

## CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2005

Present:

Mr G Beer, Chairman  
Mr J Harper, Vice-chairman  
Mrs Penny McGuire  
Mr J Stiles  
Mr G Rumble (acting Clerk)

Apologies were received from the Clerk Mr P G Davies who was unable to attend but had provided a briefing document for the meeting.

District Councillor Elsa Boyce, County Councillor Melinda Tilley and four 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. County and District Council News
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of next meeting

#### 1. MINUTES OF THE 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING.

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

The meeting noted that Mr Vic Hodgkins had died recently. He served as Chairman of the Parish Council for 35 years, from when it was formed in 1952 until 1987 and then as a councillor until he retired in 1991. The Council wished to record the considerable debt owed to Vic by the Village for his public service during this extensive period and to express their sincere condolences to his widow Pam. The contribution of Vic and Pam to the development and progress of the Village will always be appreciated.

#### 2. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

A copy of the report had not been seen by members of the Council prior to the meeting and it was agreed to defer discussion to the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January when the Clerk would be available to talk the Council through it. The report was adopted in principle.

#### 3. PLANNING MATTERS

Plans for extensions to Mount Pleasant and 2, Orchard Close have been approved and it is believed work has started at Mount Pleasant. It is noted that a large building is being erected in the garden of Jalna, New Road and this will require planning permission because of its proximity to the footpath from New Road to Charney Field. The District Enforcement Officer will be inspecting the building to decide whether retrospective planning permission is required.

#### 4. CHARNEY FIELD

The Clerk had informed the Council prior to the meeting that a sign saying “No Parking – Turning Circle” with the Parish Council name below, in the style of no parking signs on the Village Green and with a 1.5 metre post would cost approximately £60 + VAT. The Council thought this satisfactory and the Chairman agreed to discuss with **The Clerk** with a view to purchase and installation.

Mrs McGuire informed the meeting that the owners of Bagmere Farm had been unaware the Village was holding the annual bonfire and firework display on 6<sup>th</sup> November and a horse that was stabled became agitated and injured itself. The meeting expressed regret but hoped this would not discourage the organisers who should be warmly thanked for their time and effort in providing a popular and much appreciated event.

#### 5. CHARNEY MILL

The Clerk had approached the Drayton depot of OCC Highways to see if they could supply hardcore for the Mill parking area. He was directed to their contractors Isis Accord and they can provide material at £7 per ton ex.VAT for collection from the depot. The Chairman and John Daghish who was present at the meeting will follow up this opportunity with **The Clerk**. It was noted that the parking area is not flat and some form of retaining structure will be required before hardcore can be introduced.

#### 6. VILLAGE COLLEGE

Nothing to report.

#### 7. CLERK’S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had circulated correspondence on the new licensing laws and the Council agreed the matter is now closed until a specific case crops up.

The Clerk had provided a discussion paper for the Council meeting on the subject of Parish Action Plans which distilled information from the ORCC website. It was accepted that it would be impossible to apply for grant funding from ORCC associated with a Parish Action Plan in the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 because of the timescale to initiate the process of creating a PAP. However, there was a lively debate on whether we need a PAP and how the Council can ensure all members of the community are involved. It was agreed that the Council could review the existing methods of communication and ways of inviting comment and involvement.

District Councillor Elsa Boyce and County Councillor Melinda Tilley both commended the Village on how much is already done in a small community and with a modest budget.

#### 8. RESIDENTS QUESTIONS

There were no questions from residents

#### 9. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

County Councillor Melinda Tilley reported that Government policy requires 8000 new homes in Oxfordshire and it has been decided by the County Council to place 4,000 at Bicester and 4,000 at Didcot. This decision has now to be approved by the South East Regional Assembly.

Also as Government policy, the five Primary Care Trusts that manage healthcare in Oxfordshire are being combined into a single unit. The County Council was completely united in voting against putting health services out to private tender.

District Councillor Elsa Boyce reported that further restructuring is being carried out by the District Council and this is unfortunately causing many staff to leave.

#### 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Harper reported on the subject of creating a pond at Ock Bridge Green. A representative from the Ponds Action Group had inspected the area by the bridge where the Ock used to form a pool and he had made recommendations that will be circulated to Parish Councillors.

Geoff Rumble raised the subject of membership of CPRE, the Campaign to Protect Rural England. He questioned in the light of the stance taken by CPRE over the planned changes to flight-paths whether the organisation has its own agenda and it may not be one the Council wished to support. He suggested we should reconsider our membership, which costs £25 per year. He also suggested the money could be better spent in supporting Root & Branch, an organisation that provides therapeutic gardens for people with mental health problems. This organisation had written to the Council asking for a donation. The Chairman noted that the Council reviews membership and charitable donations annually and could consider these proposals at that time.

Geoff Rumble asked if the Council planned to send a representative to the ORCC AGM on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. He agreed to discuss this with the Clerk.

#### 11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....