

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 2014

Present:

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

Dr SK Cowlam, Clerk

25 members of the public were in attendance.

14/14 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence had been sent by County Councillor Melinda Tilley. There were no declarations of interest.

14/15 To Approve the Minutes of the November Meeting and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: the minutes of the January 2014 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from the January 2014 meeting were as follows.

- 14/11 RESOLVED. The Clerk had arranged for the PC to be briefed by Pye Homes on their new proposals for house-building on Buckland Road. However, Pye Homes had cancelled the meeting at the last minute. Nothing more has been heard from them to date.
- 14/12 RESOLVED. The Clerk had intended to advise residents that they could take felled wood from Charney Field in return for a contribution to the defibrillator fund, but there is now very little wood left.

14/16 County Councillor's News

None reported.

14/17 District Councillor's News

None reported.

14/18 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented the financial report CBPC/FIN/14/02 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The figures represented the situation at 20 February 2014, and had been approved by the internal auditor. The PC has received a grant from OCC of £1000 towards the cost of the defibrillator project. The remaining £300 of the Jubilee fund has been spent on buying the defibrillator. The PC has also received a grant of £5544 from Community Development Foundation towards the cost of the Neighbourhood Plan project.

RESOLVED: the report was adopted.

RESOLVED: Councillors wished to increase the Clerk's honorarium to £600.

14/19 VWHDC Draft Local Plan/House-building

- VWHDC has issued a new draft Local Plan 2031 for consultation. The Chairman and the Clerk had visited an exhibition and discussed this with VWHDC representatives. The new plan assumes that Charney Bassett is classified as “open countryside”, whereas the earlier draft plan classified us as “smaller village”. Accordingly, we should expect only modest house-building as “in-fill” and reuse of brown field sites.
- The District is planned to need about 20500 new homes by 2031, 7430 more than in the earlier draft plan. These are planned for 23 sites, each with a minimum of 200 houses.
- On 17 March a Planning Inspector is to visit the Longworth Road site of a planning appeal against the refusal of VWHDC planning permission to build four houses behind existing houses on the west side of the road. The PC, the Charney Bassett Action Group, and residents had all been active in providing support for the refusal. The Chairman reminded residents that if they wanted the PC to take action (on any matter) they should ask the PC directly, rather than through a third party.
- Mrs Daphne Saunders (a former Charney Bassett resident) had asked to speak to the PC. She owns land on Longworth Road currently occupied by a horse stabling business. She proposes that her family take over the business and build two houses on the land to the north and west of the last four houses on Longworth Road, and adjacent to the land where planning permission has been refused.

14/20 Defibrillator Project

David Roberts reported on project progress, as follows.

- The defibrillator had now been received.
- The plan is to locate it in the telephone box. This is a prominent location, and has the advantage of support from businesses nationwide.
- The power supply needed is available in the telephone box, and BT will pay for this for seven years (as part of a nationwide charitable action). Paint has also been donated to refurbish the box.
- The box is being made vertical and underpinned by the Charney Army.
- Twelve residents have agreed to be trained in the use of the defibrillator, and this will be provided by Community Heartbeat Trust and South Oxfordshire Ambulance Service, probably in mid-May.
- The defibrillator has cost £2020, with £1000 from an OCC grant, £300 from the remaining Jubilee funds, and a £720 loan from the PC.
- The loan balance will be paid from various fund-raising activities including: a folk concert in the Church, proceeds of a forthcoming quilting exhibition, a cream tea at the Chequers Inn, and a “coin-in-the-jar” on the bar of the Chequers.

14/21 Flooding/Project CHAFFINCH

- The PC had spent a good deal of time in recent weeks sourcing sand and sandbags, both commercially and through VWHDC. Bags had been filled by the Charney Army and distributed to residents known to be at risk of flooding.
- It had not been possible to progress project CHAFFINCH recently due to the waterlogged ground during this exceptionally wet winter.
- However, a next step is for Jim Gardiner and Keith Harris to 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.

14/22 Neighbourhood/Community Plan Project

Neil Dobson gave an update on progress.

- 57 replies had been received to the 120 questionnaires sent to households.
- The project team has expanded. Christine Trotman is managing finances. Ron Smith is away on business and his daughter, Victoria, is deputising for him. Ian McGregor is fulfilling an ambassador role for his part of the village. Several more people are needed in this role for other parts of the village.
- The May 2015 target for the referendum on the plan has had to be delayed (because of the forthcoming general election).
- There will be an open day in the village hall on 29 May to brief residents on the analysis of the questionnaires.

14/23 Village College Report

Lynn Brookes had provided a report as follows.

- Patchwork & Quilting classes continue with morning and afternoon sessions on Wednesdays.
- Yoga and Pilates classes continue on Fridays and Mondays respectively, both with waiting lists.

14/24 Clerk's Correspondence

- The Clerk had contacted OCC about pot-holes. These will be inspected.
- The Clerk had contacted OCC about constructing a pavement from the Chequers to the Longworth Road/Buckland Road junction. OCC will further this request.
- The Clerk had proposed to OCC that the PC/Charney Army repaint the metal posts and railings on the bridge over the millstream, at PC expense. OCC have agreed to this, but wish to discuss safety aspects first.

14/25 Information Exchange

A resident asked about the possibility of rerouting the 66 bus service through Pusey and Charney Bassett on its journey between Swindon and Oxford. This was thought to be unlikely.

14/26 Date of next meeting

14 May 2014, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:25pm.

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

Chairman