

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 10th JANUARY 2007 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present:

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

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

07/01 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

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

07/02 Minutes of the November 2006 Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the November 2006 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.

07/03 Matters Arising

The Clerk had consulted the Vale planners over the question of whether the extension to Mill Cottage had infringed the highway. They confirmed that although it was very close to the highway it did not infringe it.

The Clerk is continuing to look into the provision of suitably-sized maps of rights of way around the village for wider dissemination.

07/04 Residents' Questions

RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned to invite questions from the public and be re-convened when any questions had been dealt with. The questions asked are contained in an addendum to these minutes.

07/05 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/078/01 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. He reported that since the report had been compiled he had had notice that the Council domain name www.charneybassettpc.org.uk was due for renewal on 23 January at a cost of £30 + VAT; the Council agreed to this renewal.

The Council also approved donations of £30 to Abingdon Citizens Advice Bureau, Hanney Royal British Legion, South and Vale Carers and Oxon Association for the Blind and continued membership of CPRE. Mr Rumble said he would be happy if the Council were to discontinue membership of CPRE because of their political agenda. This raised the question of additional flights over the village which CPRE had forecast and Mr Stiles commented that he had noted up to 20 - 30 flights a day over the village on Sundays since the realignment of the airway to Ireland and the USA. Mr Stiles questioned whether a request for funding had been received from the Independent Advice Centre, Wantage which had received a grant last year. The Clerk reported he had not had an application.

The Council considered the request from CHAFT for a donation towards the Village Hall development and it was agreed that a sum of £500 should be made available to CHAFT at a suitable time.

RESOLVED that:-

- a) the report be adopted.
- b) the Council domain name should be renewed
- c) a donation of £500 should be made to CHAFT at a suitable time.

07/06 Setting the Precept

The Clerk presented paper (CBPC/FIN/PRE0708) offering guidance on the level of precept required to meet the Council's budget in FY 2007/08. He emphasised the uncertainties involved, in particular with the extra £600 cost of a contested election, should there be one. When pressed, The Clerk said that the precept would need to be raised because the basic budget had increased by approx. £200, due to such things as grass cutting, insurance etc. He was concerned at the financial risk of being unable to finance a contested election, even though there was a contingency. However, a decision on a contested election would be known within two months of the start of the new financial year, allowing time to adjust the Council budget to accommodate this.

Despite the fact that to minimise financial risk the precept should be around £3,000 the Council agreed to set the new precept at £2,700, giving The Clerk sufficient leeway to manage the uncertainties.

07/07 Planning Matters

There were no planning matters to discuss.

07/08 Rights of Way

The Clerk had had a further discussion with OCC Countryside Services and had been assured that the footpath problems referred to at the last meeting (Minute 06/72) would be addressed during the coming summer.

07/09 Clerk's Correspondence

The Clerk referred to four letters he had received:-

- The Vale of White Horse District Council Statement of Community Involvement had been adopted.
- A letter from Thames Valley Police informed that David Purnell, Area Commander for the Vale of White Horse was moving on to be replaced by Chief Inspector Philip Littlechild.
- A grant application from Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire, which the Council regretted could not be considered.
- A notification that consultation on the Future of Primary School Provision in Oxfordshire was being extended to 31 January 2007.

On this last point it was considered that while this topic might be outside the direct interest of the Council it might interest mothers in the village and The Clerk was asked to make it more widely known that the Council occasionally received correspondence on school-related topics.

07/10 District Councillor's News

Councillor Boyce had little to report but mentioned that the Vale Council was conducting an investigation into a small number of taxi drivers among the 295 licensed operators who, it was believed, had been economical with the truth when submitting their applications for a licence. In the interests of public safety these drivers were likely to lose their operators licences.

07/11 Information Exchange

Mr Stiles asked whether The Clerk had progressed his re-sit application for CiLCA (Minute 06/70 refers). The Clerk reported that he had submitted two revised sections of the portfolio and had received an acknowledgement which indicated that the marking should take a maximum of six weeks. He therefore expected to be able to report on the success, or otherwise, of this application at the next meeting.

07/12 Next meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 14th March 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....

ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES - RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

07/Q1

Mrs Rumble gave notice that due to family commitments she would be unable to perform her litter picking duties during the summer months and she asked whether the Council could find a replacement. She was warmly thanked by the Council (and from the floor) for her efforts over the past five years which had undoubtedly made a visible difference to the village environment. The Clerk was asked to advertise for a replacement on the Notice Board, the web site and eventually in Charney Chatter.

07/Q2

Mrs Rumble explained that she had abandoned maintenance of the trough on the Village Green due to excavations by an unknown dog. However, in conjunction with Councillor Rumble she had devised a heavy wooden trellis arrangement to be placed over the trough. This would cost £10 and she asked if the Council would be prepared to fund this; this was agreed.