some 170 people, all of whom thoroughly enjoyed themselves. CHAFT was to be congratulated on the organisation of a happy community gathering.

5. CHARNEY MILL

A draft lease is being considered by Peter Seddon of W S Atkins before submitting it to Mr John Mant, Council solicitor in about one week's time. The Clerk had been present at a fact-finding visit of the OCC Director of Cultural Services and had taken the opportunity to lobby him about the legal costs of the lease falling on the Council. Work on the roof repairs awaits a DEFRA licence which has been applied for but the bat expert David Endacott has recommended that the work be delayed until the Spring.

The question of parking alongside the Mill has not been resolved and **Mr Beer** undertook to see if he could find out which member of the Cotterell family owned it. If this failed the Land Registry might be able to help.

6. VILLAGE COLLEGE

Mrs Dahele reported that the third academic year of the College was well under way and there had been no need to call on CLET funds to ensure that all the courses would run. As reported in The Clerk's Financial Report, the balance in the Village College Account now stood at £342.22. The yoga, French conversation and water colour painting classes wanted to continue and there was interest in two new topics: flower arranging and first aid.

7. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk explained the implications of the Freedom of Information Act, details of which had been circulated. He advised that the Council could adopt the Model Scheme for Parish Councils as this would

meet all the Council's requirements and there was no need for a bespoke scheme. The Council agreed to accept this advice and **The Clerk** was asked to inform the Information Commission of this decision.

The Clerk had been informed by OCC Highways that since the repairs to Denchworth Road, the road was no longer "failed". Any "Failed Road" signs would be removed by Highways.

8. VILLAGE PLAN

In the absence of Mr Harper, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

9. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

Mr Rumble asked whether the Council had any comment to make on the letter expressing Mrs Godfrey's personal comments on fireworks which she had posted on the Notice Board and which he found offensive. Not all the councillors had seen the letter but when it was read out, there was unanimous agreement that it did not represent the majority view of villagers, as it claimed, but that the Council would not wish to respond. Mrs Adamson, from the floor, read out a draft response to the letter from CHAFT which the Council believed was a carefully considered, reasonable reply. The general view of the Council was that an annual village event, held at a time when weather and dark nights prevented social intercourse, was a good thing and despite the fact that it involved the noise of a fireworks display, which had been shortened to ten minutes, this in no way represented a nuisance to villagers who had been fully informed of the event well in advance.

There was general agreement that the Stanford landfill site was an environmental disaster and it was not clear that it was giving value for money. **The Clerk** was asked to draw the state of the site to the attention of the Vale Council.

The Clerk was asked to write to OCC Highways concerning the flooding across Longworth Road at the old pig farm.

In response to a question from Mr Lemmer, The Clerk reported that he had had no notification of a planning application from McBains for development of their builders yard in New Road.

Mrs Douglas asked what had happened to the photographs taken at the Jubilee celebrations. The Clerk reported that Mr Paske had handed them to him for safe keeping. **The Clerk** was asked to consult Mr Harper who, it was believed, had some ideas for a permanent exhibition of them in the Village Hall. On the question of the Jubilee, there was unanimous praise for the tree surround which Mr Harper had organised and installed.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Buckland Road/New Road hedge has not yet been cut and **The Clerk** was asked to chase this.

The Chairman reported on a special meeting of OALC which he had attended on behalf of the Council and which declined to agree to increase funding to the National Association for strategic development.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 8 January 2003 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.