

## **CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 9th JANUARY 2008 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:**

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

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

County Councillor Melinda Tilley and District Councillor Anthony Hayward were present and three members of the public were also in attendance. There were no declarations of interest.

#### **08/01 Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

There were no Apologies or Declarations of Interest.

#### **08/02 Minutes of the November 2007 Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the November 2007 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### **08/03 Matters Arising**

##### **(07/45) Registration of green pieces in the village**

The Clerk had made some progress with this item, using the registration of the Village Hall as a “test case”. However, this had revealed a complication with the documentation and this would require The Clerk to visit the Berkshire Records Office in Reading, which he hoped to do shortly.

##### **(07/57) Information Exchange - November 2007 meeting**

The Clerk had discussed the application of Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act (the untidy land notice) to the Old School with the Vale Council enforcement planners. However, it seems that this would make little difference to the site and case law shows that simply clearing up vegetation etc. is not an appropriate use of these powers. Experience has shown that where an untidy development site has had S.215 applied, the developer simply erects a high hoarding to prevent people seeing the untidiness. The Council was interested to know what the future held for this site now that planning permission for development has lapsed and The Clerk was instructed to make a polite enquiry of Mr McBain as to his intentions.

The EA report on flooding in the catchment area which includes Charney Bassett will be available on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and The Clerk has been promised a copy which he will copy to councillors.

A Christmas card had been sent to Mr Fitzgerald-O’Connor, thanking him on behalf of the Council, CHAFT and the Charney Army for his continued efforts in mowing Charney Field.

#### **08/04 County and District Councillors’ Reports**

County Councillor Melinda Tilley reported on two significant developments in the county, although neither of them was likely to affect Charney Bassett. In order to reduce landfill burial of refuse, an incinerator was likely

to be built in the county by 2012 but a site for it has not yet been identified. To provide facilities for HGV drivers on the A34, a lorry park was likely to be built close to this trunk road with a site at Milton Park appearing to be the most likely location. She predicted that OCC Council Tax would increase by around 4%.

District Councillor Anthony Hayward reported on further developments in the application by Hanson to develop a sand and gravel site at Longworth which would have a significant environmental impact on Longworth village and on traffic flows on the A420 and between Charney Bassett and Longworth. The Vale Council had not committed itself one way or the other yet although the proposal would be on the agenda of the Development Control Committee in mid-February. Although the Vale Local Plan said that such development at the proposed site would not be permitted, it contained a get-out clause which would override this if there was an overwhelming demand for the material to be extracted. In his view, the powerful organisation behind the proposal would probably win the day but there was a great deal of effort being devoted to minimise the environmental impacts. The other matter he referred to briefly was the expected increase in Council Tax.

Councillor Rumble congratulated Vale Council Waste Management on its prompt response to his request to remove the 21 tyres dumped on the roadside between the village and Gainfield.

### **08/05 Residents' Questions**

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the rules for public participation in Council debates have changed and participation need no longer be confined to a ten-minute slot in the agenda, a change of policy which councillors had agreed to accept. This item would in future not appear in the standard meeting agenda. To recognise this change The Clerk proposed that SO 17.2 should be amended by deleting the words "... adjourn the meeting so as to ...". Councillors agreed to this amendment.

RESOLVED that Standing Order 17.2 should be amended as stated above. It now reads "At all meetings of the Council, the Chairman may, at his discretion and at a convenient time in the transaction of business, allow any member of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business of the meeting.

### **08/06 Clerk's Financial Report**

The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/078/07 (appended to minutes).

The Clerk reported that as there were VAT savings to be made, he had proposed that, subject to its approval, the Council pay for the cost of two CHAFT initiatives, once donations from participants had been received. This would have a zero effect on net council expenditure. The costs are £50.76 (inc £7.56 VAT) for timber for the bird and bat box workshop and £423 (inc £63.00 VAT) for the First Aid Course to be held under the auspices of Charney Village College on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

The Chairman had passed on a request for funding from The Vale and Downland Museum, Wantage and it was agreed to add this to the list of recipients of £30 council donations.

RESOLVED that:-

- the report be adopted,
- donations of £30 each should be made to Abingdon Citizens Advice Bureau, South and Vale Carers, Oxon Association for the Blind, The Independent Advice Centre, Wantage, The Royal British Legion and the Vale and Downland Museum, Wantage.
- The Clerks' proposal to pay for CHAFT initiatives be approved.

### **08/07 Setting the precept for FY 2008/09**

After consideration of Paper CBPC/FIN/PRE0809, the Council agreed to a precept of £2,800. This represents a modest increase on the 2007/08 figure of approx. 4%, in line with the expected Council Tax increase.

Councillors agreed to defer any discussion of the question of a Clerk's salary until he had produced more data relevant to this issue.

#### **08/08 Planning Matters**

There have been six planning applications considered since the last meeting. An extension to "Wick Cottage" and a conservatory at "Marleigh", Buckland Road have both received permission. Still awaiting consideration by the Vale planners are alterations to "The White House", a conservatory at "Fairfields", Buckland Road, conversion of the garage at "The Cottage on the Green" and an extension to Willow Cottage. The Council had no objection to the first three of these but had registered its objections to the last named, supporting the owners of three adjacent properties.

#### **08/09 Clerk's Correspondence**

There were no matters arising under this agenda heading.

#### **08/10 Information Exchange**

The Clerk reported that the panel convened to consider the Council's application for Quality Status would meet on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

The Clerk had had 20 copies of the "Welcome to Charney Bassett" pamphlet printed and had placed a link on the Council web site to enable it to be downloaded as a PDF file.

#### **08/11 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed .....

Chairman