

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2008 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AND THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Present: Mr J Harper, Vice-chairman
Mr G Rumble
Mr J Stiles

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

08/21 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mr G Beer and Mrs Jos Bath. County Councillor Melinda Tilley, District Councillor Anthony Hayward, Thames Valley Police Crime Reduction Adviser Sarah Merritt and 14 members of the public were also in attendance. There were no declarations of interest.

08/22 Election of Officers

Mr Beer had offered his resignation as councillor, an offer which was accepted with grateful thanks expressed to him for his efforts in chairing the Council for the past ten years. In his absence due to indisposition, Mr Harper opened the meeting, wished Mr Beer a speedy recovery and invited nominations for a new chairman. Mr Rumble was proposed by Mr Harper, seconded by Mr Stiles and duly elected. Mr Harper was proposed as Vice-chairman by Mr Rumble, seconded by Mr Stiles and duly elected.

08/23 Minutes of the March 2008 Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the March 2008 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.

08/24 Times and Dates of Future Meetings

It was agreed to continue with the existing arrangement of meetings at 7.30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every odd month in the Village Hall.

08/25 Appointments to other Committees

Council representatives to other committees were elected as follows: -

- Minibus Committee: Mr Beer would be invited to continue as Council representative despite his resignation. He would need to be consulted on this.
- Transport Representative: Mr Harper.
- CHAFT (2 representatives): Mr Rumble and The Clerk.
- Longworth Charities Trustee: Mr David Douglas would continue for a further four years.

The Clerk would look after grass cutting (liaising with the Chairman) and would be the Cherbury News reporter and web site manager.

08/26 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/08/03 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The figures contained in the report had been approved by the internal auditor. The Council

approved the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Return which would now be submitted for external audit.

RESOLVED that:-

- a) the report be adopted
- b) the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Return be approved.

08/27 Clerk's Correspondence

The Clerk reported on exchanges of correspondence between OCC Highways, Vale planners and county and district councillors on the questions of weight restrictions for bridges and the potential for environmental disruption from HGVs using the new grain barn in West Hanney. Both these topics were aired with the respective councillors (see below).

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting followed immediately after the Parish Council meeting. The Chairman opened by referring to the Council's Annual Report by Mr Geoff Beer and which had been published in Charney Chatter. He therefore decided not to read it out but invited questions on it; there were none.

08/28 Police Matters

Sarah Merritt, Crime Prevention Adviser from Thames Valley Police, based in Wantage, presented the village crime statistics for the previous twelve months. It was encouraging to note that there were only five, the same as in 2006/07, although one of these was not actually a village crime as it was a drugs finding in a car which happened to be stopped in the village.

She reported on the activities of the Faringdon East Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG2) which covered a group of villages which includes Charney Bassett. Charney Bassett's representatives on this are The Clerk and Dave Sibbert. She made reference to the improvements in communications with Thames Valley Police and the use of the non-emergency number 0845 8 505 505 through which individual officers could be contacted. She offered to provide fridge magnets which could remind residents of this number and also offered her services to advise on security of properties etc.

08/29 County Council Matters

Councillor Melinda Tilley reported that she would be continuing to support Charney Bassett and other villages in the quest for weight restrictions to protect bridges and local roads from the damaging effects of HGVs. She was aware of the considerable damage to road edges throughout the division she represented and would continue to press OCC Highways for repair work to be carried out, but the problem was lack of funds for this work.

She reported the bad news that despite publicity for the provision of EC funds to mitigate flooding, this had been cut severely and the county was unlikely to see any significant funds.

08/30 District Council Matters

Councillor Anthony Hayward reported on two topics, the Thames Water presentation on the Steventon reservoir and the expansion of Swindon eastwards, neither of which should have a significant impact on Charney Bassett. He was aware of the parish council's concerns about traffic generated by the new grain barn at West Hanney and would endeavour to ensure that these concerns are addressed when the proposed routing agreement is drawn up.

Asked by The Clerk about Vale Council actions post-flooding he asked that he be informed of the investigation by the Vale drainage engineer which seemed to conclude that it should be feasible to open up ditches in Longworth Road which could have prevented the flooding of Elm Cottage.

08/31 Matters Raised by the Public

The meeting was open to questions from the public and the following topics were raised:-

Waste Management

Questions were raised about the efficiency of waste collection services to the village with a specific problem mentioned being the inability to obtain a new green box. However, other experiences countered this with reports of quick responses to both green box requests and reports of fly tipping. Mr Stiles had reported the early closing of the Stanford site for which he had sought compensation for the fuel he had wasted going there but with no response as yet. It seemed from the discussion that waste management was the responsibility of both the county and district councils with the former having overall responsibility and latter providing collection and disposal services. The discussion did not lead to any conclusion but it was agreed, in the light of concerns expressed, that the council should keep this topic under review in the future.

Geoff Beer

Mrs Dahele, on behalf of the whole village, expressed thanks for the excellent chairmanship of Geoff Beer over the past ten years, a sentiment echoed by the members of the public present. She asked that this should be conveyed to Geoff. Thanks were also expressed to The Clerk for his efforts although he is not retiring!

08/32 Date of Next Meeting

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

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed

Chairman