

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2010

Present: Mr G Rumble, Chairman
Mr M Cox, Vice-chairman
Mrs J Bath
Mr J Harper
Mr D Hughes

Dr S K Cowlam, Clerk

Six members of the public were in attendance.

10/42 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Melinda Tilley and District Councillor Anthony Hayward. There were no declarations of interest.

10/43 Minutes of the May 2010 Meeting

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the May 2010 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman, subject to correction of the erroneous statement in paragraph 10/31 that Mr D Sibbert was appointed by the Council to NAG; his appointment is a personal one.

10/44 County Council Matters

None reported.

10/45 District Council Matters

None reported.

10/46 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk reported that Mr Peter Leaver had agreed to continue as auditor for a further year. The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/10/04 which had been distributed to Councillors, noting the following details.

- Expenditure included £708.65 as CHAFT's share of the Council's insurance and the external audit. The Chairman (who is also the CHAFT Treasurer) gave the Clerk cheques in favour of the Parish Council for this amount.
- Payments for the VHP from the Council's account should conclude soon now that the contractor's retention is being paid.

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

10/47 Outcome of the FY 2009/10 Audit

The external auditor had advised the Clerk on 8 June 2010 that it had completed the audit of the Parish Council and that there were no matters arising that required attention. The annual return, approved by the external auditor, was presented to the Council, as required, and approved and accepted. A public notice had been displayed, as required. The Clerk wished to record his thanks to the internal auditor for his help in preparing the return.

10/48 Planning Matters

The Clerk reported on three matters.

- VWHDC had given permission for an extension at Coral Oaks, Longworth Road.
- VWHDC had advised of a planning application in Denchworth near to the parish boundary to discharge an obligation for the main breadwinner at Lyford Stud, Northmead Lane to be wholly or mainly employed in agriculture or with horses. The PC had no objection to this.
- An application had been made to erect glasshouses, a gazebo, and screening at Byways. The PC had no objection to this.

10/49 Village Hall Project

The Chairman reported on four matters.

- The PC had recently paid a builder's invoice for half of the retention and this has reduced the amount of VHP funds in the PC account to almost zero. Accordingly, the PC's financial involvement is now finished, and the balance of the retention will be paid by CHAFT.
- Reports by the Building Inspector and the CDM Supervisor had "signed off" the project.
- Minor (mainly cosmetic) work remains to be done by village volunteers.
- CHAFT is planning an open evening (probably Thursday 9 September) to which will be invited our MP, County Council and District Council officials, representatives from funding agencies, as well as village residents.

10/50 Village College

Councillor Bath (who is also the VC Manager) reported as follows.

- Classes have resumed in the Village Hall, now that refurbishment allows.
- A planned French class cannot be arranged for lack of a tutor.
- There was not sufficient interest to provide computing and photography classes.
- Willow weaving is proposed but the tutor is not yet available.

10/51 Charney Army/Project CHAFFINCH

- Consideration was given to details of proposed expenditure of the Flood Group grant of £2346. Purchase was thought necessary of only selected items from the list submitted in October 2009.

RESOLVED that the PC should purchase three weed rakes, two hard hats, three pairs of chest waders, and 220m of polypropylene rope. This would amount to about £350, leaving about £2000 for tree surgery and watercourse work.

RESOLVED that the PC and Charney Army members should detail the tree and watercourse work to be undertaken, taking appropriate advice.

RESOLVED that the Clerk should confirm the availability of the grant in the light of the current economic climate.

- Members discussed other flood measures, noting initiatives undertaken in the district, and the need to prepare a flood plan.

RESOLVED that the Vice-chairman and the Clerk should bring to the PC information on flood defence in order to begin the preparation of a flood plan.

10/52 Clerk's Correspondence

The Clerk reported as follows.

- The lawn-mowing contractor had ceased trading, but was now employed by Mr BG Gristwood, to whom the contract has been transferred on the same terms and conditions.
- The PC insurance had been renewed through Came & Co for year two of three.
- RoSPA inspection of the play area takes place in July.

- Ownership of the telephone kiosk transferred from BT to the PC on 10 July 2010. The ill-fitting door would be fixed by the Charney Army. In fulfilment of the resolution from paragraph 10/35 (of May 2010) Councillors Bath & Harper proposed to procure a lock, a map of the village, and a display screen for the kiosk.

RESOLVED that these items would be charged against a budget of no more than £100 for the kiosk project.

- Councillor Beth Fleming is the new Chairman of VWHDC. She has written to all parish councils to ask if we wish to seek her support and attendance at any forthcoming local events.

RESOLVED that she should be invited to the Village Hall open evening in September; the Chairman would alert the CHAFT committee to this. Also, the Clerk would alert the PCC to consider inviting her to the church fete on 4 September 2010.

10/53 Information Exchange

- The Chairman reported with regret the recent death of Mrs Nan Sharpus, a well-loved resident who was born and lived for very many years in Charney Bassett.
- The Vice-chairman reported on a recent NAG presentation on the work of the Probation Service to place offenders on unpaid work to fulfil community service orders of 30-400 hours handed down by the courts.
- Councillor Harper reported that Mr Colin McGuire had offered his services recently to become a Stanford minibus driver.
- Several episodes have been observed recently of intruders in McBain's yard. Details are being kept of these where possible (times/dates/vehicle registration numbers) by the PC.

RESOLVED that the Clerk should write to Mr McBain to bring this to his attention.

10/54 Date of Next Meeting

8 September 2010, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:00pm.

Signed Date
Chairman