

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 12 MAY 2010

Present: Mr G Rumble, Chairman
Mrs J Bath
Mr J Harper
Mr D Hughes

Dr S K Cowlam, Clerk

County Councillor Melinda Tilley was present, and twenty members of the public were in attendance.

10/28 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Councillor Cox. There were no declarations of interest.

10/29 Election of Officers

Mr Rumble was proposed as Chairman by Mrs Bath, seconded by Mr Hughes, and duly elected. Mr Cox was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Mr Rumble, seconded by Mr Harper, and duly elected. It had been ascertained beforehand that Mr Cox was willing to stand.

10/30 Times and Dates of Future Meetings

It was agreed to continue with the existing arrangement to meet in the Village Hall at 7:30pm on the second Wednesday of every odd month.

10/31 Appointments to Other Committees

The following appointments were made.

- Minibus Committee: Mr Harper. Representation on this committee by a regular user would be welcome, but despite a number of approaches, nobody had come forward.
- CHAFT (Two members): Mr Rumble (who is also CHAFT Treasurer), and Mr Hughes. Mrs Bath represents the Village College.
- Longworth Charities Trust: Mr David Douglas.
- Neighbourhood Action Group: Mr Cox. (nb, Mr D Sibbert retains his personal appointment.)

10/32 Other responsibilities

The following responsibilities were made or noted.

- Internal Auditor: Mr Peter Leaver wishes to retire. He continues to act while a new auditor is sought.
- Transport Representative: Mr Harper.
- Grass cutting liaison: the Clerk.
- Cherbury News Reporter: the Clerk.
- Charney Chatter Editor: Mr John Daghish.
- Village Website Editor: Mr John Wright.
- Village College Manager: Mrs Bath.

10/33 To approve the Minutes of the March Meeting

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the March 2010 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.

10/34 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/10/03 (appended to Minutes) which had been distributed to Councillors. The figures represented the situation at the end of the financial year ending 31 March 2010, and had been approved by the internal auditor. The Council approved the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Return which would now be submitted for external audit.

RESOLVED that

- the report be adopted, and
- the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Return be approved and signed.

10/35 Clerk's Correspondence

The Clerk reported on three matters.

- VWHDC Planning Department had no objection to felling a tree at old Manor Farm.
- A planning application had been made to VWHDC for an extension at the rear of Coral Oaks, Longworth Road. The Parish Council had no objection.
- The Clerk had signed a contract on 5 May 2010 for the purchase of the telephone kiosk, at BT's request. (A contract had been signed previously by the late Clerk, but had not been completed by BT before his death.)

There was some discussion on possible uses for the kiosk, including as a library and as an art installation. Councillors Bath and Harper were considering these, and highlighted some possible costs depending on what proposals are actually adopted.

RESOLVED that Councillors Bath & Harper bring forward proposals and costs for use of the kiosk. However, it is prudent to defer commitment until the BT kiosk becomes ours.

10/36 Date of next Meeting

14 July 2010, at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:00pm.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting followed immediately after the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

10/37 Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman gave his annual report. This is reported in full in the May 2010 edition of Charney Chatter and on the village website, and is therefore not detailed here.

10/38 County Council Matters

County Councillor Tilley reported as follows.

- Potholes in the county's roads are being repaired by a new contractor. The intention is for a more proactive contractor arrangement, and we are encouraged to contact Oxfordshire Highways regarding road defects. Councillor Tilley is concerned that road edges also need repair, and that insufficient provision is being made for winter salting and gritting stocks.
- The last government sought to strengthen care for the elderly at home. This was unfunded by central government and was to rely on local government that is itself under funding pressure. She hoped that a new government cross-party group would resolve this.
- Thames Valley Police representatives are willing to brief Parish Councils, if requested.

10/39 District Council Matters

Councillor Tilley briefed on this, in the absence of District Councillor Anthony Hayward.

- VWHDC had wanted the general election count to commence on Friday 7 May, but was required to begin counting immediately after the close of polling stations.
- Funding pressure is leading to VWHDC to seek payment for services (e.g planning advice) that have been funded from council tax hitherto.
- The forthcoming refuse arrangements are complicated, with proposed computer records that are intrusive, a possible requirement for households to pay for their refuse containers, and concern that all of this will lead to an increase in fly-tipping.

10/40 Residents’ Questions

Villagers present were most concerned at the proposed refuse arrangements. It was noted that VWHDC has meetings arranged to brief councils. In fact, this Council is sending two delegates to one of these meetings.

RESOLVED that Mr Rumble & Mrs Bath should investigate new refuse arrangements and the concerns expressed in paragraph 10/39.

10/41 Village Hall Project

Mr Harper led a vote of thanks now that we can enjoy the benefits of the (nearly) completed Village Hall Project. Elisabeth & Jash Dahele had been prime movers in fund-raising and in progressing the project. After they had left the village Geoff & Julie Rumble had been key in taking over the project and seeing it to completion. All present gave their warm applause to both couples. Mrs Bath presented Geoff Rumble with a card and hydrangea plant. He thanked all present for their good wishes. John Daghish took photographs of the occasion.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:40pm with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed Date
Chairman