

## CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 1999

PRESENT:

Mr G Beer (Chairman)  
Mrs B Douglas  
Mrs E Dahele

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

Fourteen members of the public attended.

#### AGENDA

1. Minutes of the meeting on 21 July 1999.
2. Matters arising from those minutes.
3. Clerk's Financial Report.
4. Playing Field.
5. Charney Mill.
6. Clerk's Correspondence.
7. Ten minutes for Residents' Questions.
8. Any Other Business.

In opening the meeting, the Chairman invited Mr Jim Harper, who had expressed an interest in becoming a councillor, to accept co-option to the Council. Mr Harper accepted and the co-option was agreed unanimously.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 21 JULY 1999.

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM 21 JULY MEETING

As there were no matters of urgency arising, this item was deferred to the 10 November meeting.

3. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

As time for the meeting was limited, The Clerk did not present a financial report; one would be presented to the next meeting. The Chairman signed the three summaries of accounts produced by the triennial audit completed in September. The Council noted the requirements for changes in financial procedures requested by the auditors. Cheques for the last grass cut and the Chairman's travelling expenses to the OALC AGM were signed.

4. CHARNEY FIELD

The Clerk reported that the meeting of the Hanson Fund which would ratify the TOE decision to fund the playing field, had been deferred until early November. It was revealed that the voting for acceptance of an offer, if one were to be made, was 83 for and 6 against. The Council unanimously agreed that this gave it a mandate to accept an offer. In response to a question about access to the Field, The Clerk reported that none was planned as the Field was surrounded on three sides by footpaths. However, should future developments require vehicular access, it would be from Buckland Road along the line of the new footpath. This route would be used by grass cutting vehicles.

5. CHARNEY MILL

The Clerk explained the background to the offer by OCC to transfer ownership of Charney Mill to the Parish Council for a nominal consideration (the sum of £1 has been mentioned). OCC wished to dispose of the Mill to a body which would ensure its preservation as a mill in perpetuity. An offer in principle from OCC had been received by the Parish Council. After some discussion, it was agreed to accept the offer in principle, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed, including clarification of any financial liability. Concern was expressed at the OCC estimate of £20,000 to keep the Mill in good order. The Clerk explained that this sum was based on commercial costs spread over a long period, with no allowance for self-help in undertaking the jobs listed. Furthermore, once the Mill was no longer owned by OCC, sources of funds for building upkeep would be available. A site meeting had been arranged with OCC on 8 November to which councillors were invited. There were many issues to be addressed including the cost of insurance and these would need to be resolved satisfactorily before the Council could accept ownership.

Mrs Gildersleeves reported on the deliberations of the Village Hall Committee concerning extension of its remit to cover management of Charney Field and the Mill. The Committee had accepted this idea in principle, subject to certain conditions, which it had set out in a letter to the Council. The Chairman thanked the Committee, through Mrs Gildersleeves, for this positive approach.

6. CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

There were no correspondence matters which could not be left until the next meeting.

7. TEN MINUTES FOR RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

Mr Douglas asked whether speed limit roundels could be placed at strategic positions in the road when the speed limit was applied in the village. The Clerk explained that these were available but in the second phase of the project and they would need to be paid for by the village. Repeater signs through the village were also a second phase item.

Mrs Venn asked about clearing obscuring vegetation from street signs. The Clerk explained that as this task fell between two councils, it would probably best be done by individuals. He commended the adoption of street signs by villagers, as has happened in Buckland Road where Mr and Mrs Rumble look after a street sign. The old signs were due to be replaced before April 2000 and it was hoped that clearance of vegetation would be done at the same time.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Dahele reported that the Charney and Lyford Trust had made two further grants to applicants. The Clerk pointed out that opening The Mill as an education centre could attract funds from this source.

The Chairman thanked those people who had turned out on 16 October to clean up the village. It was hoped to do this twice a year, the Spring clean co-inciding with National Spring Clean week and the Autumn clean-up in October. The Council would welcome suggestions from villagers on the areas of the village which needed attention.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10 November 1999 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.02 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed.....

Chairman