

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2013

Present:

Mr M Cox, Chairman
 Mr D Nellist, Vice chairman
 Mrs J Fry
 Mrs S Dobson
 Mr D Roberts

Dr SK Cowlam, Clerk

Twenty-four members of the public were in attendance.

13/16 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence had been sent by Village College Manager Lynn Brookes. There were no declarations of interest.

13/17 To approve the Minutes of the January Meeting and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: the minutes of the January 2013 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from the January 2013 meeting were as follows.

- 13/06 RESOLVED. The PC agreed to seek an unchanged precept of £3800. This has been acknowledged by VWHDC.
- 13/08 RESOLVED. The Clerk sought a consultation with ORCC on the next steps for the Neighbourhood/Community Plan. This took place on 28 February 2013.
- 12/83 RESOLVED. The Clerk had contacted OCC about relocating the 30mph speed limit signs. No response had been received yet.
- 13/11 Councillor Nellist had revised the draft Emergency Plan. He will circulate this for final comments.
- The Clerk had contacted Kay Adamson about updating the display in the telephone box. John Daghish had updated the map for display therein.

13/18 County Councillor's News

- The recycling centre at Stanford in the Vale will not now close as earlier planned.
- Following Boundary Commission recommendations, our ward will comprise 19 villages.

13/19 District Councillor's News

None reported.

13/20 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented the financial report CBPC/FIN/13/02 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The figures represented the situation at 20 February 2012, and had been approved by the internal auditor. The PC account holds £300 of Jubilee funds on behalf of CHAFT/Jubilee Committee, and £1506.63 remains of the flood grant. The position is satisfactory. RESOLVED: the report was adopted.

Councillors considered which organizations to favour with its annual charitable donations.

RESOLVED: these were agreed to be the same six as last year (Wantage IAC, TV & Chiltern Air Ambulance, Oxon Association for the Blind, Hanney RBL, South & Vale Carers, Oxon Woodland Project), and an additional two: the Oxfordshire Playbus, and the MS Therapy Centre Abingdon.

13/21 Community Governance Review

Following Boundary Commission review of county and district councillor numbers and ward boundaries, VWHDC will undertake a review at parish level in June. The review will consider the following issues. Also noted are the PC's initial views on these.

- Should new parishes be constituted? Not out of Charney Bassett.
- Should existing parishes be abolished, or the parish boundary be altered? No, and no.
- Should the parish be warded? No, not large enough for this.
- How many parish councillors should there be? No change from five.
- Should existing parishes be grouped? No, not with Charney Bassett.
- Should the parish have its name changed? No.

13/22 Flooding/Project CHAFFINCH

Jim Gardiner and the Clerk had met the owner of the land through which the Gainfield Brook and the Charney Wick Ditch flow. Jim gave the presentation to him that he had given at the PC meeting in May 2012 and the EA in December 2012. We said that our aim was to seek agreement to three small projects that would reduce flood risk in Charney Bassett. He said he would consider these and give us his views in due course. We also walked the bridle path and fields to look at the locations of the three proposed projects. In a further development, VWHDC may be offering flood grants of up to £1000 in 2013/14. We hope to be able to take advantage of this.

13/23 Neighbourhood/Community Plan Project

- The Chairman and the Clerk had met ORCC's expert on this topic at the VWHDC planning forum in November 2012. We arranged for him to visit the PC and the working group on 28 February to discuss and advise on the course of the project.
- We think it advisable to continue with a community-led plan, and the Chairman asked for interested residents to join the working party. Iain McGregor, Neil Dobson and Ron Smith volunteered.

RESOLVED: the Clerk would arrange a briefing meeting to relaunch the working party.

RESOLVED: the Clerk would seek a meeting with the new neighbourhood plan specialist at VWHDC.

13/24 Jubilee Orchard Project

The project is nearing completion. The trees have been planted. Several fruit bushes have been given by Mike Welham and John DGLISH. John has made a sign for the orchard, and this is now in place. It remains only to provide labels for the trees. More planting may be added from time to time.

13/25 Village College Report

Lynn Brookes had provided a report as follows.

- Patchwork & Quilting classes are running with morning, afternoon and evening sessions, with 25 students.
- Yoga and Pilates classes continue on Fridays, both with waiting lists.
- Two Saturday "Machine Quilting Fun Days" took place in January.
- Two Saturday workshops in calligraphy and singing took place in February and March.

13/26 Emergency Plans

David Nellist had produced a final draft of the plan.

RESOLVED: that final comments be given to David Nellist on his draft emergency plan.

13/27 Planning Matters

Representatives from Pye Homes had asked to attend the meeting to brief the PC on their draft proposal to build 13 houses (mostly 4-5 bedrooms, double garages) on agricultural land on the north side of Buckland Road. These would include five affordable houses (of 3-4 bedrooms, driveway parking for two cars in tandem). They said that they would produce bespoke designs that take account of local architecture, and wished to take community feedback. They wish to hold an exhibition in the village hall and use this to consult the community. We asked that this should be after the Easter holidays. We were concerned that the proposal has been worked up with a planning officer, increasing the number of houses from 10 to 13. We were also concerned that all of this had taken place without any discussion with the community or the PC.

13/28 Clerk’s Correspondence

None.

13/29 Information Exchange

- Emma Buchanan had provided a brief on the Oxonline project to bring fast broadband to the county. Progress has been stopped until after local elections in May. Emma had been pleased with the questionnaire response, which had flagged to OCC the great desire to improve the broadband speed. Notably, some neighbouring communities are signing up to Gigaclear, a private sector provider, while others are considering 3G/4G.
- David Sibbert described arrangements elsewhere to set up secure information networks for rapid dissemination of information to communities. These would be advantageous to us, too.

RESOLVED: the Clerk and David Roberts to liaise with David Sibbert, who would set up a community link system for the village.

13/30 Date of next meeting

8 May 2013, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:20pm.

Signed..... Date.....
Chairman