

CHARNEY BASSETT ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 8th MAY 2024**

Present: Mrs K Adamson, Mr N Adamson, Mr H Brookes, Mrs L Brookes, Mrs A Brown, Mr T Brown, Mr G Bud, Mrs E Campbell, Mrs M Castle, Mr S Champion, Mr M Cox, Mr J Daglish, Mr J Dean, Mr C Eld, Ms H Frankland, Mr M Gooding, Mrs A Graham, Mr D Harman, Mrs K Ingram-Johnson, Mrs R McClintock, Mr D Nellist, Mr J Ody, Mr D Roberts, Mrs C Trotman.

Apologies: Mr I Graham

Mr D Roberts chaired the meeting.

APA/24/01 Introduction and Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and invited each person to introduce themselves. Of particular note was the fact that Joe Ody had lived in Charney since birth (72 years young). The Chairman also thanked everyone for attending and emphasised this was not a Parish Council meeting but an open forum to exchange information and discuss common interests.

APA/24/02 Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the previous Assembly (10th May 2023) had been approved at the Parish Council meeting of 12th July 2023 (recommended best practice) and posted on the village website. In response to concerns raised previously, a training session on the defibrillator had been arranged in November. It was supervised by South Central Ambulance Service and attended by 10 residents.

APA/24/03 Annual Report from Parish Council Chairman

The Chair read from a report he had prepared (copy [posted on website](#)). He paid tribute to Mr D Sibbert and Mr J Harper who had served the village so well and both of whom had sadly died last year. Jim had served on the Parish Council for many years and David had been involved in many facets of village life, in particular with CHAFT and the History Group. He also expressed thanks to the many volunteers on various organisations who contribute to the strong sense of community in the village.

APA/24/04 County Councillor's Report

Juliette Ash had been invited to the meeting. The Clerk had been in touch with the Councillor earlier in the year and we should be receiving assistance from her Priority Fund towards the allotment project.

APA/24/05 District Councillor's Report

Jill Rayner had sent apologies for being unable to attend. Jill is a member of the Vale's Planning Committee which has a meeting the same evening.

APA/24/06 Reports from Village Groups and Organisations

The Chairman invited contributions from any members present.

For **Charney Hall and Field Trust (CHAFT)** Jamie Dean (Chair) described improvements about to be made to the Village Hall, including new windows, heating and provision of an internet connection. New bark would need to be spread in the children's play area this year also. The CHAFT AGM is on Wednesday 5th June and anyone interested in becoming a trustee would be particularly welcome.

For **Charney and Lyford Educational Trust (CLET)** Mary Castle explained that funds had been invested from the sale of the Village School allowing grants to be provided for educational purposes. The charity meets twice a year.

For **Charney and Lyford Allotment Trust (CLAP)** Mike Gooding expressed thanks to the Parish Council for the work that had been done in securing a 15-year lease on the paddock adjoining Charney Field and the provision of new access gates and fencing. The site had now been ploughed and further rotivating is planned to allow it to be divided (probably) to 10 plots for those who had already expressed interest. He expected plots to be allocated in the next 2 weeks and a Waiting List would be maintained thereafter. CLAP would be planting hedges around the boundaries, including collaboratively with CHAFT.

For **Charney Army** Charles Eld explained that he was willing to take on the lead role from Ian Taylor who would soon be leaving the village. He had already been briefed on the resources available, the main tasks and details of the current list of volunteers. If appointed, as a first step he would undertake an audit of the skills available and any mechanical aids each person could bring to tasks. Mr Eld's appointment should be confirmed at the forthcoming Parish Council meeting.

For the **History and Archaeology Group** Amanda Graham confirmed that Ian Graham had recently convened a members meeting and notes had been circulated at the last Parish Council meeting. She paid tribute to David Sibbert who with the invaluable help of Joe Ody had founded the Group. Through its website the Group has gone from strength to strength and there is now a considerable wealth of information documented. Several new items are added each month and it has facilitated contact from people far and wide with previous connections to the village. The Group hopes to continue meeting twice a year and a dig is likely to be planned some time in the year (details to be announced).

