

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 11 JANUARY 2012

Present: Mr M Cox, Chairman
Miss P Edwards
Mr D Nellist
Mr J Harper

Dr S K Cowlam, Clerk

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

12/01 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence had been sent by Parish Councillor Doug Hughes and Village College Manager Lynn Brookes. There were no declarations of interest.

12/02 To Approve the Minutes of the November Meeting, and Matters Arising

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

- 11/68. The PC had still to identify pieces of land of interest on a map with a view to researching their ownership.
- 11/70 RESOLVED. The Clerk had sought an unchanged precept for 2012/13 of £3800 from VWHDC.
- 11/70 RESOLVED. The PC and CHAFT had agreed that in future CHAFT would insure the children's play area when the PC insurance is renewed in June 2012.
- 11/71 RESOLVED. The Clerk had convened a flood group meeting. This is reported at paragraph 12/06.
- 11/75 RESOLVED. Councillors had forwarded their views on the VWHDC draft Interim Housing Policy, and the Clerk had sent the collective view to VWHDC.

12/03 County Councillor's Matters

Melinda Tilley reported as follows.

- The OCC budget process continues, with many more cuts to be found.
- Some of the schools in Oxford city are not performing well, and this is receiving her attention.
- The Chairman and the Clerk sought advice on the new planning laws and the Localism Act. Melinda (and Anthony Hayward) agreed to find out more of the detail for us.

RESOLVED: the Clerk would forward the PC's briefing note to Councillors Tilley and Hayward as a basis for their views.

12/04 District Councillor's Matters

Anthony Hayward reported as follows.

- 13000 houses are needed in the District in the next 15 years, and there is some difficulty in planning where they should all be located; possibly 450 in communities close to the A420.

- He recommended that the PC produce a Neighbourhood Plan, and advised that there could be financial support to do this.

12/05 Clerk's Financial Report

- The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/12/01 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors.
- The report projected that the PC would spend 89% of the precept, and that the current account balance at the end of the financial year would be about £48.69 less than at the start, as a result of expenditure from the flood grant. This position is satisfactory.

RESOLVED: the report was adopted.

12/06 Flooding/Project CHAFFINCH

- At last there has been a response from EA to the actions taken by their representative in May 2011 (now retired). The Clerk would respond to progress the outstanding actions.
- Jim Gardiner has continued his study of the local geography and the watercourses. This continues to conclude that excess water should not be routed along the Charney Wick Ditch, as this is the lowest lying part of the village. A tentative proposal is that the Charney Wick Ditch should be better insulated from the River Ock, with some modest work upstream of the village that would then allow the Charney Wick Ditch to be downgraded from its status as a main river. Before that though, we wish to obtain knowledge from Bruce Hedge (a key player in the restoration of Charney Mill) about the Charney Wick Ditch and the Mill Stream.

RESOLVED that the Clerk should convene a meeting of the flood group to obtain knowledge from Bruce Hedge on the history of the Charney Wick Ditch. This is in hand, and will not be before early February, due to people's unavailability.

- The Clerk had contacted OCC Highways to seek inspection of the culvert in Main Street which carries the Charney Wick Ditch, after Thames Water's contractors had done work in the area. OCC reported (actually after the PC meeting minuted here) that the culvert is in a satisfactory condition.
- Councillor Hughes reported (before the meeting) that Simon Escreet is now available for work on riparian ownership.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would explore this with the Chairman and Councillor Hughes.

12/07 Land at Ock Green

The Clerk had received a telephone call, and then a letter, from the Chairman of the Trustees of Charney Manor. Ock Green and the field next to it have been leased to the PC by the Manor since 1973, and maintained by the PC as a natural habitat for the benefit of the community. A nearby resident has made an offer to buy the field from the Manor, and the Manor is seeking the PC's view on this. The PC wishes to retain the present arrangement, and would reply to the Trustees to this effect.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would draft a response to the Trustees of Charney Manor for consideration by the PC.

12/08 Snow Clearance

OCC policy is now for "self-help" by communities. In this connection OCC had already provided a ton of salt for roads and pavements. The intention is that designated owners of appropriate vehicles (eg. tractors and excavators) would be insured by OCC to undertake local snow clearance and salt spreading, though the scheme has not progressed this far yet. We await further guidance.

12/09 Planning Matters

The Clerk reported as follows.

- There had been two planning applications recently, one for improvements at Manor Farm, and the other for development at Goosey Wick Barns. The PC had no objections to these two applications.
- The Clerk had responded to the VWHDC's consultation on its draft Interim Housing Policy, details of which were given in the previous minutes.
- The Chairman and the Clerk had attended a forum organized by VWHDC in November 2011 on the Localism Act and new planning laws, and had issued a briefing note to councillors. The key issue for our village is the need for a Community or Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would convene a separate meeting of the councillors to explore how to take the matter forward.

- We had had no further information from VWHDC on what is believed to be the construction of an airstrip to the north of the parish.

RESOLVED that the Clerk should enquire further about this.

12/10 Village College

Lynn Brookes had provided a report as follows.

- Yoga and pilates classes are fully subscribed, and have waiting lists.
- The patchwork and needlecraft classes are proving so successful that they have been expanded to morning, afternoon and evening sessions for a third term. There will be two machine quilting workshops in January.
- A further French conversation class is planned for February.
- Generous funding from VWHDC and CLET has enabled three Saturday workshops to be held, with advice from the VWHDC Arts Development Officer. These will be "Pen & Watercolour", "Expressive Painting", and "Singing for Everyone" in January to March.

Lynn was congratulated on a successful and varied programme.

12/11 Clerk's Correspondence

The Clerk had received a number of requests for donations. The PC agreed to give £30 to each of the following:

- Hanney Royal British Legion,
- Wantage Independent Advice Centre,
- Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance,
- South & Vale Carers,
- Oxfordshire Association for the Blind,
- Oxfordshire Woodland Project.

12/12 Information Exchange

Nothing to report.

12/13 Date of Next Meeting

14 March 2012, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:10pm.

Signed Date

Chairman

