

## CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2006 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**Present:**

Mr G Beer, Chairman  
Mr J Harper, Vice-chairman  
Mr G Rumble  
Mrs J Bath

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

#### **06/41 Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Melinda Tilley and Councillor Stiles. District Councillor Elsa Boyce and six members of the public were also in attendance. There were no declarations of interest.

#### **06/42 Minutes of the May 2006 Meetings**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the May 2006 meeting and the 2006 Parish Meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### **06/43 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **06/44 Residents' Questions**

RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned to deal with questions from the public and be re-convened when the questions had been dealt with..

NOTE: The question asked is contained in an addendum to these minutes.

#### **06/45 Clerk's Financial Report**

The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/06/04 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors and which in future would be copied to District Councillor Boyce. He presented accounts for payment for street cleaning and grass cutting and recommended that the Council should purchase the new seventh edition of Local Council Administration by Arnold-Baker at a discounted price of £48.

RESOLVED that:-

- a) the report be adopted.
- b) the accounts presented be paid.
- c) the new seventh edition of Local Council Administration by Arnold-Baker be purchased.

#### **06/46 Planning Matters**

The Clerk reported that two applications for work on trees had been received: felling a Leylandii at Byways and management of seven trees at Home Farm.

RESOLVED that no Council observations were necessary for this non-controversial work.

### **06/47 Village Hall Project**

Mr Rumble, in his capacity as Secretary of CHAFT had written to The Clerk suggesting that the planning application for the Village Hall Project should be made by the Council to take advantage of a 50% discount in the fees to £67.50. It was agreed that it was appropriate for the Council to do this.

RESOLVED that the Council be named as the planning applicant and that The Clerk should send a cheque for £67.50 to Mr Rumble for forwarding to the architect.

### **06/48 Rights of Way**

Mr Rumble initiated a discussion on rights of way around the village. His primary concern was to ensure that action was taken by appropriate bodies when, for example, a footpath became impassable. He was concerned that visitors would consider poorly maintained rights of way to reflect badly on the village. He was not clear on the role of OCC's Countryside Services.

The Clerk stated that it was his understanding that OCC Countryside Services had overall responsibility for maintaining rights of way fit for purpose, although maintenance of these might be undertaken by their contractors or the landowner. He considered that the best way to ensure that rights of way problems were brought to the attention of OCC was for them to be directed in the first instance to him and he would then get in touch with his contact in OCC, Mark Sumner. It was generally agreed that this was the best policy to adopt and The Clerk agreed to publicise this in both Cherbury News and Charney Chatter.

On specific matters, the dangerous state of Footpath 1 to Cherbury Camp needed action. The Clerk also reported that he had had an e-mail from Colin McGuire on behalf of the horse riders complaining about the state of Bridleway 3 to Pusey, a matter he had already drawn to OCC's attention.

The Clerk was asked to investigate the provision of suitably-sized maps of rights of way around the village for the Village Hall, Notice Board and Charney Manor.

RESOLVED that:-

- a) The Clerk should act as the communication link with OCC on all rights of way matters and make this arrangement known to villagers.
- b) The Clerk should report the poor state of Footpath 1 and Bridleway 3 to OCC
- b) The Clerk should investigate the provision of rights of way maps for potential users.

### **06/49 Grove Airfield**

Mr Rumble gave an oral report on a meeting of interested parties to discuss the plans for development of Grove Airfield; he represented the Council as the overall theme of the meeting concerned the transport infrastructure. The current plans call for 2,500 houses to be built on the airfield site over the next 15 years. The Council's main interest was in seeing if plans for associated roads would have any impact on traffic through the village.

The plan envisages that the main flow of road traffic would be in a generally easterly direction, namely to Oxford and Didcot and there was little in the plans to balance this with a westerly route, so that there is a possible implication for increased traffic through Denchworth and Charney Bassett on wholly unsuitable roads - an issue which needs careful monitoring by ensuring the Council is represented at future meetings. Mr Rumble commented that he was surprised that there seemed to be no mention of the proposed reservoir which could impact on roads in the area and very little mention of the proposed railway station.

Mr Rumble reported that an exhibition of the proposed development was being staged in Grove on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of July and a mini version will be in the Wantage Local Services Point from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July; councillors were encouraged to visit one of these.

RESOLVED that the Council monitor development of the Grove Airfield project especially to ensure that roads proposals do not impact on the village.

**06/50 Clerk’s Correspondence**

There was no Clerk’s correspondence

**06/51 District Councillor’s News**

Mrs Boyce said she had little to report as things were relatively quiet in the Vale Council but efforts to reduce costs were continuing with a plan to halve the number of meetings that councillors needed to attend. She reported on her membership of a committee whose aim was to develop a “gaming policy” for the Vale Council - dealing with all aspects of gaming from raffle licensing to one-arm bandits.

**06/52 Information Exchange**

Mr Harper observed that when he sets off from home very early in the morning, the number of rabbits, crows and pigeons on the road seems to be very much on the increase and he wanted to put up a marker that changes in the law about shooting wildlife seems to be resulting in the countryside being overrun. The Chairman agreed with these comments and observed that he had counted over 70 rabbits gambolling on the piece of waste ground adjacent to Charney Field.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that PC Holder was still the village bobby until he retires on 3<sup>rd</sup> September but because he has accrued some leave he will no longer be available after August 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Clerk reported that The Chequers was changing hands again on 19<sup>th</sup> July and a couple from Devon would be taking the pub over in a long-term arrangement.

The Chairman requested that the question of a village pond be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

**06/53 Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 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.....

**ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES - RESIDENTS’ QUESTIONS**

**06/Q4** Mrs Rumble asked what had happened to the proposal to place a brass plate on the stones marking the entrance to Charney Field. Mr Harper explained that it was intended to obtain a far larger stone from McBains once they had vacated the New Road site and this would be engraved with a suitable inscription.