For the **Communications Group** Amanda Graham explained that the monthly Charney Chatter was the main organ of communication for the village and there were now 158 subscribers – all but one distributed electronically. A recent survey of subscribers confirmed how popular and well read it was. An email data base was maintained allowing urgent communications to be sent out between editions (12 in the last year). For some time now Stephanie Wright and Amanda (editors for last 5 years) had been looking for volunteers who might eventually take on the running of the publication. Discussions were still on-going but if these bore no fruit Charney Chatter was unlikely to be published from June onwards. It was obviously hoped this would not be the case but the Parish Council will otherwise have to discuss how best to organize future communication for residents at its July meeting.

For the **Charney Mill Group** Steve Champion drew attention to work that was likely to be needed to the building in the very near future. The Mill is owned by the County Council and leased to the Parish Council on a pepper corn rent but with full maintenance and repair responsibility. A small budget is currently available for maintenance and an assessment will be made on whether the work can be done by volunteers. If a contractor is needed the present budget is unlikely to be sufficient.

For the **Road Safety Group** the Chairman confirmed that much of the work that had been identified as desirable through the Community-Led Plan had now been achieved, including the provision of Movable Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS), better identification of village entrances (White Gates) and a reduced speed limit of 20 mph. These were all significant achievements brought about through close collaboration with the County Highway Authority. This had also led to the speed limit to be moved further out of the village on Buckland Road, and it was intended that White Gates be installed at that point with a mounting post nearby to accommodate a MVAS unit.

For the **Lost Paths Group** Trevor Brown reported it had been set up to make sure any paths that may have been lost over time were reported to the County Council before a Government imposed deadline of 2025. This deadline had since been suspended, but possibly not abolished, so for the time being it was best to keep the Group going. Through the Group's efforts a permissive path had been re-opened along the Causeway and there were one or two other targets where further research might prove fruitful. Anyone interested in reclaiming lost paths would be welcome to join the Group.

For **Speedwatch** Rosemary McClintock confirmed she would organise future sessions (this was another group that David Sibbert had previously led). There are currently 9 trained volunteers and a further undergoing training. The more volunteers we have the better the opportunity for more sessions to be run. Drivers travelling at 25mph or more are reported to the Police and receive a warning letter. In the two sessions held since the 20mph limit was introduced in Charney 11 reports of speeding were recorded. Some 53,000 warning letters were issued across the Thames Valley region in the last year.

For the **Longworth Area Trust** Mary Castle explained it had been formed in 1974 from several small charities, some of which dated from the eighteenth century. A small fund was available to help people with particular and acute needs. The Trust met twice a year and anyone who was aware of someone who might benefit from such support should please contact Mary.

The Chairman then noted there were several **other interest groups** that meet regularly (or irregularly) that contribute to village life (e.g. the Vale Islanders) and these can be found on the village website.

APA 24/07 Information Exchange

A question was asked as to the status of the marquee in **Charney Manor** grounds. The Parish Clerk explained this had been granted a temporary planning permission (for 3 years) retrospectively. The marquee was required to provide needed accommodation for visiting groups pending the development of a more permanent facility. A planning permission for a permanent development had been granted previously but had lapsed and trustees had advised this would need to be re-designed for it to be affordable.

A further question was asked about the licensing of events at **Charney Manor**. The Parish Clerk explained that the District Council had granted an Entertainments License despite objection from many residents and the Parish Council. A resident had lodged an appeal against this decision (supported by the Parish Council) and this had led the Magistrates to impose more stringent conditions – particularly on noise – to those applied by the District Council. It didn't appear that the License had so far been used.

APA 24/08 Date of Next Meeting

The next Assembly will be held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall (unless publicly notified otherwise).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 08.00pm.

Draft Minutes prepared by Mr T Brown (Parish Council Clerk) and posted on Village website.

Approved.....Date.....
Parish Council Chairman