

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2004

Present:

Mr G Beer
Mr J Harper
Mrs P McGuire
Mr J Stiles

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

The Clerk had received a letter of resignation from Stafford Taylor who has moved out of the parish and will be moving to France early in the New Year. His resignation was duly received by the Chairman and accepted. **The Clerk** was asked to write to Mr Taylor expressing the Council's gratitude for his contribution to its deliberations during his tenure of office. District Councillor Elsa Boyce and four members of the public attended.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising.
2. Clerk's Financial Report.
3. Planning Matters.
4. Charney Field.
5. CHAFT
6. Charney Mill.
7. Village College.
8. Clerk's Correspondence.
9. Residents' Questions.
10. Any Other Business.

1. MINUTES OF THE 12 MAY MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING.

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

The Clerk reported that decisions are still awaited on the Village Improvement Grant applications towards the replacement of posts and use of the old rails on Ock Green (costing £650) and for seats in village locations.

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his regular financial report. The External Auditors had approved the 2003/4 annual accounts. The report was adopted.

The Chairman asked about the payment for steel sheet. The Clerk explained that this was to improve the safety of the viewing gallery around the mill wheel. This was an item required by the lease and its cost would be covered by a grant from OCC (see Charney Mill item below).

Approval was given for payments for grass cutting, street cleaning and the cost of the inspection of the children's play equipment by RoSPA, which it was agreed was the responsibility of the Council not CHAFT. The Clerk had submitted a claim for expenses of £92.37 incurred by him in procuring items on behalf of the Council and this was approved.

3. PLANNING MATTERS

There were no outstanding planning matters. The outcome of the appeal against refusal to convert the outhouse at Gunton Barn is still not yet known.

4. CHARNEY FIELD

The result of the application to TOE for a £1,000 grant to repair Bridle Path for disabled access awaits the September TOE meeting. The Clerk had met a TOE assessor on site who seemed to be positive about the likely success of the application.

Pending the result of the application for a grant towards four benches, The Clerk had obtained two inexpensive seats from B&Q as a stop-gap measure and these had been placed inside the children's play equipment area. The Clerk reported that as a result of an appeal in Charney Chatter, two village families had offered to sponsor a seat each and he had been pleased to accept these offers on behalf of the Council. The exact cost of the seats to the donors would be determined when the result of the grant application towards the costs was known.

The Clerk had delayed writing to the Vale Council about the loss of trees but would do so on the application form for Amenity Tree Planting, which was due for return by 17 September 2004. It was suggested that he should query the size of tree to be planted as smaller trees planted on the Field had a 100% success rate. There were no other suggestions for sites for planting in the village. The Clerk had purchased a 40-gallon plastic drum and this, with the aid of Mr Daglish's trailer, is being used to water the surviving trees. Water is kindly provided by Mr Tim Fitzgerald-O'Connor.

The annual inspection of the children's play equipment required by the insurance company had been carried out and **The Clerk** summarised the resulting report, which he was asked to circulate to councillors.. There were no significant risks with the equipment and only minor maintenance required. The Clerk had rejected RoSPA's recommendations for highway signs and litter bins as being unnecessary in the particular situation of Charney Field.

5. CHARNEY HALL AND FIELD TRUST (CHAFT)

The Clerk had arranged a special meeting between the Council and CHAFT at which the Council was pleased to learn that the "crisis" of CHAFT membership reported at the last meeting had been resolved. CHAFT officers will be appointed at their 13 October meeting but there is no further need for the Council to take any action. Mrs McGuire and Mr Stiles would represent the Council on the CHAFT Committee.

6. CHARNEY MILL

The Clerk has not yet received any response to the application to OCC (Mr Richard Munroe) for a grant towards the costs incurred in meeting the needs of the lease to improve safety and security at the Mill and would raise it with County Councillor Andy Crawford. This grant is for the sum equivalent to the Council's legal bill for the lease.

The Clerk was still awaiting a response to Mr Taylor's survey of the Mill from Grant Audley-Miller, Conservation Officer at the Vale Council before passing the report to the restorers.

The Chairman suggested that Charney Chatter could mention that the Mill is available for public visits.

7. VILLAGE COLLEGE

The Village College is due to resume its ongoing programme this month although Yoga has continued into the summer with Pilates taking over in the prolonged absence of the Yoga tutor. At present there is a question mark over the French Conversation class in the absence of a tutor but this is being addressed. The fall-back position is for the students to continue without a tutor. Classes in Flower Arranging, Willow Weaving and Christmas Decorations will be held later in the year and are attracting full classes.

8. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

As reported at the opening of the meeting, The Clerk had received a letter of resignation from Councillor Stafford Taylor and would arrange for the vacancy arising to be advertised on the notice board immediately.

Unless 10 electors call for an election by 30 September, the vacancy can be filled by co-option. Co-option is by far the preferred option in terms of the cost to the Council. Mr Geoff Rumble had been in touch with The Clerk to indicate his interest in the vacancy.

9. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the residents present. The Chairman commented that residents should be given every encouragement to attend as the matters the Council dealt with should be of interest to residents in general.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Harper raised three matters under this heading: He asked if the "No Parking" signs on the Village Green could be repaired, preferably with twin supporting posts; **The Clerk** was asked to arrange a working party to undertake this task. He asked if the signpost at the junction of Main Street and Lyford road, damaged when a tree fell on it some time ago, could be replaced; **The Clerk** agreed to raise this with OCC Highways again. He reported that a further dump of tyres had taken place on the road to Four Stone Walls and **The Clerk** was asked to report this to the Vale Waste Management Team. This dumping appears to be the result of the introduction of a charge for disposal of tyres as they can no longer be disposed of in land-fill sites.

Mrs Boyce asked to be placed on the distribution list for Charney Chatter. The Clerk agreed with pleasure to do this and to provide Mrs Boyce with back numbers.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 November 2004 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....