

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 1998

PRESENT:

Mr G Beer (Chairman)
Mrs B Douglas (Vice-chairman)
Mr S Callaghan
Mrs E Dahele

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

4 members of the public were in attendance.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the meeting on 14 October 1998.
2. Matters arising from those minutes.
3. Clerk's Financial Report.
4. Village Hall.
5. Playing Field.
6. Clerk's Correspondence.
7. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions.
8. Any Other Business.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 14 OCTOBER 1998.

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM 14 OCTOBER MEETING

Caravan Site: The Clerk had written to Ms Quirke to explain that the Council could not intervene in her dispute.

New Road hedge: The hedge has been trimmed but possibly not enough.

Pavements: The Clerk had obtained an estimate for the construction of a footpath along Longworth Road but it was agreed that in view of other calls on Council funds next year, no action could be taken. **The Clerk** was asked to write to OCC expressing concern that the lack of street lights at this location caused a hazard and asking that this be put on the list of jobs to do around the village when OCC funds permitted. While writing, **The Clerk** could also mention the damage to the bollards at the New Road/Buckland Road junction.

Millennium Grant Scheme: The Clerk had discussed this with the Mill restorers but they do not qualify for a grant as the Mill is in the charge of OCC.

New bus service: The Clerk had circulated the results of his discussions with OCC which were that the money has gone and it would be difficult to persuade OCC that there was a demand for such a service.

Puddle outside Autumn Garth: The Clerk had written to OCC complaining about the state of the roads in the village with particular reference to this puddle but with no response as yet.

"Welcome to Charney" leaflet: The Clerk had ascertained that Mrs Gardiner required no payment for the revised pamphlet as it only involved a small sum for copying.

Letter from David Wilson: The Clerk had written to David Wilson and had copied the letter to the Vale planners. Both Mr Wilson and the planners had responded. It was agreed that this had been a useful exercise.

Grant to OPFA: The Clerk had paid the agreed grant of £25.

3. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk's financial report was adopted. The report had been extended to cover the financing of the Village Hall repair project which was included in the general finances of the Council. There were two outstanding bills for structural engineer's and architect's fees which would require funds from the Village Hall Committee. **The Clerk** would arrange this. **The Clerk** would also determine whether the VAT on materials could be reclaimed.

In response to a question from Mr Callaghan, The Clerk agreed with his comment that the Council's turnover exceeded the audit threshold of £5,000. However, the audit was required anyway and he was hopeful that he could persuade the auditors that the Village Hall repair funding, which was the main reason for the increased turnover, was a non-recurring item and did not warrant the resumption of annual audits.

The Clerk was asked to pay Mr Clarke's bill of £30 for the Christmas tree which had been erected on the Green and the Chairman's travelling expenses of £12.14 for attendance at the OALC AGM.

4. VILLAGE HALL

The repair project is virtually complete except for some further work replacing the flat roof. This would be done as soon as the builder could return to the project, subject to the weather being suitable.

5. PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk had had discussions with OPFA on possible funding sources for purchase of the field. It appeared that the best prospect was the fund set up to allocate monies collected from the landfill tax. The proposed new field fitted well with this fund. Information on the scheme will be provided shortly by OPFA who would also comment on whether the prospectus met the requirements set out in the scheme application form. Funding levels are variable but can be 100%. Mrs Dahele offered to help move this project forward in the New Year.

6. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reminded councillors that the main item on the agenda for the January meeting was the setting of the precept. One specific figure to be decided was the contribution towards the 30 mph speed limit project and he invited councillors to give due consideration to this, consulting villagers where possible with a view to assessing the value of a speed limit to the village. Although there was no obligation to contribute, councillors generally felt that the Council should and the amount should be determined at the next meeting.

The Clerk had received notification of the requirement for an election of councillors in May 1999. He had circulated the information to councillors.

7. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

There were complaints about overgrown hedges in New Road and Orchard Close. In the former case the Chairman offered to have a discreet word with the new owners of "Duntulm" and in the latter case the hedge was due to be replaced with a wall. It was generally agreed that although there was a formal procedure for dealing with such matters via OCC, it was best dealt with locally, formal action only being appropriate in the event of a negative response.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a long discussion on possible celebrations for the millennium. The Council recognised that with just over 12 months to go, no plans for the village had been made. The discussion concluded that there should be a discussion of ideas at the next Council meeting. **The Clerk** was asked to write to all village organisations, inviting them to contribute ideas to this meeting. In addition, **The Clerk** should focus on the theme of "ideas wanted" in his regular report of Council proceedings to the Cherbury News.

In response to a comment that there had been an increase in parking on The Green, **The Clerk** undertook to print more notices for councillors to attach to offending vehicles.

Mr Callaghan reported that three trees on The Green adjacent to his property appeared to have a lot of dead wood in them. **The Clerk** was asked to draw this to the attention of Mr Clarke.

Mr Callaghan observed from his reading of The Clerk's financial report that grass cutting absorbed a high proportion of the Council's budget. The Chairman, while agreeing with this, referred to a previous decision of the Council to go out to tender for this service next year. **The Clerk** would prepare a specification with Mr Clarke and would try and seek at least three tenders.

The Chairman observed that the old chicken house adjacent to Buckland Road had become an eyesore. **The Clerk** undertook to determine who owned it and whether the sale of the land on which it stands required its demolition.

The Chairman observed that footpaths around the village needed attention and in particular the signpost at the Buckland Road end of the Cherbury Camp footpath needed replacement. **The Clerk** was asked to draw the latter to the attention of OCC.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 January 1999 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Mrs Douglas tendered her apologies in advance.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.53 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended and seasonal wishes to all.

Signed.....
Chairman