

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2010

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

Dr S K Cowlam, Clerk

District Councillor Anthony Hayward was present and four members of the public were in attendance.

10/68 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Melinda Tilley and Parish Councillor Jim Harper. There were no declarations of interest.

10/69 Minutes of the September 2010 Meeting, and Matters Arising

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

Matters arising from the September meeting were as follows.

- 10/60: the Clerk had sent Charney Bassett's proposals to OCC for reducing its expenditure in response to "The Big Oxfordshire Debate".
- 10/66: the Chairman had obtained costs for "no parking" signs for the Green.
RESOLVED that in view of the expense, we would make use of components available from John Daghish and Doug Hughes for an additional sign, at no cost.
- 10/66: the Clerk had contacted OCC regarding the hazard and inconvenience of the new "meet & greet" arrangements at Stanford in the Vale recycling centre. These have been discontinued.

10/70 County Council Matters

County Councillor Melinda Tilley had provided a brief. Difficult work continues at County Hall to reduce its budget. The Boundary Commission is reviewing Oxfordshire and seems likely to recommend fewer county councillors.

10/71 District Council Matters

District Councillor Anthony Hayward reported as follows:

- New waste collection arrangements are now working well. Recycling has increase from 35-40% to 70-80%. Green bins fill quickly, grey ones much less so.
- Cost reductions are being sought: cuts in bureaucracy will be made, and job losses seem inevitable. Sale of some council property is likely.
- Planning application for a Tesco on a designated business area in Faringdon has been refused, but Waitrose have applied for a town centre site.
- It seems likely that mineral extraction at Longworth will not be permitted, but there will be an increase in existing workings at Stanford in the Vale.

10/72 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/10/06 which had been circulated to Councillors, noting the following details.

- The PC account contains £7833.47 of CHAFT funds, including a recent grant of £5000.
- Expenditure to date by the PC is £1850.69, 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.

10/73 The RoSPA Report on the Play Area

The PC had received the annual report on the safety of the children's play area on Charney Field. Items noted as high risk had been rectified (benches and table removed from a fall area), damaged retaining edging has been replaced, and wood chippings raked and forked. We do not wish to pursue other recommendations such as road signs to the play area, providing litter bins, and a telephone number on the "no dogs" sign.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would place a note on the website and in Charney Chatter to discourage placing benches and tables in unsafe positions in the play area.

RESOLVED that the Chairman should ask the CHAFT committee to consider adding the annual inspection to its responsibility for the play area.

10/74 Planning Matters

There were no matters to report.

10/75 Village Hall Project

The Chairman reported on three matters.

- Some minor snagging work is in hand: a roof leak.
- CHAFT has one payment left to make to the builder for completing snagging rectification.
- CHAFT had held a successful open evening on Thursday 9 September. County Council and District Council officials, representatives from Trust for Oxfordshire Environment, and from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council had attended, as well as village residents.

10/76 Village College

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

- Yoga and pilates classes are running in the Village Hall.
- There is no interest at present in other classes.
- A CLET grant covers hall hire.
- The VC bank account balance is £1006.21.

10/77 Charney Army/Project CHAFFINCH

The Clerk reported as follows.

- He had purchased three weed rakes, three hard hats, three pairs of chest waders, and 220m of polypropylene rope at a cost of £424.05 (£349.87 net of VAT). He would inform VWHDC of this expenditure against its grant to us, as required. The equipment would be stored in the mill.
- A flood working party had been formed (Mike Cox, John Daghish, Colin McGuire, and Stephen Cowlam). It had met to consider what practical work needs to be done to avoid further flooding in the village, and to develop an action plan. Three of its members had attended a useful workshop arranged by the Environment Agency at Wallingford.

- The Clerk had prepared notes of these two meetings. These included our views on what needs to be done, though we need to seek professional advice before implementing them. RESOLVED that we ask Keith Lead (EA) to visit and review our proposals. RESOLVED that the Charney Army consider what tree work is necessary.

10/78 Clerk’s Correspondence

The Clerk reported as follows.

- Mr McBain had replied to a letter to say that he had replaced chain-link fencing at his yard to discourage intruders.
- The Boundary Commission has invited town and parish councils to give their views on electoral boundaries in Oxfordshire, in connection with its review of the county. The deadline is 22 November 2010!

RESOLVED that the Clerk draft a reply from the PC to the Boundary Commission.

- The Leader of OCC had replied to thank the PC for its suggestions for cost saving in connection with “The Oxfordshire Big Debate”.
- OCC is consulting district, town and parish councils on changing arrangements for the concessionary fares scheme.

RESOLVED that the PC supports OCC’s proposals, and that the Clerk should draft a reply.

10/79 Information Exchange

- Councillor Jos Bath stated her intention to resign as a councillor and as manager of the Village College. The Chairman expressed the sorrow of the Council at this, and thanked her sincerely for her many years of service to the village. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers as a mark of our appreciation.
- Councillor Cox reported that OCC Highways Department had recently made repairs to New Road.
- The Chairman expressed his thanks for being nominated by the PC for an award for “Caring for the Vale”. This well-deserved award was for his many years of service to our community. He had attended a luncheon at Abingdon Guildhall, together with other recipients from the Vale.

10/80 Date of Next Meeting

12 January 2011, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:15pm.

Signed Date
Chairman