

## CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2005

Present: Mr J Harper (Vice-chairman, in the chair)  
Mrs P McGuire  
Mr G Rumble  
Mr J Stiles

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

An apology had been received from Mr G Beer, Chairman and from Andrew Crawford, County Councillor. District Councillor Elsa Boyce and 4 members of the public attended.

#### AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising.
2. Clerk's Financial Report.
3. Setting the Precept for 2005/06
4. Planning Matters.
5. Charney Field.
6. Charney Mill.
7. Village College.
8. Clerk's Correspondence.
9. Residents' Questions.
10. Any Other Business.

#### 1. MINUTES OF THE 10 NOVEMBER MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved and signed by the Vice-chairman.

The Clerk reported that decisions are still awaited on the Village Improvement Grant applications for the repairs to the railings on Ock Green and for seats in village locations. Mrs Boyce and The Clerk hoped to be able to be present to hear the deliberations over the applications at the Vale meeting.

**The Clerk** has not yet arranged a working party to repair the "No Parking" signs on the Village Green.

**The Clerk** had determined the exact route of the bridle way from the Charney - Gainfield road to Pusey from the definitive map and had asked OCC to inspect it with a view to clearing it; OCC had agreed it would do this. The Clerk had also provided Mr Stiles with a copy from the definitive map of the route of the path from Lyford to the Hanney to Kingston Bagpuize road, confirming its existence. Mr Stiles reported that the gate at the far end of the path was still locked.

#### 2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his regular financial report which was adopted. He tabled the Annual Return for 2003/04 which had been approved by the external auditors with no issues arising. The Council accepted and approved the Return and **The Clerk** will place a notice to this effect on the Notice Board.

Grants of £30 to Abingdon Citizens Advice Bureau and Hanney British Legion and payment of the external auditor's fee of £141 were approved.

#### 3. SETTING OF THE PRECEPT FOR 2005/06

The Clerk's paper on setting the precept was discussed at some length and on a proposal by Mr Rumble, seconded by Mr Stiles, the Council agreed to raise the precept to £2,300 as recommended in the report. This

increase could be justified by the increase in charges from the new audit arrangements and the expected net cost to the Council of the Village Improvement grant projects. Mrs Boyce commented that the increase being asked for would be completely masked by rises in Council tax set by County and District Council requirements.

The Council noted that there were uncertainties in the estimates due to the fact that the two applications for Village Improvement grants had not yet been assessed. However, one uncertainty in the cost of seats was resolved by agreeing that donors should be asked to pay £100 for each seat.

#### 4. PLANNING MATTERS

A retrospective application for a modification to the extension to No. 11 Orchard Close had been received due to the unauthorised conversion of the garage into a room. Residents at the end of Orchard Close had expressed concern about parking due to the loss of the garage. The retrospective scheme showed that the front garden of the residence had been converted into a parking area which should avoid parking problems. **The Clerk** was asked to convey the Council's acceptance of the revised scheme to the Vale Council with the comment that it would expect the property owners to make full use of the new parking area which should be adequate to accommodate two vehicles.

A fourth application to extend the garden of Manor Farmhouse into the adjacent paddock was discussed and councillors were unanimous in objecting to this yet again. Not all the councillors had seen the letter of objection drafted by The Clerk but agreed with his approach. The Vice-chairman asked **The Clerk** to send the letter to councillors and asked councillors to approve or amend it before it was sent to the Vale planners.

#### 5. CHARNEY FIELD

Mr Stiles reported that he had seen a car parked on the Field again, having conveyed a family to play football. It appears that there is no notice at the north entrance to the Field preventing vehicles from proceeding on to the Field and **The Clerk** was asked to draw this to the attention of CHAFT.

Mr Harper reported on the proposal to add an upright stone to the existing stones at Bridle Path entrance. Mr McBain has undertaken to deliver this when, in due course, he collects stones for his new premises.

#### 6. CHARNEY MILL

**The Clerk** has had a discussion with the Environment Agency as a result of which their internal pre-feasibility report on options for diverting water through the Mill will be made available. This is now in the public domain due to the Freedom of Information Act. The EA confirmed that, as any diversion of the River Ock could increase the flooding risk, there were only two possible options, both of them involving pumping, as these would remove this risk. This report will be discussed with the restorers to see if either of the options can be pursued.

The Vice-chairman raised two issues concerning the Mill, namely the parking area and a suitable sign. He believed there had been a proposal to erect a fence around the parking area but this was disputed and was therefore not followed up. He mentioned the provision of a suitable sign on the Mill and The Clerk pointed out that it was the restorers who wanted a sign and they would consult with the Parish Council on the design which would need to be in keeping with the building and surroundings. Permission would be needed from the County Council for the erection of a sign under the terms of the lease.

#### 7. VILLAGE COLLEGE

There was nothing to report on Village College matters. The College is continuing with its normal curriculum.

8. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had no correspondence to report which had not arisen under agenda items.

9. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the residents present.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The trees on the Village Green had been trimmed by the Rumbles. No action had yet been taken over the dead silver birch on Ock Green and a cherry tree by the church which needed reshaping.

The Vice-chairman reported that the trees lost from the Lyford Road had now been replaced by a hedge.

The Vice-chairman suggested that Charney Chatter would benefit from having a wildlife "correspondent" to feed information on village wild life to the Editor. He also felt that there was a need for more input from the Village Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and **The Clerk** (Editor) agreed to talk to Margaret Roberts, who was already encouraged to contribute should there be anything worth reporting. A recent Ringmaster report had drawn attention to two undesirables attempting to extort £30 for a tea towel from vulnerable older folk in Stanford-in-the-Vale and this was sufficiently near to warrant passing this information around the village.

On the question of "wild life" The Clerk reported that an African Grey Parrot had flown into a window at his property and after a brief rest to recover had flown into nearby trees. He asked those present to spread the word of this event because the bird was almost certainly a lost pet.

Mrs Boyce was invited to speak and she chose to report on the re-organisation of Vale officials which was causing a severe reduction in morale with numerous redundancies and officials having to re-apply for their own jobs. She was very concerned at the way this was being conducted.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 March 2005 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Vice-chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....