

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 1997

PRESENT:

- Mr C Eld (Chairman)
- Mrs T Cox
- Mrs J Fry
- Mr W Lindsey
- Mrs Wason-Cooper

An apology was received from Col John Walton, County Councillor. Mr Terry Cox, District Councillor and 5 members of the public were in attendance.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last meeting.
2. Matters arising from those minutes.
3. Clerk's Financial Report and Precept for 1997/98
4. Planning Matters
5. Playing Field and Affordable Housing
6. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions
7. Any other business.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 20 November 1996 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

Manor Farm Road: The Clerk had had more discussions with the County Archivist who would undertake some further research on this problem before inviting the Clerk to Reading to view the results.

Old School: The Clerk had written to Mr. McBain about the old village school, explaining that the Parish Council did not wish to see it demolished; he had not had a reply. The VWHDC planner had written to the Clerk explaining that although the school was in the Conservation Area, it was not listed, nor likely to be. He had invited the Clerk to discuss the matter with him after 20 January when he returned from leave.

Village Hall: The Clerk had received a formal request for a grant towards the cost of repairs to the Hall roof. These were currently estimated as £1175, subject to a survey not finding extra work needed. It was unanimously agreed to grant the sum of £100 towards the survey cost. Consideration of any further grant would be treated as a separate matter. The Clerk was satisfied that this was legitimate use of Parish Council funds.

Weed killer: The Clerk had received advice from three sources and had passed the advice on to Mrs. Wason-Cooper.

Village Appraisal: OALC had agreed to provide someone to talk on the subject at the Parish Assembly.

Road Safety/Mediation Service: The Clerk had conveyed the Council's views on these topics to the relevant bodies. OCC had responded to the criticism of their questionnaire.

3. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk's regular report was adopted on the proposal of Mr. Lindsey, seconded by Mrs. Fry. Mr Lindsey asked whether a better rate of interest could be obtained and **The Clerk** was asked to discuss this with **Mrs Wason-Cooper**.

After some detailed discussion of the merits of building up a balance to help pay for a new playing field, it was agreed to keep the precept at the same level as last year, namely £1,400. It was considered that it was prudent

not to reduce the precept while there were still uncertainties about possible legal costs associated with the playing field and Manor Farm road.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

The only outstanding planning matter was the proposed modification to "By-Ways". Councillors had no comments to make on this.

Mr Terry Cox reported that VWHDC would be examining current village conservation areas during 1997 and would be inviting Parish Councils to suggest amendments if they considered they were needed. **The Clerk** was asked to provide copies of the map of the area for Councillors and for the Post Office. He was also asked to check the PC Minutes for any references to suggested changes.

5. PLAYING FIELD AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The new lease for the playing field was duly signed and witnessed.

Subject to three further minor amendments by Mr Lindsey, the questionnaire, which had incorporated suggestions from OCHA, was approved and **The Clerk** was asked to proceed with the arrangements for the opinion poll.

6. QUESTIONS ETC. FROM RESIDENTS

To aid persons seeking addresses in the village it was agreed to obtain an A3 size copy of John Daghish's computer generated map for the Notice Board. Mr Eld offered to arrange to have this laminated in plastic to protect it.

A number of villagers and Councillors were concerned at the risks of a road accident caused by sheep roaming around the village. **The Clerk** was asked to write to David Fry, the owner of the sheep, to ask him to exercise greater control over them.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The request for a donation from the Winged Fellowship was, in accordance with declared Council policy, turned down. **The Clerk** was asked to write back expressing regret that The Council did not feel it could make a donation.

It was agreed to purchase a copy of the Accounts and Audit Regulations Guidance Notes.

A request for a donation from the Council for the Protection of Rural England was rejected as it was considered that by joining the organisation The Council had given as much support as it could.

The subject of Youth Parish Councils was briefly discussed but considered inappropriate for the village.

The idea of a Countryside Commission Village Design Statement was also considered inappropriate.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12 March 1997 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.34 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman