

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2011

Present: Mr G Rumble, Chairman
Mr M Cox, Vice-chairman
Mr J Harper
Mr D Hughes
Mr D Nellist

Dr S K Cowlam, Clerk

County Councillor Melinda Tilley was present and six members of the public were in attendance.

11/1 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

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

11/2 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

Mr David Nellist had offered his services as a parish councillor. He was proposed by Mr Hughes, seconded by Mr Cox, and duly appointed.

RESOLVED: Mr Nellist is appointed as a parish councillor.

11/3 Minutes of the November 2010 Meeting, and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the November 2010 meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman. Matters arising from the November meeting were as follows.

- 10/69: the Charney Army had erected a second no parking sign on the green.
- 10/73: a notice had been placed on the website and in Charney Chatter to discourage placing benches and other items in dangerous positions in the children's play area.
- 10/73: the Chairman has still to ask the CHAFT committee to consider adding the annual inspection of the play area to its responsibility.
- 10/77: the Clerk has still to ask Keith Lead (EA) to visit and review project CHAFFINCH proposals.
- 10/77: the Charney Army and the Parish Council has still to consider what tree work is necessary in the village.
- 10/78: the Clerk had sent the PC's views on electoral boundaries to the Boundary Commission.
- 10/78: the Clerk had sent the PC's views on concessionary travel to OCC.

11/4 County Council Matters

County Councillor Melinda Tilley briefed as follows.

- The Boundary Commission recommends reducing the number of County Councillors from 74 to 64. The next step is to redefine divisional boundaries to reflect the reduction.
- The concessionary bus fare scheme is to transfer from District to County Council. The scheme costs £8M at present, but Government will provide only £4M. OCC has to consider what to do.
- Hinton Waldrist day care centre is under threat of closure because of budget cuts. This may be avoided if voluntary transport can be provided.

11/5 District Council Matters

Melinda Tilley briefed as follows.

- The waste centre at Stanford in the Vale will close to the public at the end of March 2011. Its planning consent expires in 2014.
- The new refuse collection arrangements are running particularly badly for Charney Bassett. It is questionable that VWHDC is fulfilling its statutory duty to collect refuse.

RESOLVED: the Clerk is to draft a letter to VWHDC seeking improvement in waste collection.

11/6 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/11/01 which had been issued to Councillors, noting the following details.

- The PC account contains £7833.47 of CHAFT funds.
- Expenditure to date by the PC is £2306.92, excluding CHAFT's share of the Council's insurance and the external audit, VHP work, Goosey Wick Barn flood defence works, and the balance of our flood grant. Further expenditure is estimated at £999.
- We expect to have spent about £3300 of the precept and to carry forward about £2600 of PC funds plus £1986.63 of unspent flood grant.

RESOLVED: the Report was adopted.

11/7 Setting the Precept

The Clerk presented his estimation for the precept, CBPC/PRE/1112, which had been issued to Councillors.

- It is not thought appropriate to raise the precept above the current level of £3800.
- There will be additional costs this year for elections in May 2011.
- If the election is uncontested, these could amount to £85. But the budget could be contained by transferring OPFA and safety inspection of children's play equipment to CHAFT.
- If the election is contested, additional costs could amount to £445. Further cost savings may need to be sought, but a decision need not be taken until the nature of the election is known and on how expenditure proceeds.

RESOLVED: the Clerk is to seek a precept of £3800.

RESOLVED: the Chairman is to seek the CHAFT committee's agreement to take over funding of the safety inspection of the children's play area (£80) and membership subscription to Oxon Playing Field Association (£34).

RESOLVED: the Chairman will consider the roles of Abingdon Citizens' Advice Bureau and Wantage Independent Advice Centre, and whether we should favour one or both with a charitable donation.

11/8 Planning Matters

There were no matters to report.

11/9 Village Hall Project

The Chairman reported that the final invoice had been paid and that the project is complete.

11/10 Village College

Mrs Lynn Brookes has taken over as the VC Manager. She reported as follows.

- Yoga and pilates classes are running in the Village Hall.
- She will seek interest in other courses in the autumn.
- Flower arranging classes also run in the village hall but are not a village college activity.

11/11 Charney Army/Project CHAFFINCH

The outstanding work is as described in paragraph 11/3 above, namely to complete the matters arising from Paragraph 10/77 to seek opinion from Keith Lead (EA) on work proposed by the flood plan working party, and to consider what tree work should be undertaken.

11/12 Clerk's Correspondence

The Clerk reported as follows.

- Came & Co., our insurer, has issued a newsletter.
- The Environment Agency has issued revised flood warning arrangements.
- Royal British Legion is asking communities to organize a "Great Poppy Weekend" on 10-12 June 2011 to celebrate its 90th birthday.
- White Horse Harriers propose to run their annual half marathon on 10 April 2011, passing through the village.

11/13 Information Exchange

- Councillor Cox reported that the Neighbourhood Action Group is working well in our area, though not so well nationally. The main issues for communities are car parking/car crime, dog fouling, and rowdy youths; fortunately these do not affect Charney Bassett much. Vale and South NAG areas are to be amalgamated. Hare coursing is a local problem from time to time.
- A new crop of potholes has appeared in our roads lately.
- Councillor Harper reported that the Stanford in the Vale community bus finances are sound; new drivers are needed.

RESOLVED: the Clerk should advise OCC Highways Dept of the locations of potholes to be filled.

11/14 Date of Next Meeting

9 March 2011, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:00pm.

Signed Date
Chairman