

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 8 MAY 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-one members of the public were in attendance.

13/31 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence had been sent by Village College Manager Lynn Brookes, District Councillor Anthony Hayward, and County Councillor Melinda Tilley. There were no declarations of interest.

13/32 Election of Officers

Mr Cox was proposed as Chairman by Mrs Fry and seconded by Mrs Dobson, and duly elected. Mr Nellist was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Mrs Fry and seconded by Mr Roberts, and duly elected.

13/33 Times and Dates of Future Meetings

It was agreed to continue with the existing arrangement to meet in the Village Hall at 7:30pm on the second Wednesday of every odd month.

13/34 Appointments to Other Committees

The following appointments were made or renewed.

- Minibus Committee: Mr Colin McGuire.
- Transport Representative: Mr Colin McGuire.
- Charney Hall & Field Trust: Mrs Jane Fry & Mr David Nellist.
- Longworth Charities Trust: Mr Jim Harper.
- Neighbourhood Action Group: Mr Mike Cox. (Mr David Sibbert holds a personal appointment).

13/35 Other Responsibilities

The following responsibilities were made or renewed.

- Grass cutting liaison: the Clerk.
- Seven Voices Reporter: the Clerk.
- Charney Chatter Editor: Dr Roger Watson. (But a successor will need to be found shortly).
- Village Website Manager: Mr John Wright.
- Village College Manager: Mrs Lynn Brookes.
- Internal Auditor: Mr Peter Leaver.

13/36 To approve the Minutes of the March Meeting and Matters Arising

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

Matters arising from the March 2013 meeting were as follows.

- 12/83 RESOLVED. The Clerk had contacted OCC about relocating the 30mph speed limit signs. No response had been received yet. The Clerk would renew this effort.

13/37 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented the financial report CBPC/FIN/13/03 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The figures represented the situation to the end of the financial year ending 31 March 2013, and had been approved by the internal auditor. The PC approved the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Return, which would now be submitted for external audit. The Key points were as follows.

- We had begun the year with a balance of £5423.82.
- The precept had been unchanged at £3800.
- Expenditure against the precept had been lower than the previous year due to reduced grass cutting, a redistribution of costs with CHAFT, income from fund-raising, and the generosity of residents and CHAFT.

RESOLVED: the report was adopted, enabling the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Return to be approved and signed.

13/38 Clerk's Correspondence

- The Clerk had received a letter from Mr Michael Cox (a resident, not our Chairman) to the Parish Council. He is one of the owners of the Buckland Road site that is the subject of Pye's proposed development. He wished to note the following.
 - Pye Homes had made the initial approach to the Cox family about a possible development.
 - He had been upset by an abusive incident with a (presumed) resident, followed by an anonymous threatening note attached to his gate.
 - He complains about the number of posters around the village opposing housing development.
 - He is concerned that these will make visitors think that we have a troubled village, and add difficulty to residents who are trying to sell homes in the village.

RESOLVED: The Clerk would respond to Mr Cox. The notices were placed by the Charney Bassett Action Group, and were directed at any and all uncontrolled development, not at the Cox family. The abusive incident was unfortunate, but between two individuals not connected with the Parish Council. The Parish Council would remove the posters from the telephone kiosk.

- VWHDC had refused planning permission for four houses behind Longworth Road on the grounds that "1. *The proposed development would constitute an extension of the settlement into surrounding countryside.....not considered sustainable.....promoting additional car trips.*" And "2. *The proposal represents the clearly visible extension of built development into the surrounding rural setting of the village.*"

13/39 Information Exchange

Pye Homes have approached the Parish Council seeking to display their revised plans to residents, followed by discussions with the Parish Council, on 23 May in the Village Hall.

RESOLVED: The PC agreed that this should go ahead, noting that Pye had expressed some doubt over the date, and whether the event would take place at all.

13/40 Date of next meeting

10 July 2013, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:00pm.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting followed immediately after the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

13/41 Chairman’s Annual Report

This is reported in full in Charney Chatter and on the village website, and is therefore not detailed here. The key points are as follows.

- The precept has remained unchanged again at £3800.
- We have filled three casual vacancies with new parish councillors: Mrs Jane Fry, Mr David Roberts, and Mrs Sue Dobson.
- Project CHAFFINCH continues: positive discussions have been held with the Environment Agency on flood avoidance measures, and with local landowners.
- We are facing the prospect of three housing developments in the village, two of which the PC finds unsatisfactory, not helped by changed and muddled planning at the VWHDC.
- We have planted a Jubilee Orchard on land that we rent from Charney Manor.
- The village website has been replaced.
- An email messaging system has been set up.
- The Community-led/Neighbourhood Plan working group has been reformed.

13/42 County Council Matters

None reported.

13/43 District Council Matters

None reported.

13/44 Residents’ Questions

- Neil Dobson gave a presentation on behalf of the Community-led/Neighbourhood Plan working group. Advice had been obtained from ORCC. It would be possible to construct a Community-led Plan (which would feature many or all aspects of a vision for the future of the village), and develop this into a Neighbourhood Plan (which is primarily a land use plan). We would need to notify VWHDC of our intention to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, and seek the necessary forms from them to start the process. They would provide £5000 for the work, with the prospect of up to £7000 from central government. A Neighbourhood Plan could not be produced if we were reclassified from “Smaller Village” to “Open Countryside”.

RESOLVED: The Clerk would notify VWHDC of our intention to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and seek the necessary application forms.

- An outreach post office to replace our closed post office seems unlikely, and was no longer felt to be needed.
- We should continue with efforts to have the village reclassified as “Open Countryside”.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:40pm.

Signed.....Date.....

Chairman.

