

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2009

Present: Mr M Cox, Vice-chairman
Mr J Harper
Mr D Hughes (co-opted during the meeting)
Mrs J Bath

Mr P G Davies (Clerk)

09/34 Co-option to fill vacancy

Mr. Doug Hughes had applied to fill the vacancy for a councillor caused by the resignation of Mr. Stiles. Accordingly, his co-option was proposed by Mr Harper, seconded by Mrs. Bath and carried unanimously.

09/35 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mr G Rumble, Chairman, County Councillor Melinda Tilley and District Councillor Anthony Hayward. Two members of the public were also in attendance. There were no declarations of interest.

09/36 Minutes of the May 2009 Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the May 2009 meeting be approved and signed by the Vice-chairman.

09/37 County Council Matters

On receiving the minutes of the last meeting, Councillor Melinda Tilley had offered her belated apology but said that there was nothing relevant for her to have reported to the meeting. There was nothing further to add to this meeting. She managed to put in an appearance at her third parish council meeting of the evening, just after the meeting was closed.

09/38 District Council Matters

Councillor Anthony Hayward in conveying his apology had nothing relevant to Charney Bassett to report

09/39 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented his financial report CBPC/FIN/09/03 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The Internal Auditor had commented favourably on its content. The CHAFT insurance share to cover the children's play equipment has been assessed as £203.85.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted

09/40 Planning Matters

The only planning matter to arise since the last meeting was approval for the felling of a *leylandii* at Wick Cottage. It was noted that the developer at Minmere Farm was complying with the planning condition that work on the office conversion should not start until the redundant farm buildings had been removed.

09/41 Clerk's Correspondence

09/41/01 Flooding: The Clerk reported on further exchanges of correspondence between the Vale of White Horse District Council and Charles Dingwall concerning the roadside ditch in Longworth Road. Peter Dela, Principal Engineer responsible for land drainage, intends to meet Mr. Dingwall on 23rd July to agree a course of action. Meanwhile, Mr Dingwall has had a stay of execution as the threatened legal action has been deferred until December 2009. Mr. Etherington of Elm Cottage has expressed concern at the continuing delay to the start of work which would prevent a recurrence of the flooding which occurred two years ago and the Council agreed to write to Mr. Dela to ask him not to postpone the legal action and to press for as early a start as possible to prevent winter rains causing a problem.

09/41/02 TOE: The Clerk has received confirmation that the letter to TOE which was approved by the Council at the last meeting has met TOE's requirements for registering its interest in Charney Field (minute 09/09/02, January 2009).

09/41/03 Telephone Box: The Clerk has had a further e-mail from BT promising to paint the telephone box eventually but this has been delayed due to their engineers being "very short staffed".

09/42 Information Exchange

09/42/01 NAG2: The village has continued to be represented on the Neighbourhood Action Group NAG which has just analysed the priorities of villages consulted last year, namely: 1. Speeding, 2. Criminal Damage and 3. Parking. Thames Valley Police have cut back on catching speeders because they feel their limited resources should be directed to more serious crimes. An attempt to encourage villages to record speeds logged by SIDs has come to naught as OCC has defined such activities as requiring £10M public liability and Health and Safety training for the observers. However, there has been some movement in the liaison arrangements between OCC and TVP and an increase in penalties for speeding through villages can be expected.

09/42/02 Village Hall Project: With the tendering process over, a contract will be signed with Ed Hughes & Sons with a start date of August. On behalf of the Council an offer of a £50,000 grant from TOE has been signed by The Clerk. Some preliminary work by the Charney Army to clear the area behind the Hall has already been undertaken.

09/42/03 Stanford Minibus: Mr Harper reminded the meeting that there was still a vacancy for another council representative (not necessarily a councillor) on the Stanford Minibus committee and despite advertising nobody had come forward.

09/42/04 Football parking: Mr Cox expressed concern at the potential problems arising from the parking in New Road of cars bringing players to the Charney Rangers training and matches. The main problem was the use of this narrow road by agricultural vehicles which could cause damage to hedges and property. The Clerk reported that Mr. Townsend, Chairman of Charney Rangers, thought he had an agreement with Mr McBain to use their deserted yard, however, this seemed to have fallen through. The Clerk agreed to speak to Mr. Townsend about the problem and if necessary write to Mr McBain in an attempt to revive the agreement.

09/42/05 Potholes in New Road: The Clerk was asked to draw the attention of OCC Highways to a number of potholes in New Road.

09/42/06 The Green: Mr Hook asked for the Council, as one of the major frontagers, to demonstrate its support for the initiative by residents of The Green to bring their access road up to highway standards, if only by making a modest financial contribution. The Clerk expressed nervousness at this proposal because it might not be legal under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972, would create a precedent and would place a strain on limited council finances. The relatively small precept might have to be raised should a significant sum be involved. The Council agreed in principle to support the proposal subject to legal advice being obtained on any implications arising from a financial contribution.

09/42/07 Helicopters: Mrs Daghish asked whether further representation could be made to RAF Benson concerning night helicopter flying in the early hours. The Clerk expressed the view that the letter from the council to the station commander, which resulted in a visit to RAF Benson by The Clerk and Ed Vaizey at which they received assurances that flying patterns tried to minimise the effect on the villages over which they fly, was all that could be done and there was no point in trying to raise this issue again. However, he pointed out that RAF Benson has a web site on which there is a facility to make a complaint about helicopter activities.

09/43 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday September 9th in the Village Hall.

The Vice-chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 p.m. with thanks to all those who attended.

Signed
Chairman