

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2015

Present: Mr D Roberts, Chairman
Mr D Nellist, Vice-Chairman
Mrs J Fry
Mrs S Dobson
Mrs M Castle

Dr SK Cowlam, Clerk

Nine members of the public were in attendance.

15/01 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

There were no apologies for absence. There were no declarations of interest.

15/02 to approve the Minutes of the November Meeting and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: the minutes of the November 2014 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.
Matters arising were as follows.

- 14/67 The Clerk had contacted County Councillor Melinda Tilley, who had provided information on the costs of traffic-calming “build-outs” at the entrances to villages. These cost about £14000, but we could arrange to have this done ourselves more cheaply.

15/03 County Councillor’s News

- Melinda Tilley advised that budget restrictions at OCC for 2015/16 precluded the allowance of County Councillors’ discretionary funds (from which we received a grant in 2014).

RESOLVED: The Clerk would contact Melinda Tilley about a rumoured closure of New Road for replacement of a telephone/electricity pole.

15/04 District Councillor’s News

None reported.

15/05 Clerk’s Financial Report

The Clerk presented the financial report CBPC/FIN/15/01 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The report represented the situation at 20 December, and had been approved by the internal auditor. Routine PC expenditure has been unexceptional. Councillors considered payments of charitable donations, and agreed that these should be as last year.

RESOLVED: the report was adopted.

15/06 Setting the Precept for 2015/16

The draft budget was presented by the Clerk in paper CBPC/FIN/PRE1516. Calculations show that the basic funding requirement is £3473 excluding VAT. Inclusion of the usual 20% contingency takes this to £4167. Although this is similar to the 2014/15 precept, we expect to spend more than 99% of

the current year precept, consuming most of the contingency. We face a new continuing cost of about £200 pa now that OCC requires the PC to pay for electricity at Charney Mill. Also, VWHDC has advised that we may face election recharges of £1400 in 2015 for which we had not budgeted sufficiently. It would be prudent to set aside £300 pa for this purpose to cover elections every five years. We have accumulated funds of £5577 (excluding grants and VAT recovery) that would cover these increased costs. Nevertheless, councillors considered it wise to increase the precept to £4100. RESOLVED: the PC agreed to seek a precept of £4100.

15/07 Defibrillator Project

The defibrillator is now in operation and is being registered with South Central Ambulance Service. A training session was held recently for 19 volunteer residents. The defibrillator does not have to be operated by trained persons, though: anybody who dials 999 in the event of a need will be instructed on what to do. Refurbishment of the telephone kiosk needs a modest amount of work to complete.

15/08 Neighbourhood Plan Project

Christine Trotman reported on progress, as follows.

- The steering group has spent 4-6 weeks preparing the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the Community-led Plan.
- After their final review the steering group will issue the draft to the PC for its review.
- The steering group and the PC should meet to finalise the draft by the end of January.
- It is planned to submit the plan to the Independent Inspector by May 2015, and for a referendum in September.

The PC planned to meet to discuss the draft on 21 January, and to meet the steering group on 30 January.

15/09 Village College

The new Village College Manager, Christine Trotman, reported as follows.

- Patchwork & Quilting classes on Wednesday are held on three half days per week, and are well attended. There was a machine-quilting workshop on Saturday 10 January.
- Yoga and Pilates classes continue on Fridays and Mondays respectively, both with waiting lists.

Lynn Brookes continues to liaise and support Christine during a handover period. Christine plans to investigate some one-off workshops and some weekly activity in due course.

15/10 Clerk's Correspondence

- Allotment arrangements at Charney Manor are incomplete. Oral agreement was reached that the allotments would be let to the PC, which would administer the allotments. The PC had expected to receive an invoice on 31 December from Charney Manor for the annual rent but this is still awaited.
- New arrangements for the PC to pay for electricity at Charney Mill have still not been implemented satisfactorily with the electricity company, despite repeated contacts.
- The chairman of the Stanford in the Vale community bus committee had written to the Clerk requesting nomination of a second member.

RESOLVED: Sue Dobson volunteered to become the second member.

15/11 Information Exchange

- Mary Castle reported on hare-coursing in Charney Bassett. There were 50 arrests in the district during 2014 in connection with rural crime, mostly hare-coursing and agricultural theft. Most resulted in successful prosecutions. The public are encouraged to phone 999 if they spot such criminal activities.
- Jane Fry reported on the first year's work of the Communications Group. The year began with Charney Chatter being delivered electronically to 70 homes. This has risen to 100 homes. Also, 23 homes outside the village receive it. The interim information emails are also proving successful. Village organisations are asked to update their pages on the village website. The Communications group seeks feedback, via Roger Watson, on these communication methods.
- David Nellist reported on a recent workshop on Community Emergency Plans. We should consider the document that he received with regard to any additions that we might make to our own emergency plan for the village.

RESOLVED: David Nellist to circulate the booklet from the emergency plans workshop to the PC.

- Residents asked if something could be done about speeding traffic through the village.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to enquire of OCC Highways whether the 30 mph signs could be moved further out from the village. Also, the Charney Army could erect the "slow down" signs beyond the 30 mph signs.

15/12 Date of next meeting

11 March 2015, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:30pm.

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