

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2011

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

Dr S K Cowlam, Clerk

County Councillor Melinda Tilley and District Councillor Anthony Hayward were present and four members of the public were in attendance.

11/15 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jim Harper had sent an apology for absence. There were no declarations of interest.

11/16 Minutes of the January 2011 Meeting, and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the January 2011 meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.
Matters arising from the January meeting were as follows.

- 10/73: the Chairman had asked the CHAFT committee to consider adding the annual inspection of the play area to its responsibility. RESOLVED now that the CHAFT committee had agreed to this.
- 10/77: the Clerk has still to ask Keith Lead (EA) to visit and review project CHAFFINCH proposals.
- 11/5 RESOLVED now that the Clerk had sent a letter to VWHDC seeking improvement in waste collection.
- 11/7 RESOLVED now that the Clerk had sought a precept of £3800.
- 11/7 RESOLVED. The Chairman had obtained CHAFT's agreement to take over funding of the safety inspection of the children's play area (£80) and membership subscription to Oxon Playing Fields Association (£34).
- 11/7 RESOLVED. After consideration the Chairman favoured charitable donation to Wantage Independent Advice Centre rather than to Abingdon Citizens' Advice Bureau, as he believed that more residents of the village used the former.
- 11/13 RESOLVED. The Clerk had informed OCC Highways Dept of the location of potholes to be filled. OCC's representative had replied that these had been programmed for attention.

11/17 County Council Matters

County Councillor Melinda Tilley briefed as follows.

- The budget has been approved, though not without much disagreement and protest. There will be no library closures, but the service is subject to consultation.
- OCC is the subject of an OFSTED inspection at present.
- The Boundary Commission has recommended reducing the number of County Councillors from 74 to 64. Our divisional boundary could extend to represent 8500 people from the present 6000.
- OCC is encouraging community celebrations for the forthcoming royal wedding, the London Olympics, and the Queen's jubilee; and will waive insurance fees for street closures for towns and parishes who wish to hold street parties.

- The concessionary bus fare scheme is to transfer from District to County Council. We expressed concern that our community bus would be affected.
- A group of County Councillors is working to prevent closure of the Stanford in the Vale recycling centre in 2014.

11/18 District Council Matters

Anthony Hayward briefed as follows.

- The number of District Councillors is to be reduced by one third.
- There is to be a saving of £150k on planning staff.
- Ownership of the Guildhall is to be transferred to Abingdon Town Council, together with £1.2M.

11/19 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/11/02 which had been issued to Councillors, noting the following details.

- £7833.47 of CHAFT funds in the PC account have been transferred to CHAFT.
- Expenditure to date by the PC remains at £2306.92, excluding CHAFT's share of the Council's insurance and the external audit, VHP work, Goosey Wick Barn flood defence works, and the balance of our flood grant.
- Further expenditure is estimated at £492.99-1506.99, including some tree work using flood grant funds.

RESOLVED: the Report was adopted.

RESOLVED: the Chairman and the Clerk would exchange notes for PC and CHAFT records of the transfer of £7833.47.

11/20 Audit Arrangements and Risk Assessment

The Clerk presented papers on these two topics. These were similar to those presented a year ago. Councillors noted that there had been no change in circumstances that would warrant revisions or modifications.

RESOLVED: the reports were accepted.

11/21 Planning Matters

There were no matters to report.

11/22 Village College

Mrs Lynn Brookes reported as follows.

- Yoga and pilates classes are running in the Village Hall.
- She has asked if there is interest in running other courses: French and German were requested.
- A course on upholstery and furniture restoration was suggested at the meeting.

11/23 Charney Army/Project CHAFFINCH

The outstanding work is as follows.

- To complete the matters arising from Paragraph 10/77 to seek opinion from Keith Lead (EA) on work proposed by the flood plan working party.
- To prepare a flood plan.
- Tree work is to be carried out along the stream by the bridle path by a specialist contractor and the Charney Army on 10/11 March.

11/24 Clerk's Correspondence

The Clerk reported as follows.

- Parish (and District) Council elections are to be held on 5 May 2011. The Chairman does not wish to stand again. A resident at the meeting expressed an interest in serving. The clerk would post a notice shortly inviting nominations to be a councillor.
- The Clerk had received a reply from VWHDC to our complaint about refuse collection. The reply is anodyne and does not answer our questions about improving service.
- Thames Valley Police are inviting nominations for recognition of service to the community.
- OCC is asking residents for views on a revised waste strategy for Oxfordshire.

11/25 Information Exchange

- Councillor Cox reported that the Neighbourhood Action Groups for the Vale and South Oxon are likely to be amalgamated, with HQ in Abingdon.
- Councillor Hughes reported on the increasing incidence of dog fouling on Charney Field.
- John Daghish drew attention to the proliferation of untidy notices on the Parish notice board, many of which are inappropriate and of a business nature.
- Pamela Edwards is a qualified environmental health practitioner, and offered to carry out the annual children's play area inspection.
- Colin McGuire and Marian Gardiner had each reported a build-up of debris in the River Ock between the Mill and Lyford Bridge, and were concerned at the upstream threat.

RESOLVED: the Clerk would be more ruthless in removing inappropriate notices from the Parish notice board, and would put a note to this effect in Charney Chatter.

RESOLVED: the Clerk would find out what qualifications/affiliations are required to inspect the children's play area.

RESOLVED: the Chairman would consider installing a dog bag dispenser at Charney Field.

RESOLVED: Councillor Hughes would search Land Registry records to establish riparian owners along the River Ock below the Mill.

11/26 Date of Next Meeting

11 May 2011, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:10pm.

Signed Date
Chairman