

## **CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**Present:**

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

Dr SK Cowlam, Clerk

Sixteen members of the public were in attendance.

#### **14/53 Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

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

#### **14/54 to approve the Minutes of the May Meeting and Matters Arising**

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

Matters arising were as follows.

- 14/42 The Clerk to progress replacement of the notice board on the bus shelter.
- 14/47 The PC to bring pressure to bear on the appropriate authorities to monitor and ensure the proper functioning of watercourses.
- 14/51 The Clerk had placed a notice in Charney Chatter to encourage residents to maintain tidy road gutters and remove obstructions from overhanging trees outside their properties.

#### **14/55 County Councillor's News**

None reported.

#### **14/56 District Councillor's News**

None reported.

#### **14/57 Clerk's Financial Report**

The Clerk reported on the outcome of the external audit of the 2013/14 annual return. The outcome was essentially satisfactory, but with one minor issue. We had included Government's Council Tax offset in the precept, rather than as a grant. We are recommended not to do this in future years, and will comply.

RESOLVED: The PC approved the Annual Return for 2013/14.

The Clerk presented the financial report CBPC/FIN/14/05 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The report represented the situation at 20 August, and had been approved by the internal auditor. The PC had received a grant of £500 from OCC towards a new PC notice board. Routine PC expenditure has been unexceptional. An un-presented cheque for £30 has now expired and is therefore void.

RESOLVED: the report was adopted.

**14/58 Defibrillator Project**

Refurbishment of the telephone kiosk is proceeding. Installation has slowed but it is planned to be operational by the end of the year. The telephone kiosk is now ready for electrical installation.

**14/59 Flooding/Project CHAFFINCH**

One of the residents, who had been flooded in 2007, had contacted EA with a view to seeking a review of the proposed flood project to improve flood defence for the village. The Chairman and the Clerk had agreed to brief the EA's representative at the site of the project. This is planned for a date in September. Coincidentally, the Clerk had received a request from VWHDC for a report on progress with the project under its Land Drainage Act consent, given in October 2013.

In discussion at tonight's meeting the PC was reminded that the Environment Agency no longer inspects watercourses routinely in order to ensure that they are functioning satisfactorily. Residents were reminded that the PC does not have the authority to do this. Resolution 14/47 (see paragraph 14/54 above) will be progressed at the forthcoming meeting with EA.

**14/60 Neighbourhood Plan Project**

Neil Dobson reported on progress, as follows.

- The questionnaire should be distributed to residents shortly. The first part is in connection with the Neighbourhood Plan, and concerns housing. The second part concerns the Community-led Plan, and concerns all other aspects of our village and its environment.
- It is important for as many residents as possible to complete the questionnaire; otherwise a policy for the village could emerge driven by the views of a minority. Analysis of the questionnaire will be carried out confidentially by ORCC, and will preserve anonymity.
- Impact statements have to be prepared on various topics that are being considered (such as allotments, street lighting, traffic calming, etc.), and groups of 2-3 residents will be asked to do this at a meeting in the village hall planned for 11 October. (It needs to be independent of the project team).

The PC thanked the project team for its hard work to date, and congratulated them on the clarity and quality of their recent flyer posted to residents encouraging completion of the questionnaire. RESOLVED: The PC and residents present agreed to encourage their neighbours to complete the questionnaire.

**14/61 Village College**

Lynn Brookes had provided a report as follows.

- Patchwork & Quilting classes resumed on 10 September. A new beginners' class will be held on Thursdays.
- Yoga and Pilates classes continue on Fridays and Mondays respectively, both with waiting lists.

**14/62 Clerk's Correspondence**

- Charney Manor had served notice on allotment holders to vacate their plots by January 2015. The Chairman and the Clerk had met Trustees of Charney Manor on 1 July to discuss termination of allotment use, and the wider relationship of the Manor and the village. We had ascertained that all but one of the allotment holders are working their plots, wish to continue, and are prepared to pay a higher rent, and advised the Trustees of this. The Trustees reported back to us after their meeting that they wish to see their service to the village continue in an agreed way, and had no strong desire to enforce notices to quit. The

matter of creating allotments in the paddock had been discussed with the Trustees, but allotment holders said that they did not wish to start again to cultivate new ground. They had found billing arrangements to be poor. The PC is to meet the Trustees' chairman of their premises committee.

- BT has begun installation of new superfast broadband equipment. Some residents were concerned that not all parts of the village would be able to receive it.

RESOLVED: The Clerk would enquire about reception of superfast broadband.

#### **14/63 Information Exchange**

- The Charney Army had revarnished benches throughout the village. Two of these need repair or replacement.
- Illegal hare coursing has been seen closer to the village than hitherto. Residents are advised to contact the police on 999 immediately if they suspect this activity.
- Concern was expressed that road restrictions due to Challow railway bridge works may not prevent HGVs from driving through Charney Bassett.

RESOLVED: the Clerk would contact OCC Highways department about this.

- Some residents had complained about vehicles obstructing New Road. These vehicles are not parked illegally, and residents were advised to take matters up themselves with the vehicles' owners or OCC Highways.
- David Nellist is completing the annual survey of emergency plans for OCC, and needs to include 24 hour telephone contacts.
- A resident complained about straw being deposited by farm vehicles during the present harvest. This deposition is minor, and will disperse in due course. In the meantime, residents are encouraged to sweep their frontages and clear it, if it offends.

#### **14/64 Date of next meeting**

12 November 2014, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:55pm.

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