

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 1997

PRESENT:

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

Mr Terry Cox, District Councillor and 4 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. Playing Field.
5. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions.
6. Any other business.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 5 May 1997 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

Manor Farm Road: The Clerk had still to visit Reading archives.

Village Hall: Cost estimates were still being prepared.

Village Map: The Chairman was awaiting copies for laminating. **The Clerk** was asked to chase John Daglish.

Telegraph Poles: The Clerk had written to BT about the new poles in Buckland Road and at the Manor entrance but had so far only received an acknowledgement.

Motocross field: The Clerk had discussed the matter with Mr Yaxley, Planning Enforcement Officer of VWHDC. The owner of Hamilton House, Mr McAlpine had enquired about using a field adjacent to his house for motocross for his family and possibly guests but not for commercial purposes. The planners had advised him he needed planning permission and an application was awaited. The new gate had nothing to do with the motocross, it was to allow access to farmers to the fields beyond. Mr Yaxley would keep The Clerk informed of developments.

Village Appraisal: Copies of the Marcham Village Appraisal Report had been sent to councillors. They felt that it was more of an historical document than an assessment of future village needs and that an appraisal would be rather like a sledgehammer to crack a nut in Charney. It was agreed not to pursue the idea of a Village Appraisal but the Council should set out its views of the future in an expanded Green Paper for the 1998 Parish Assembly.

Millennium: The Chequers had not yet decided on the form any celebrations would take. Mrs Cox had not received any suggestions from villagers. It appeared that the event was still too far away for thought to be given to it.

Pavement Parking: The Clerk had obtained suitable stickers to help deter this but none had yet been used. **The Clerk** was asked to produce a sample notice to deter cars from parking on The Green. As an aside it was reported that two cars had recently received a fixed penalty for parking in Main Street without lights.

Old School: The Clerk reported that CPRE were interested in the school and wished to come and see it.

Dogs: Mr Robertson had received a polite letter from the VWHDC dog warden asking him to keep it under control.

3. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk's presented his report and informed the Council that there would be no audit of accounts this year, under the triennial reporting arrangements. The report was adopted on the proposal of Mr Lindsey, seconded by Mrs Wason-Cooper.

4. PLAYING FIELD

In reviewing the playing field situation, it became clear that there was no need for the Parish Council to take any action until something changed. The existing field was leased until May 1998, the affordable housing scheme had gone away, Oxon CC were engaged in selling land adjacent and the enthusiasm for a grand new playing field scheme had waned in the light of the likely costs of maintaining it. It was agreed that this item could be removed from the agenda until something forced the Council to act. Mr Cox advised that developments of the Local Plan should be watched in case they could affect the playing field site.

During the discussion, The Clerk referred to the ultimate option of two acres offered by the Cox family, effectively third choice behind the existing field and the allotment field. Mrs Cox pointed out that the Council had never formally stated its attitude to the Cox proposal and it was agreed that, as a matter of courtesy, **The Clerk** should write to Mr Michael Cox explaining the situation and asking whether the Cox offer was still on the table.

Mrs Cox asked whether play equipment could be used on the existing field. Mr Cox suggested that the VWHDC sports advisor, who live in the village, could advise on this.

5. QUESTIONS ETC. FROM RESIDENTS

There were no questions from the public present.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Tree Planting: In answer to Mr Lindsey, The Clerk confirmed that trees had been requested and, further, on his initiative, a scheme to improve the area around Ock Green had been submitted as a small environmental scheme. VWHDC would consider this in September. The Clerk would therefore like ideas for improvement in order to send more information to VWHDC. **The Clerk** would also consult with the Environmental Agency.

Clerk's PC: The Clerk confirmed that his PC would survive the transition to the next millennium.

Planning Matter: The Parish Council has been invited to attend a meeting of the VWHDC Planning Committee at Shrivensham on 14 July to speak to its objection to the stainless steel chimney at Manor Farm Barn. Mr Cox volunteered to represent the Council as he had at the last meeting. This offer was gratefully accepted.

Village Lock-up: The Clerk had received a questionnaire from the Village Lock-up Association and asked those present whether the village had ever had one. Nobody had heard of one.

OCC Parish News: The Clerk consulted councillors to complete a questionnaire on this publication.

Charney Feast: The Chairman thanked all those, especially Mrs Gardiner, for the efforts which went into the successful Feast on 5 July. Mrs Wason-Cooper had been appointed Treasurer. He reported that he would take over the chairmanship of the Village Hall Committee on condition that he did not get involved with the organisation of future Feasts as that would be too much with the other village commitments he had.

Arbitration: Although the Parish Council maintains a policy of non-involvement in neighbour disputes, Mr Eld reported, for the record, that he had acted as arbitrator in a dispute involving the caravan site in the village.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10 September 1997 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.37 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman