

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2014

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

Dr SK Cowlam, Clerk

Sixteen members of the public were in attendance.

14/27 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence had been sent by Village College Manager Lynn Brookes, District Councillor Anthony Hayward, County Councillor Melinda Tilley, Neil Dobson, and David Sibbert. There were no declarations of interest.

14/28 Election of Officers

Mr Cox had announced previously his intention to retire from the Parish Council. He asked for a nomination for a new chairman. Mr Roberts was proposed as Chairman by Mrs Fry and seconded by Mrs Dobson, and duly elected. Mr Cox vacated the chair, and Mr Roberts took over. Mr Nellist was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Mrs Fry and seconded by Mrs Dobson, and duly elected. Mrs Castle was welcomed as a new parish councillor.

14/29 Times and Dates of Future Meetings

It was agreed to continue with the existing arrangement to meet in the Village Hall at 7:30pm on the second Wednesday of every odd month.

14/30 Appointments to Other Committees

The following appointments were made or renewed.

- Minibus Committee: Mr Colin McGuire.
- Transport Representative: Mr Colin McGuire.
- Charney Hall & Field Trust: Mrs Jane Fry & Mr David Nellist.
- Longworth Charities Trust: Mr Jim Harper.
- Neighbourhood Action Group: Mr Mike Cox. (Mr David Sibbert holds a personal appointment).
- Charney & Lyford Educational Trust: Mrs Jos Bath and the Clerk.

14/31 Other Responsibilities

The following responsibilities were made or renewed.

- Grass cutting liaison: the Clerk.
- Charney Chatter Editor: Mrs Rosemary McClintock and Mr David Sibbert.
- Village Website Manager: Mr John Wright.
- Village College Manager: Mrs Lynn Brookes.

- Internal Auditor: Mr Peter Leaver.
- Communications Group: Mrs Rosemary McClintock, Mr David Sibbert, Mr John Wright, and Mrs Jane Fry.

The Chairman wished to record the Parish Council's thanks to Dr Roger Watson for his service as editor of Charney Chatter until recently.

14/32 to approve the Minutes of the March Meeting and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: the minutes of the March 2014 meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman.

There were no matters arising from the March 2014 meeting.

14/33 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented the financial report CBPC/FIN/14/03 (appended to minutes) which had been distributed to councillors. The figures represented the situation to the end of the financial year ending 31 March 2014, and had been approved by the internal auditor. The PC approved the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Return, which would now be submitted for external audit. The Key points were as follows.

- We had begun the year with a balance of £6860.28.
- The precept had been unchanged since 2010 at £3800.
- Expenditure amounted to 84% the precept, leaving a balance of unspent precept monies from previous years of £4714.53.
- This accumulation of monies has been possible by seeking more cost-effective services, a more appropriate distribution of costs between CHAFT and the PC, the generosity of residents, fund-raising events, and grants.
- During the year we have received four grants: a VWHDC flood grant of £1500, an OCC grant of £1000 for the defibrillator, and two Neighbourhood Plan grants of £5544 from Community Development Foundation and £5000 from VWHDC.
- The balance of grant money still held by the PC is £13630.63. (The OCC defibrillator grant has been spent, and there remains £1586.63 of an earlier flood grant.)

RESOLVED: the report was adopted, enabling the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Return to be approved and signed.

14/34 Clerk's Correspondence

- The Clerk had received notification from VWHDC that the Planning Inspector had dismissed the appeal by the landowner against refusal of planning permission to build four dwellings on agricultural land behind the houses on Longworth Road.
- The Clerk had contacted OCC Highways on three matters: potholes are being repaired continually, a request for a footpath from the Chequers to the junction of Buckland Road and Longworth Road had been added to OCC's work list, though is low priority; and permission had been obtained to repaint the posts and rails of the bridge over the millstream.
- The Longworth Charities Trust had donated £250 to the Kingsmoor Day Centre.

14/35 Information Exchange

None.

14/36 Date of next meeting

9 July 2014, at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:00pm.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting followed immediately after the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

14/37 Chairman's Annual Report

The retiring Chairman, Mr Michael Cox, gave his report for the year. This is reported in full in Charney Chatter and on the village website, and is therefore not detailed here. The key points are as follows.

- The precept has remained unchanged again at £3800.
- Project CHAFFINCH has continued with clearance of the causeway to the west of the village. Work has been suspended for discussions with some residents.
- Sand bags were procured during the exceptionally wet winter and issued to vulnerable properties.
- The work of the PC, residents, and the Charney Bassett Action Group (CBAG) was noted as influencing the decision to dismiss the appeal against refusal of planning permission to build dwellings behind the houses in Longworth Road. Also, a meeting with Pye Homes to discuss their revised plans for building in Buckland Road had been cancelled by them at short notice and without explanation
- A communications group had been set up. Out of this has emerged an email messaging system, a reconstructed village website, and replacement of Charney Chatter with an electronic version.
- The Community-led/Neighbourhood Plan working group has made good progress, and obtained two grants for the work.
- Mr Cox had enjoyed his four years as Chairman, and thanked members of the PC for all the support they had given him. He wished Mr Roberts every success, and was confident that the new PC would continue to serve the community well.

Members and residents joined the Chairman in thanking Mr Cox for his outstanding chairmanship, and wished him and his wife well for the future.

14/38 County Council Matters

None reported.

14/39 District Council Matters

None reported.

14/40 Residents' Questions

- Hugh Brookes gave a presentation on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan working group. A questionnaire has been prepared with assistance from ORCC. It will be issued shortly to every household in Charney Bassett, and it is hoped for a good response in completing and returning it. Individual responses will be confidential, and analysed by VWHDC. The results of the analysis will be passed to the working group, for communication to residents.
- A resident asked if the notice board could be replaced. The Chairman replied that this is timely, and that the PC's funds would permit this.
- CBAG had asked if the group could be registered on the village website.
- Allotment holders are upset that the management of Charney Manor has served them notice to vacate their allotments by January 2015.

RESOLVED: the PC to consider replacement of the PC notice board on the bus shelter.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to advise Steve Champion that there no reason why CBAG should not have a presence on the village website.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to write to the Trustees of Charney Manor to express the PC's dismay that the longstanding arrangement of allotments for residents is being terminated.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:20pm.

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