

## CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2005

Present:

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

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

District Councillor Elsa Boyce and eight 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 13 JULY MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING.

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

**The Clerk** had completed the actions placed upon him but would chase OCC re the Stanford bridle path. There were no matters arising which were not on the agenda. The seat donated by Mrs Sharpus would be placed on the small piece of ground outside the western end of the church wall. This statement prompted the question "Who owns the various pieces of ground around the village?" and **The Clerk** undertook to look further into this.

The question of a flag in the churchyard was not a matter for the Council. It was understood that Mr Steve Champion had approached the vicar and until the church had given its view on his proposal, the matter would not come before the Council again. The Editor of Charney Chatter had not had any response to his appeal for comments from villagers.

#### 2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his regular financial report which had been copied to councillors and this was adopted. His only comment was that the balance might appear low, however, the second tranche of the precept is due within three weeks and this will restore it to a more comfortable level.

The Clerk also passed around the Annual Return which bore the signature of the external auditor, approving the accounts. This approval was duly noted by the Council

#### 3. PLANNING MATTERS

Although the last meeting was informed that the application to extend Mount Pleasant had been withdrawn, this was for technical reasons associated with the approval time scale. A revised design has now been submitted

and The Council had no objection to it. The only other outstanding planning application was for an extension to 2, Orchard Close and The Council had no objection to this either.

#### 4. CHARNEY FIELD

Mr Harper reported that he was still pursuing the provision of a large Sarsen stone with McBains. The Clerk reported that RoSPA had produced the annual inspection report required by the insurers on the children's play equipment and no action was required. The report is almost identical with last year's and one or two of the recommendations will not be implemented, as last year.

There was a long discussion about the nuisance caused by visitors to the Field parking in the turning circle at the end of Bridle Path. After a number of options were put forward, **The Clerk** agreed to examine the provision of minimal signs to discourage this practice for the Council's consideration.

Mrs Adamson from the floor reported that this year's bonfire would be held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November and would follow the usual format.

#### 5. CHARNEY MILL

**The Clerk** had had a further discussion with John Daglish over the supply of hard core to the parking area and had agreed to approach the Drayton depot of OCC Highways to see if they could supply it.

#### 6. VILLAGE COLLEGE

The Clerk reported that the College will continue its normal programme of Yoga, Pilates, Flower arranging and willow weaving in the next term.

#### 7. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Vale Council concerning Parish representation for licensing applications, in which doubt appeared to be cast on the role of the Council in representing villagers. There was also the question of interpretation of the word "vicinity" in the legislation which, in the case of a small village like Charney Bassett, could be interpreted to include all dwellings in the village. **The Clerk** was asked to write to the Vale Council expressing concern at the possible erosion of the responsibilities of the Council to represent its electors and questioning the definition of "vicinity".

There was a long discussion on a letter from The Vale Council, circulated to councillors, inviting parishes to apply for grants for Parish Action Plans. There was a general feeling that the Council should try and take advantage of this offer from a fund of £20,000 although this was for the whole county. Three village projects appeared to meet the criteria of long term planning for improvements to the village: the Ock Pond, extension of the Village Hall and the parking area at The Mill. However, The Clerk and Councillor Boyce pointed out that the preparation of a Village Plan was an intense, bureaucratic process which would be unlikely to be completed before the deadline of 31 March 2006. The Clerk reminded the Council that the question of producing a Village Plan had been discussed in 2003 but there appeared to be no enthusiasm, or lack of resources, to produce one. **The Clerk** offered to write a discussion paper for the next Council meeting, distilling information from web sites, and this offer was accepted. It was agreed that the projects in question could go ahead anyway as alternative sources of fund could probably be found for them.

#### 8. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Adamson referred to the temporary increase in traffic through the village during the Wantage Road Station bridge closure and asked whether the Council would make representations to prevent a permanent increase when the Grove Airfield development goes ahead. The Clerk pointed out that it would not be possible to bar any motorists from using what is a public highway through the village. Mrs Boyce suggested the question was premature because the Airfield development had not yet received planning approval.

There was general approval of the work undertaken by OCC Highways to cut roadside vegetation back, particularly between Charney and Denchworth. However, the question arose about the litter (including oil drums and wheels) which had been uncovered, as this is the responsibility of the Vale Council. **The Clerk** undertook to write to both Councils asking whether they could get together and clear litter after the cutting back work.

#### 9. DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

District Councillor Boyce reported that as a member of the Licensing Committee she had been heavily involved in the new arrangements whereby public houses are licensed by the District Council and not the Magistrates Court and this was an arduous duty. She commented that many public houses were seeking extensions to their hours into the early hours and the Council was discouraging this.

Responding to a mild rebuke from Councillor Boyce, The Clerk apologised for not including an item for District and County Council news on the agenda and undertook to include this in future.

#### 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs McGuire questioned the water quality in the River Ock where the number of fish observed seemed to have decreased significantly. **The Clerk** was asked to write to the Environment Agency asking for their views.

It was agreed that as the Ock Green pond has become overgrown and a willow tree is obscuring the sight lines towards Denchworth at the junction of Main Street and Lyford Road, the Charney Army would tackle this area on their next outing on 29<sup>th</sup> September. In response to a question whether planning permission was needed to deal with the tree, The Clerk replied that it was small enough not to require it. It was reported that it had been suggested that an additional piece of play "equipment" could be added to Charney Field using live willow and the cuttings from the tree might be used for this.

Mr Rumble, on behalf of the street cleaner, asked if hedges and trees could be trimmed where they overhang footpaths. **The Clerk** undertook to mention this in the next Charney Chatter.

#### 11. NEXT MEETING

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

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

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....