

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 11 JULY 2012

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

Sixteen members of the public were in attendance.

12/43 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

County Councillor Melinda Tilley and the Clerk had sent their apologies for absence. There were no declarations of interest.

12/44 Appointment of a new councillor, and other representatives

Mr Jim Harper had resigned from his duties as a parish councillor and as transport representative. The Chairman thanked him for his many years of service to our community, and for his wisdom. Mrs Susan Dobson had agreed to become a parish councillor, and it has been possible to co-opt her. Mr Colin McGuire had agreed to take on the role of transport representative. Mr Harper will continue to represent the PC on the Longworth Charities Trust. Mrs Kay Adamson had agreed to take over responsibility for maintaining the telephone kiosk display.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to arrange for the new parish councillors to become signatories on the PC current account, and for former councillors to be removed from the signatory list.

12/45 To approve the Minutes of the March Meeting, and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: the minutes of the May 2012 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from the May 2012 meeting were as follows.

- 11/68 The PC had still to identify pieces of land of interest on a map with a view to researching their ownership.
- 12/40 RESOLVED. Residents agree that the next step in flood avoidance is to explain Jim Gardiner's findings and proposals to the Environment Agency, and seek their support for the measures.
- 12/40 RESOLVED. The Clerk had briefed Trevor & Annabel Brown and Jill Walker on Jim Gardiner's paper on flooding in Charney Bassett. David Roberts agreed to discuss this with the Browns.
- 12/40 RESOLVED. Jim Gardiner had consulted Steve Champion, who had reported his flooding experience at Mill Cottage.
- 12/40 RESOLVED. One resident had asked to consider altering the slope of Main Street above the culvert. The Clerk explained that this was unlikely to be supported by OCC. Further, there would be no need for this if Jim Gardiner's proposals were implemented.
- 12/41 RESOLVED. Residents agreed that a Neighbourhood/Community Plan would be beneficial. This work is being undertaken by a team led by Brian Hook, with members: Kay Adamson, Hugh Brookes, Steve Champion and Sheila Terry.

- 12/42 RESOLVED. Concern was expressed over safety and disturbance by RAF helicopters, especially at night. The RAF had been consulted by the previous clerk. These flights will continue, flying finishes at 2 am, strict safety rules apply, and flight paths are chosen to minimize disturbance to all communities by exercising in different districts within the helicopter flying zone.
- 12/42 RESOLVED. Concern was expressed over large, speeding tractors that drive through the village, drivers often using mobile phones while driving, and damaging verges. This matter has been referred to NAG via David Sibbert.

12/46 County Councillor's News

None reported.

12/47 District Councillor's News

None reported.

12/48 Clerk's Financial Report

In the absence of the Clerk, the Chairman presented the financial report CBPC/FIN/12/04 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The figures represented the situation at 20 June 2012, and had been approved by the internal auditor. The PC account holds £309.80 of Jubilee funds on behalf of CHAFT/Jubilee Committee.

RESOLVED: the report was adopted.

12/49 Village College Report and Annual Accounts

Lynn Brookes reported as follows.

- Five digital photography classes had been held, each with six participants.
- Six French conversation classes had been held, each with ten participants; and a further set of classes with seven participants.
- Grants from VWHDC and CLET had allowed three Saturday workshops to be run: Pen & Watercolour (17 participants), Expressive Painting (9 participants), and Singing for Everyone (13 participants).
- Patchwork & Quilting classes continue with a third term of morning, afternoon and evening classes, culminating in an exhibition of work in May, which raised £246 for Jubilee funds.
- Two machine quilting workshops have been held.
- Yoga and pilates classes continue to be very popular.

Councillors agreed that it had been a very successful and satisfactory year. This is reflected in the remarkable turnover of nearly £9000.

12/50 Flood Avoidance in Charney Bassett

We are now in a position to make a presentation to the Environment Agency on proposed flood avoidance measures. Following reorganization, the EA is considering how it will interact with individuals and councils. This could introduce some delay.

12/51 Neighbourhood/Community Plans

Brian Hook gave a summary of the Neighbourhood Plan project team's work to date, and the draft document that it is beginning to assemble. The advantage of a Neighbourhood Plan is that it has statutory authority from the Localism Act. The plan identifies eleven areas for consideration:

1. Size and character of the village.
2. Housing development.
3. The old school building.
4. Reuse of brown field sites.
5. Wirescape.
6. Public footpaths.
7. Trees & green areas.
8. Wind turbines and solar panels.
9. Quality of broadband.
10. Provision of allotments.
11. Traffic calming.

The Chairman identified a twelfth: adding a “Jubilee orchard” as a village amenity. Further work is needed on these topics. Discussions had been held with the McBain family about possible development of their land. This is particularly welcome, and the Localism Act encourages this sort of constructive interaction. The PC agreed in principle to support the development of the old school and yard, subject to sight of the plans and consultation with the village.

It had been planned to consult residents on the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan on Sunday 15 July by placing copies in the village hall for scrutiny. However, it was decided to postpone this as the content needed more detail, and the consultation had not been sufficiently publicised.

12/52 Planning Matters

None reported.

12/53 Clerk’s Correspondence

- The Boundary Commission is undertaking a review of VWHDC.
- The Trustees of Charney Manor have replied favourably to the PC’s request to replant the field opposite the Church (which the PC rents from the Manor) as an amenity orchard for the benefit of residents. We need now to consider what we would like to plant, and seek specific agreement from the Trustees.

RESOLVED. Steve Champion and David Roberts agreed to arrange fund-raising for the project.

RESOLVED. The PC would seek appropriate advice on suitable planting and associated costs.

12/54 Information Exchange

- Footpaths outside Brookstone/Holywell are badly damaged by heavy vehicles, and present a hazard to pedestrians.
- The overgrown hedge at the junction of New Road and Buckland Road needs attention by the Charney Army.
- A request was made to reinstate road sweeping. The cost of this would need to be considered.

RESOLVED. The Clerk to contact OCC about the footpath.

RESOLVED. The Chairman and the Clerk to consider the cost of road sweeping.

12/55 Date of next meeting

12 September 2012, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:10pm.

Signed Date
Chairman