

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 1997

PRESENT: Mr C Eld (Chairman)
Mrs T Cox
Mr W Lindsey

Apologies were received from Mrs. J Fry, Mrs A Wason-Cooper and Mr Terry Cox, District Councillor. 10 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. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions.
5. Any other business.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 9 July 1997 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

Manor Farm Road: The Clerk reported that he was now pessimistic that Reading archives would reveal ownership of the road and all the evidence pointed to the need to take alternative action. **The Clerk** was asked to write to all the frontagers of the road to invite their comments on how to take the matter further.

Village Hall: Cost estimates were still being prepared.

Village Map: The Clerk had asked John Daghish to provide the Chairman with copies of his village map for laminating. Mr Lindsey agreed to chase John Daghish.

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. He was asked to write again.

Parking on the Green: The Clerk produced a sample notice to deter cars from parking on The Green which was approved. The Chairman asked for 20 copies.

Playing Field: The Clerk wrote to Mr Michael Cox asking whether the 2 acres of his field remained an option for a new playing field. Mrs. Cox conveyed the response which was that the offer had been withdrawn.

Environmental Improvement Scheme: The Clerk had written to the Environmental Agency informing them of the proposal to clean up the stream at Ock Green and awaited a reply.

Manor Farm Barn: The decision on the retrospective planning permission for the stainless steel chimney on Manor Farm Barn had not yet been notified to the Clerk.

3. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented his report which was adopted on the proposal of Mr. Lindsey, seconded by Mrs. Cox.

4. QUESTIONS ETC. FROM RESIDENTS

Mr Acland asked whether anything could be done about the pavement outside his house in New Road. The Clerk explained that this had been reported to OCC but the response of Highways Department, reported to the November 1996 Council meeting, was that it was not bad enough for them to devote any of their limited resources to repair it. The Clerk offered to provide Mr. Acland with copies of the correspondence in case he wished to take the matter up himself.

There was criticism of the potholes at various locations around the village, particularly Longworth Road. The Clerk reminded those present that Mrs Cox kept pre-printed forms which could be used to report defects to Highways. This applied to other defects such as raised manholes which could be a threat to cyclists.

There were complaints about parking of HGVs in New Road, in the vicinity of McBains' yard. **The Clerk** was asked to take suitable action against the regular offender who parked on the pavement by the Old School.

Mrs. Cox handed over a petition signed by 20 villagers proposing that the Parish Council purchase a plot of land suitable for a village playing field to mark the approaching Millennium. The playing field had been removed from the Council agenda after the Parish Assembly had apparently shown that the preferred 3.6 acre field option was too large for the village and the consensus was that no action should be taken until the situation changed from the status quo. In the light of the petition, initiated by Mrs. Marion Gardiner, further discussion on the field was opened. After some discussion, **The Clerk** was asked to re-convene the playing field sub-committee to determine the full costs of the scheme, including maintenance, so that petition signers were fully aware of the financial implications. The petition should be kept open in the meantime. The Clerk appealed for volunteers to join the sub-committee as there were questions to be asked and data to be obtained, particularly about grants, which would require effort. He would publicise the next meeting of the sub-committee on the village notice board.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk appealed for ideas for improving the Ock Green environment - a scheme to be considered by VWHDC planners. There was a strong feeling that a "natural" ford should be created after removal of the undergrowth.

The area police commander had written a letter accompanying the Area Policing Plan suggesting the Council might like to invite the area inspector and beat officers to a Council meeting. **The Clerk** was asked to acknowledge the letter and suggest the best opportunity would be the Parish Assembly when the village turnout would be highest. The officers would, however, be welcome at any meeting.

The Clerk was asked to write to The CPRE asking whether they were still interested in the Old School.

The Clerk reported that plans to restore Mount Pleasant appeared to have suffered a setback with the disappearance of the owner complete with a deposit paid by the prospective owner.

6. NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 8.44p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman