

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2012

Present:

Mr M Cox, Chairman
Mr D Nellist, Vice-chairman
Mrs J Fry
Mr D Roberts

Dr SK Cowlam, Clerk

Thirteen members of the public were in attendance.

12/56 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

District Councillor Anthony Hayward, Parish Councillor Sue Dobson, and Village College Manager Lynn Brookes had sent their apologies for absence. There were no declarations of interest.

12/57 To approve the Minutes of the March Meeting and Matters Arising

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

Matters arising from the July 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. The next step in flood avoidance continues to be to explain Jim Gardiner's findings and proposals to the Environment Agency, and seek their support for the measures.
- 12/44 RESOLVED. The Clerk had arranged for new parish councillors to become signatories on the PC bank account, and to remove former councillors from the list.
- 12/53 RESOLVED. Steve Champion and David Roberts had arranged fund-raising for the proposed Jubilee Orchard with a table-top sale to be held on 16 September.
- 12/53 RESOLVED. Advice had been obtained (from two sources) on suitable planting of the Jubilee Orchard.
- 12/54 RESOLVED. The footpath outside Brookstone had been resurfaced.
- 12/54 RESOLVED. The Chairman and the Clerk had still to consider the cost of road-sweeping. This has been deferred until costs are better known for the preparation of a Neighbourhood plan.

12/58 County Councillor's News

VWHDC planning for housing is in disarray because the local strategy is still being developed, and the Interim Housing Supply Policy had to be abandoned due to central government policy. VWHDC is developing a housing supply strategy. Meanwhile, there are examples (such as in Southmoor and Kingston Bagpuize) where the District Council ignores the spirit of the Localism Act in the approval of planning applications at variance with local wishes. The County Council is facing budgeting problems again. Melinda had had a copy of our draft Neighbourhood Plan, and was impressed.

12/59 District Councillor's News

None reported.

12/60 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented the financial report CBPC/FIN/12/05 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The figures represented the situation at 20 August 2012, and had been approved by the internal auditor. The PC account holds £309.80 of Jubilee funds on behalf of CHAFT/Jubilee Committee, and £1506.63 remains of the flood grant.

RESOLVED: the report was adopted.

12/61 Flooding/Project CHAFFINCH

We continue to wait for the Environment Agency to contact the Clerk to arrange for us to make a presentation to them on proposed flood avoidance measures. We should like to do this before the end of 2012, and may have to press for action. A resident who is at flood risk asked about the detail of proposals regarding her property.

RESOLVED: the Clerk would seek information to clarify this.

12/62 Neighbourhood/Community Plan Project

Brian Hook gave a summary of the Neighbourhood Plan project team's work on the preparation of the initial draft document. The plan for housing development is the key element, particularly for the old school and McBain's disused yard. The McBain family is seeking outline planning permission shortly for the old school and their yard. The document takes a positive stance: it expresses QIMBY (Quality In My Back Yard). Copies are being issued to every household with questionnaires to seek residents' opinions. These will be used to develop the draft.

RESOLVED: Melinda recommended that the project team seek Anthony Hayward's advice. (He is on the VWHDC planning committee).

12/63 Jubilee Orchard Project

Informal opinion among residents seems to favour the creation of an orchard as an asset for the village; the field was once one, though one resident expressed the desire to leave the field as it is. Nevertheless, a table-top sale is to be held on 16 September to raise funds for the project.

12/64 Village College Report

Lynn Brookes had provided a report as follows.

- Patchwork & Quilting classes have begun for the autumn term of morning, afternoon and evening sessions, with 25 students.
- Yoga and pilates classes continue to be very popular.
- Lynn is seeking interest in Saturday workshops in calligraphy and singing, following successful workshops in March.

12/65 Emergency Plans

County and District Councils are encouraging communities to prepare or refresh emergency plans. Councillors agreed that for a small community such as ours, this need only be a simple, brief document describing the village hall as the emergency response centre, holding essential contact details, and other useful information.

RESOLVED: David Nellist was asked to prepare the emergency plan.

12/66 Planning Matters

A number of planning applications had been circulated to councillors. In addition, two matters were being considered, as follows.

- VWHDC Planning Enforcement was investigating the construction of an airstrip just beyond the northern boundary of the parish, for which no planning application had been made.
- OCC Highways are investigating the proximity of a boundary fence in Longworth Road to the verge.

12/67 Clerk's Correspondence

- The external auditors had completed their audit of the 2011/12 accounts. They were satisfied with our practices and found no matters giving cause for concern.

RESOLVED: this audit opinion was accepted by the Parish Council.

- The Chairman and the Clerk are to attend a briefing by VWHDC on changes to Council Tax arrangements for 2013/14.

12/68 Information Exchange

- Charney Bassett post office is to close in October.
- David Nellist had made an investigation of broadband speeds in the village. He noted that residents could register an increasing demand for faster broadband by responding to the questionnaire on the Oxonline website (sponsored by OCC). Signing up to one of the commercial providers could be expensive, and would require 50-100 subscribers in the village to be viable. The OCC sponsored initiative is planned to provide everybody with increased broadband speed by 2015, and at more modest cost.
- One resident expressed concern over security of Charney field against squatters. This has not been a problem hitherto, and is unlikely. There are facilities nearby, in any case, for such people.

12/69 Date of next meeting

14 November 2012, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:00pm.

Signed Date
Chairman