

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 1997

PRESENT:

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

An apology was received from Mrs J Fry. 7 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.
4. Planning Matters.
5. Playing Field.
6. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions.
7. Any other business.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 8 January 1997 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

Manor Farm Road: The County Archivist had completed his research and had invited The Clerk to Reading for examination of five volumes of records which are probably the last chance to prove ownership.

Old School: The Clerk had discussed the Old School with the VWHDC planner but there appeared nothing that could be done to resolve the matter. Any proposal to demolish the building would come to the Parish Council's notice as the Old School is in the village conservation area and planning permission would be required. The Clerk had written to the CPRE Oxfordshire Buildings Preservation Trust suggesting they might consider purchase of the School for restoration.

Clerk's Financial Report: Mrs Wason-Cooper reported that the current banking arrangements were about the best that could be found in terms of interest rates because the balance was generally below £2,000.

Village Hall: The survey paid for by the Parish Council had been completed and this may result in a further application for funds to help pay for the work needed.

Planning: The Clerk provided each of the councillors with a map of the village conservation area. VWHDC had not yet invited comments on existing areas. The village opinion poll on the planning application for affordable housing had resulted in a 94-44 vote against the proposal which had therefore been withdrawn.

Notice Board Map: The Chairman produced a prototype of a laminated map which met with approval and agreed to produce one for the Post Office and one for the Notice Board

Sheep: The Clerk had written to Mr Fry asking him to try and prevent further excursions of his flock.

3. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk's regular report was adopted on the proposal of Mrs Wason-Cooper, seconded by Mr. Lindsey.

The Clerk's expenses were approved, subject to an increase from the budgeted figure of £40 to £50 to cover his expenditure on photographs of the damage to verges following a diversion of heavy traffic through the village. Payment of the account for hire of the Village Hall for 7 (not 6) meetings at a cost of £28.00 was also approved.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk reported that all five councillors had expressed outrage at the retrospective planning application which revealed that a stainless steel chimney had been erected on Manor Farm Barn without permission. **The Clerk** was asked to convey the councillors views to the VWHDC, strongly recommending rejection. The Clerk had checked the PC Minutes for any references to suggested changes to the conservation area and had found only one reference which suggested that all the barn conversions at Manor Farm should be included.

5. PLAYING FIELD

The new lease for the playing field, extending the lease to May 1998, was duly signed and witnessed. The question of whether to continue with the scheme for purchasing a new field was deferred until after a village appraisal had been carried out. It was agreed to put the playing field on the agenda of the Parish Assembly and put together a suitable display of the options for the meeting.

6. QUESTIONS ETC. FROM RESIDENTS

Questions were raised about the new telegraph poles which had been erected in Buckland Road. The Clerk explained that British Telecom were entitled to do this without planning permission but objections could be made after erection. **The Clerk** was asked to write to BT asking the purpose of the posts and objecting on the grounds that underground cabling would have been more appropriate in the location.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Wason-Cooper regretted that due to her husband's changed employment circumstances they were not able to continue as street cleaners. The Chairman thanked her for her efforts to date and noted that a new recruitment campaign was needed.

Mrs Cox reported that it was believed that Mr. McAlpine, owner of Hamilton House was proposing to build a motocross course in a field to the north of his house and alongside the road. **The Clerk** was asked to write to VWHDC seeking more information and registering an objection if this information was correct.

Mrs Cox reported on the new bus service to Wantage on the school bus, available during term time. **The Clerk** was asked to include this information in his report to the Cherbury News.

Mrs. Cox asked about the rules for altering listed buildings with particular reference to windows at Home Farm. The Clerk gave his interpretation of the rules but pointed out that it was normal to leave such matters to the actual planning authority, namely VWHDC, to ensure that any changes did not affect the character of a listed property.

The Clerk reported on the correspondence on verge damage caused by diversion of traffic off the A420 and now awaited a visit from a policeman from the Traffic Management Section for discussions on diversion routes. From the floor Mr Smith of Buckland Road reported on his correspondence and agreed to provide copies for the file.

OCC had written to The Clerk explaining their proposal to lease the paddock by the Green to Mr. Poolman. Mr. Poolman was not entirely happy with the proposal and it would be necessary to keep an eye on developments to preserve village access to the paddock for the Feast.

OCC were to ask the relevant landowners to trim the hedges between the village and the Goosey turn (High Dams). **The Clerk** was asked to draw the Highways Authority's attention to the state of the road surface along this stretch, using it as further evidence of the need for a weight restriction through the village.

A copy of the Accounts and Audit Regulations Guidance Notes has been received and added to the Council library.

It was agreed to renew CPRE membership at a cost of £17.50.

It was agreed not to enter the Best Kept Village competition in 1997.

It was agreed to take part in National Spring Clean Week from 18-27 April. The date was shortly after the Parish Assembly and volunteers could be sought then for the following Sunday. The Clerk would provide litter bags.

The date for the Parish Assembly was agreed as 23rd of April. **The Clerk** was asked to contact ORCC inviting Miss Katherine Critchley-Salmonson to come and talk about a village appraisal. It was agreed to produce a "Green Paper" again reviewing the year's activities and drawing attention to the issues of the playing field, the Millennium celebrations and Spring Clean Week.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7 May 1997 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Note that this is out of sequence with the normal pattern due to The Clerk's holiday arrangements.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman