

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Mr M Cox, Chairman
Mrs J Fry
Mrs S Dobson
Mr D Roberts

Dr SK Cowlam, Clerk

District Councillor Anthony Hayward and twenty seven members of the public were in attendance.

13/67 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

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

13/68 To approve the Minutes of the September Meeting and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: the minutes of the September 2013 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman. Matters arising from the September 2013 meeting were as follows.

- 13/64 RESOLVED. The Clerk had ordered a salt bin and salt from OCC.
- 13/65 RESOLVED. The Clerk had issued terms of reference for the communications improvement project.
- 13/65 RESOLVED. The Clerk had put a note in Charney Chatter requesting residents to clear the gutters in front of their properties, and about dog fouling.
- 13/65 RESOLVED. The Clerk had invited Pam Edwards and Neil Dobson to seek a grant from Melinda Tilley's fund to update village history.
- 13/65 RESOLVED. Parish Councillors were asked to consider hiring a skip for village use.
- 13/65 RESOLVED. David Sibbert agreed to seek information on a defibrillator for the village.
- 13/65 RESOLVED. The Clerk to find a successor to maintain the telephone box.

13/69 County Councillor's News

- Melinda had no news to pass on to us, but reminded us via a message to consider an appropriate request from her discretionary fund.

13/70 District Councillor's News

- VWHDC had approved planning permission for a European Space Office (as part of the European Space Agency on the Harwell campus (for about twenty jobs)).
- Housing developers for the Grove site will build a new school, and will upgrade the A338. 2500 houses are planned for the site over ten years.
- The Local Plan should have progressed in September, but Government now requires a more rigorous assessment of housing needs, and this is not now expected to be complete before January 2014. The implication of this is that the absence of a Plan continues to allow a developers' free-for-all rather longer than would have been the case.

13/71 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented the financial report CBPC/FIN/13/06 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The figures represented the situation at 20 October 2013, 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.

13/72 Communication Improvement Project

The project team (David Sibbert, Rosemary McClintock, Roger Watson, and John Wright) had met the Parish Council to discuss their proposals. Details are given in the attached note for the record. The main points are as follows.

- Charney Chatter would be changed from a bimonthly paper newsletter to a monthly electronic version.
- This would be sent by email to residents and to the village website.
- Arrangements would be made to send paper copies to residents who would prefer that medium.
- An email messaging system will be established (for those residents who would like to join it) to alert residents to newsworthy information.

13/73 Flooding/Project CHAFFINCH

- We have received a consent from VWHDC under the Land Drainage Act for works to reinstate the causeway and the ditch that runs into the Charney Wick Ditch near the bridge path.
- VWHDC has awarded us a grant of £1500 towards the cost of the proposed works.
- The Charney Army and David Godfrey have begun clearing vegetation along the causeway. After two sessions we have progressed about half way.
- When this is complete Jim Gardiner will mark the land showing where the ditch needs to be dug and the causeway built up. Then we can hire earth-moving equipment to do this phase of the project.
- The Clerk had contacted the Environment Agency to suggest that we do not need their consent, as no work is involved with the Charney Wick Ditch. We await their reply.

13/74 Neighbourhood/Community Plan Project

- VWHDC is carrying out its statutory consultation of Charney Bassett's proposal to make a Neighbourhood Plan.
- Neil Dobson briefed the meeting on the project team's progress. A briefing session for residents is to be held in the village hall in December. A questionnaire is to be issued to residents seeking views on the evolution of the village.
- The Clerk had received an offer from Wildlife Oxfordshire to brief the PC and the NP team on responsibilities under the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act that should be built in to the NP.

RESOLVED. The Clerk to arrange for a brief from Wildlife Oxfordshire.

13/75 Village College Report

Lynn Brookes had provided a report as follows.

- Patchwork & Quilting classes continue weekly, with morning and afternoon sessions on Wednesdays.

- Yoga and Pilates classes continue both with waiting lists.

13/76 Clerk's Correspondence

- The Post Office had written to the Clerk to advise that it was unable to find a solution to the closure of Charney Bassett's Post Office.

13/77 Information Exchange

- VWHDC had advised that the developer of four proposed bungalows behind Longworth Road had appealed against the refusal of planning permission. Steve Champion briefed the meeting that he had contacted VWHDC and our MP, Ed Vaizey, seeking confirmation that he would support the refusal, and convey his position to the Planning Inspector. Residents were encouraged to submit any new evidence to the Planning Inspector and to do so before 23 December. The case began on 11 November, and will take 26 weeks. The Inspector will be given all material that had already been submitted to inform the refusal.
- The Chairman noted that our district has a new police commander. Also, there has been a marked increase in detection of burglars, and consequent reduction in burglaries.
- David Sibbert had provided information on the NHS project to introduce defibrillators into communities, where there was a wish to do so. This would cost £2000, with £50 recurring annual costs. Generally, the initial cost is found by fund raising by the community. The PC would fund the recurring annual costs.

RESOLVED. Councillors agreed that provision would be beneficial. David Roberts agreed to lead a project to obtain a defibrillator for Charney Bassett.

RESOLVED. The Clerk would seek a funding contribution for a defibrillator from Melinda Tilley's discretionary fund.

- Work is in hand (on 13 & 14 November) by the Charney Army and a contractor to remove trees along the bridle path that were damaged in the recent storm, and others that appear precarious.

13/78 Date of next meeting

8 January 2014, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:40pm.

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