

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2003

PRESENT:

Mr G Beer (Chairman)
 Mr J Harper (Vice-chairman)
 Mrs P McGuire
 Mr J Stiles
 Mr S Taylor

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

District Councillor Mrs Elsa Boyce and 5 members of the public were present. An apology had been received from Andy Crawford, County Councillor.

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. Quality Council
9. Residents' Questions.
10. Any Other Business.
11. Next meeting

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk had received and circulated a letter from the Clerk of Charney Manor Trustees and Management Committee about Inner Ock Green maintenance. It was agreed that the proposals in it were acceptable and **The Clerk** was asked to inform the Manor accordingly. **The Clerk** was asked to speak to Mr Baxter about cutting the grass at suitable intervals, especially making a path alongside the mill race.

OCC Highways have agreed to put the pavement in Orchard Close on their list for repairs next year, subject to looking at priorities for limited funds. The Clerk had passed this news on to residents.

BT had agreed to put the telephone box on their list of boxes requiring painting.

Mr Harper reported that he was trying to maintain a dialogue with his contacts in the EA concerning ditch clearance in the village, which did not appear to be entirely satisfactory.

COUNCILLOR BOYCE

At this stage of the meeting, Councillor Boyce was invited to give a report on District Council activities and reported briefly on two government initiatives in which she had recently been involved, namely Youth Service and Pension Credit Reform. She expressed the view that these activities did not appear to be a fruitful use of her time.

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his Financial Report which was adopted. Despite a number of non-budget items of expenditure, the financial position remains healthy. The Council noted that the final instalment of the TOE grant for Charney Field had been received.

The Clerk tabled Section 3 of the Annual Return which completes the audit process for 2002/3. The Council approved and accepted the Annual Return.

3. PLANNING MATTERS

The Council had raised no objection to a planning application for changes and an extension to Green Acres, Longworth Road (since approved on 2 September 2003). The Clerk had determined that the house owner had been mistaken in informing the Chairman that planning had been approved before the deadline for Council comments, having confused Building Regulations approval with planning approval.

The Council had raised no objection to the proposal to create a wildlife pond adjacent to Minmere Barn. There was some detailed discussion and an explanation of the scheme for the benefit of the public present and it was explained that all the relevant agencies had been consulted and had approved the idea, which was exclusively for the owner of Minmere Barn.

Following refusal of an application to remove a steel-framed building at Gunton Barn and replace it with a garage, store and annexe, a revised proposal had been received, apparently very little different from the original. Mr Taylor declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in the application as a neighbour to the proposed development which would be visible from his property. He explained that he had examined the revised proposal in detail and had determined that it had been reduced in height. While accepting that the decision on whether to approve it lay with the Vale Development Control Committee and the 2011 Local Plan, from his personal point of view he would like to see the existing unsightly, steel-framed building demolished as it was not in keeping with other buildings in the vicinity.

The Council agreed that demolition of the steel-framed building would improve visual amenity but they did not wish to see such a large building replacing it. The Clerk was asked to write to the planners with the Council's view that the revised application did not go far enough to meet the objection to the bulk of the original scheme.

4. CHARNEY FIELD

The Clerk has drafted a revised inspection report to take into account comments from inspectors and will prepare an explanatory guide to ensure consistency of reporting. A few snags had been reported and the builders checked the equipment on 8 September; agreeing to undertake remedial work.

The Clerk, in his Cherbury News item, had, yet again, appealed to dog owners to clear up any fouling and take it home for disposal. However, there were reports of continued widespread fouling, not only on the Field but on Bridle Path, Chapel Lane and the Village Green. Suspicions were expressed as to the owner of two fouling dogs but no positive evidence was available. **The Clerk** was asked to produce suitably worded notices to be strategically placed in a further attempt to eliminate this anti-social behaviour and would speak to the relevant official in the Vale about a supply of stickers for posts. Mrs Adamson, from the floor, reported that CHAFT were seriously considering banning dogs from the Field because of the problem. It was agreed that the issue needed careful handling to avoid divisions between groups of villagers.

Mrs Adamson also asked if something could be done about the dumping of garden rubbish on the bonfire site on the Field. It was agreed that this practice ought to be stopped and only permitted for combustible material shortly before the annual bonfire on 2 November. **The Clerk** was asked to look into the placing of suitable notices to this effect. Mrs Adamson also reminded the two Council representatives, Mrs McGuire and Mr Taylor, that the next CHAFT meeting would be on 24 September.

The Clerk had reported the dead oak trees to the Vale Parks Manager. The Vale Council is prepared to replace them and it was agreed to ask them to do this under the Amenity Tree Planting Scheme.

5. CHARNEY MILL

The Clerk had written again to Mr Cotterell about the parking area, work on which awaits his acceptance of the proposed terms of its use. Attempts are continuing to get WS Atkins' contractors to return to the Mill to complete repairs to the weatherboarding and to finish painting the exterior.

6. VILLAGE COLLEGE

At the request of CLET, The Clerk had prepared a review paper setting out the original aims of the VC, its finances and a plan for its future development. This had been circulated to councillors for information and has also been sent to all CLET trustees for discussion at the next CLET meeting on 17 September 2003. The Council noted its content.

The review suggested that a Village College Board should be set up with representatives of the Council and CLET on it. The Council decided to defer discussion of this idea until CLET had had an opportunity to discuss it.

7. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk sought and received assistance with the completion of a questionnaire on OCC services.

8. QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL SCHEME

The Clerk had produced and circulated a briefing paper on the Quality Parish Council Scheme. The paper clearly showed that the Council was currently not qualified to start the accreditation process and as there did not appear to be any advantage in attaining Quality Council status as far as villagers were concerned, it was agreed not to take part in the Scheme. The Clerk undertook to keep a watching brief on the topic and might put forward suggestions at subsequent meetings for filling-in gaps in the Council's procedural documentation. If at any time the Scheme became relevant to the Council's activities and offered real benefits, the Clerk would expect to follow the portfolio route to achieving the necessary qualification.

9. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

Mr and Mrs Rumble asked for permission to prune the lilac tree by the bus shelter. This was granted as it did not require formal planning permission, despite the fact that the tree is in a conservation area (it's too small).

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 November 2003 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.04 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....