

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2010

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

Dr S K Cowlam, Clerk

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

10/55 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jos Bath. There were no declarations of interest.

10/56 Minutes of the July 2010 Meeting, and Matters Arising

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

Matters arising from the July meeting were as follows.

- Actions on the four resolutions at 10/51 are described at 10/64.
- John Daglish had carried out work on the telephone kiosk costing £15. See 10/52.
- Councillor Fleming of VWHDC had been invited to the village hall open evening. See 10/52.
- The Clerk had informed Mr McBain of intruders in his yard in New Road. See 10/53.

10/57 County Council Matters

County Councillor Melinda Tilley reported on "The Oxfordshire Big Debate" work that is in hand to reduce the OCC budget by £200M from £1B. The first likely target will be non-statutory services, (libraries and music teaching are possible examples) but these alone will be insufficient. New smarter ways of working have to be found that are less expensive. There needs to be clarity over the funding responsibilities of central and local government.

10/58 District Council Matters

County Councillor Melinda Tilley also reported that VWHDC and SODC now share all services in approximately 30%VWHDC/70%SODC proportions. Further cost reductions are being sought.

10/59 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/10/05 which had been distributed to Councillors, noting the following details.

- VWHDC had awarded a flood grant of £15,845 for work at Goosey Wick Barn, and of £2,346 for Project CHAFFINCH. The PC has paid the contractor's invoice for the former (for £17,831, but will reclaim the VAT on this from HMRC).
- Expenditure to date by the PC is £1,560.66, excluding CHAFT's share of the Council's insurance and the external audit, VHP work, and the Goosey Wick Barn flood defence works.
- Payments for the VHP from the Council's account are now concluded.

RESOLVED that the Report be adopted.

10/60 The “Oxfordshire Big Debate”

The Chief Executive and the Leader of OCC had written to all Parish Clerks to invite suggestions from communities for the proposed huge reductions in local government spending. County Councillor Tilley had briefed us on this (see 10/57). Councillor Harper agreed to attend one of the planned public meetings on this topic. Several suggestions were made by the Parish Council and from the floor.

RESOLVED that those interested should send their proposals (by email or through the letter box) to the Clerk or Councillor Harper by 20 September 2010. These would be reviewed by the Parish Council with a view to sending a considered list to OCC.

10/61 Planning Matters

The Clerk reported on three matters.

- Permission is being sought to fell a diseased tree at Wick Cottage. The Parish Council has no objection to this.
- 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. This application has been withdrawn.
- An application had been made to erect glasshouses, a gazebo, and screening at Byways. VWHDC has granted this.

10/62 Village Hall Project

The Chairman reported on three matters.

- Some minor snagging work is in hand: a roof leak, and a faulty toilet flush.
- Agreement has been reached with TOE (who managed the grant of £50,000 from WREN to us towards the project) that a condition be added to the title to the property that no disposition of the registered estate may be made without the written consent of WREN.
- CHAFT has organized an open evening on 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.

10/63 Village College

Councillor Bath (who is also the VC Manager) provided a report via the Clerk, as follows.

- Yoga and pilates classes are running in the Village Hall.
- Provided that there is sufficient interest, computing and photography classes are to be run.
- Fees are being held at 2009 levels, thanks to a CLET grant to cover hall hire. This allows the VC to break even, otherwise fees would have to rise accordingly.

10/64 Charney Army/Project CHAFFINCH

The Clerk reported on the resolutions from 10/51.

- The resolution that the PC should purchase three weed rakes, two hard hats, three pairs of chest waders, and 220m of polypropylene rope has become a priority, which the Clerk would progress.
- The PC and Charney Army members had considered some of the tree and watercourse work to be undertaken, but further clarity on this is necessary.
- The Clerk had obtained the flood grant of £2,346 from VWHDC.
- The Vice-chairman and the Clerk had obtained some information on flood defence in order to begin the preparation of a flood plan. They had formed a working party with John Daglish

and Colin McGuire to progress the work, including attendance at a workshop at HR Wallingford on 9 October 2010.

10/65 Clerk's Correspondence

The Clerk reported as follows.

- Central government is consulting, on a very short timescale, on a requirement for town and parish councils to hold referendums if they propose "excessive" council tax increases. The PC noted that the matter is being dealt with locally and nationally by associations of local councils (of which we are a member).
- Oxfordshire Rural Community Council has issued its 90th birthday publication. Our contribution has been included: an article on Peter Davies under the heading "individual contribution to community life", for which we are one of five communities to have won £100!
- VWHDC has reported that it is consulting on a legal requirement to change its chief executive arrangements.

10/66 Information Exchange

- The PC noted increasing instances of vehicles parked on the Green.
- Councillor Harper reported that meet & greet arrangements had begun at the Stanford in the Vale waste recycling site. These appear to cause traffic queuing on the A417.
- The PC is astonished that in the current financial climate we should be invited to apply for a grant of £2,000-£30,000 for a project on "Oxfordshire Stronger Communities"!

RESOLVED that the Chairman would cost the erection of two more signs to prevent parking on the Green.

RESOLVED that the Clerk should contact OCC regarding the meet & greet arrangements at Stanford in the Vale.

10/67 Date of Next Meeting

10 November 2010, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:15pm.

Signed Date
Chairman