

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 13 JULY 2005

Present:

Mr J Harper, Vice-chairman
Mrs Penny McGuire
Mr G Rumble
Mr J Stiles

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

An apology had been received from Mr G Beer. County Councillor Melinda Tilley, District Councillor Elsa Boyce and six members of the public also attended.

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. Residents' Questions.
9. Any Other Business.
10. Next meeting

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

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

Work to repair the railings on Ock Green has been completed and paid for but the grant remains to be paid.

2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his regular financial report which had been copied to councillors and this was adopted.

3. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications for the extension of Minmere Bungalow and the replacement of the garage at The White House have been approved. The application to extend Mount Pleasant has been withdrawn.

The appeal against the non-determination of the application to extend the garden at Manor Farm House into the Paddock has been dismissed and planning permission was again refused.

4. CHARNEY FIELD

The gate into the children's play area has been modified with vertical slats in an attempt to prevent a recurrence of the dog fouling reported to the last meeting.

A question was raised about the state of the trees on the Field. John Daglish had been watering them during this hot weather and there was hope the new, younger oaks would survive. The Clerk reported he'd been in touch with the Vale Amenity Tree Planting Scheme and had invited them to come to Charney Field to discuss the line of trees and planting in the coppice which was being cleared. The Council were unanimous in their praise for John Daglish's efforts and The Clerk was asked to write to him to thank him.

5. CHARNEY MILL

The parking area adjacent to the Mill has been cut again but there has been no progress in placing hard core on this area to facilitate parking off the road. Mr Harper undertook to follow this up and **The Clerk** said he would speak to John Daghish who had suggested Mr Godfrey might be able to supply hard core.

6. VILLAGE COLLEGE

The College was pleased to have been granted the sum of £1,000 for the next academic year by the Charney and Lyford Education Trust. Mr Harper commented that the College was being well maintained and asked **The Clerk** to write to Jackie Cross thanking her for her efforts in this department.

7. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had been approached by Mrs Sharpus who wished to place another seat in the village in memory of her late husband Basil; a suitable location was thought to be the piece of ground at the west end of the churchyard. The Clerk had proposed to the Chairman and councillors that this should be done at a cost to Mrs Sharpus of £140 and they unanimously accepted this proposal. **The Clerk** was accordingly asked to order a seat and arrange the donation from Mrs Sharpus.

The Clerk had received an e-mail from Steve Champion suggesting, in response to an item in Charney Chatter, two village improvements: a St George's flag in the churchyard and reinstatement of the village pond. Councillors were unanimous in rejecting the idea of a flag which in any event was a matter for the church authorities, not the Council. However, Mr Harper said that he was in favour of a flagpole somewhere and since the idea had been put forward, villagers should be consulted. After some debate about which flag would be flown and the red tape involved in flag flying, **Mr Harper** was invited to write to the editor of Charney Chatter proposing a village flagpole as a village improvement and the editor would invite comments. The Clerk drew attention to the significant expenditure which would be involved with the installation of a flagpole. Mr Harper agreed to follow up the suggestion of a pond but Mr Stiles and The Clerk warned of significant practical difficulties in creating and maintaining one which would probably only exist in the Winter months. The matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

8. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

There were no questions from residents.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Boyce explained that there was little or no prospect of further funding from the Village Improvement Scheme as the limited funds available had been heavily over-subscribed.

Mrs Tilley congratulated the village on Charney Feast which was one of the best events of this type she had attended. She hoped that villagers had noticed the improvements to sight lines on the A420 resulting from pressure on Highways to cut the grass. Mr Stiles told her that ragwort did not seem to be being uprooted and she agreed to ask Highways about this. Ragwort did not appear to be a problem in the village as the ragwort co-ordinator and the equestrian fraternity in general were keeping an eye open for it. She asked whether she could use Charney Chatter as a way of communicating with her constituents and The Clerk welcomed this idea. Mr Harper emphasised the need to keep the Chatter apolitical and she accepted that the editor could wield a red pen on any of her submissions.

Mrs McGuire reported a gate on the Stanford bridle path which causes problems for riders and which had caused an injury to one of her horses. The Clerk offered to raise this with OCC Highways together with the footpath through Pusey Wood which required clearing. It was not clear how maintenance of the bridle path was organised but it was cleared from time to time, presumably by OCC.

Mr Rumble reported that the hedge at the junction of New Road and Buckland Road required cutting back again to improve sight lines. The Clerk observed that the bureaucracy involved with OCC was such (three tenders required) that it was easier for John Daghish and him to do it, as they did last year. Mrs Tilley was concerned about this and undertook to ask OCC Highways about their procedures.

Mr Rumble asked whether anything could be done to stop tractors, believed to belong to contractors, speeding through the village. The Clerk counselled against a proposal to write to all contractors and said evidence was needed to identify the culprits before seeking to take action against them. He reminded the meeting that PC Holder had offered to identify and speak to speeding offenders if the number plate details had been noted.

Mr Stiles commented that the flower tubs at the village entrances were a credit to those who maintained them and this was agreed by all.

Mr Harper asked whether anyone had news of Mr McBain who had been seriously ill. Information from the floor revealed that David McBain had died but his brother, Rod was still alive. Mr Harper's interest was in adding a large stone to the three on Charney Field and he said he would pursue this himself.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 September 2005 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....