

CHARNEY BASSETT ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 13th MAY 2026

Present: Mrs K Adamson, Mr N Adamson, Mr T Brown, Mrs T Burge, Mrs M Castle, Mr & Mrs M Cox, Mr C Eld, Mrs A Graham, Mr I Graham, Mr M Gooding, Mrs J Hamilton, Revd. T McLeod, Mr M Redmond, Mr D Roberts.

Apologies: Mr S Champion, Mr L Evans, Mrs R McClintock, Mr P Whiteside.

APA/26/01 Introduction and Welcome

Mr Roberts chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. He explained this was an open meeting, separate to that of the Parish Council that would take place later in the evening.

APA/26/02 Confirmation of Minute Taker

Agreed that Mr Brown would take the minutes (proposed Mrs Castle/seconded Mrs Burge).

APA/26/03 Matters Arising from the 2025 Assembly

The draft minutes of the meeting had been posted on the village website and approved at the July meeting of the Parish Council. There were no matters arising.

APA 26/04 Parish Council report

Mr Roberts' paid tribute to the many residents who help look after the village and manage its various facilities. He mentioned many by name, and made particular mention to Brian Trotman who volunteers as our Internal Auditor and who regularly keeps the grass in check in the Jubilee Orchard and various parts of the Playing Field. Amongst the many changes taking place locally he noted that by this time next year we would all be working toward a new and currently unknown local government structure in Oxfordshire. Mr Roberts written report will be posted in the meeting folder of the village website.

APA 26/05 County Councillor report

Mr Evans apologised for missing the meeting. He is now also a District Councillor, and the Vale Council also has a meeting this evening. He had provided a written report and this referenced a number of current issues, including the Buckland Road White Gates, the condition of the Main Street pavements, local road conditions, strength of local mobile signal, changes to the A420/ Longworth Road junction and charges for use of the recycling centres. The full report will be posted on the village website.

APA 26/06 District Councillor report

There has been no contact from Jill Raynor.

APA 26/07 Village Groups and Organisations

The Revd. Talisker reported on St Peter's Church, stressing it was there for everyone – marriages, services, baptisms and burials – and had been for centuries. For this to continue, annual expenditure of circa £16k can only be met by fundraising through the **Parochial Church Council**. She hoped the village would continue to support this important facility so it could continue for years to come. She confirmed that attempts had been made to set up a group to develop facilities in the church, including a loo, but it

had to be accepted that the resources were not in place to take it forward. Mrs Adamson said it was worth noting how many positive comments were made about the Church in its Visitor Book.

Mrs Hamilton reported for the **Charney Hall and Field Trust (CHAFT)** which owns and manages the Village Hall and Charney Field. There is an urgent need for a new Treasurer and additional trustees. New doors are being fitted to the Hall and new swings installed in the playground next week. The Pop-Up Pub events in the Hall had been very popular and raised £300. Further social events are being considered.

Mr Gooding (**Charney and Lyford Allotment Partnership - CLAP**) reported that much work had been put into tending the allotments and ever ingenious means were being trialled to cope with the rabbit problem. There were currently 2.5 vacant plots available. The hedge on the southern boundary had suffered from last year's hot summer and may need replanting. The water supply has had to be turned off but a water bowser will be in place for the summer months, thanks to help from Mr I McGregor.

Mr Eld reported that the **Charney Army** had conducted another successful litter picking weekend – the 17 bags of rubbish collected were fewer than last year but significant nonetheless. Those clearing litter on Buckland Road had noted damage to the verges and drainage channels following the recent diversion of traffic off the A420. An over-riding vehicle had also apparently demolished a brick gate pier. There was concern that OCC appeared to make no effort to inspect a road after such an event and this needed to be raised with the County Councillor. Mr Eld also raised the issue of vegetation overgrowing the Stanford bridlepath i.e. how much should be cut back and whether the Charney Army should, or should not, tackle this (as opposed to relying on chance visits by OCC). It was thought sufficiently important to invite comment on the issues through Charney Chatter before decisions were taken.

Mr Graham reported that the **History and Archaeology Group** had organised several test pits and a report on the finds would be placed on the History website following analysis by David Ashby. A dendrochronology survey of timbers in Charney Manor had also been undertaken. A full report on the Group's activities is available in the meeting folder on the village website.

Mrs Burge reported on the work of the **Communications Group** in producing our monthly Charney Chatter (any material to be sent to charneychatter@gmail.com) and occasional interim updates.

Mr Brown (for the **Charney Mill Group**) reported that there had been 60 visitors to the Mill over National Mills Opening Weekend and the £73.35 collected had been an increase of £0.24 on the previous year. A big thank you to Steph Wright for undertaking the lion's share of the organising.

Mr Brown reported that the **Road Safety Group** had now overseen the successful installation of White Gates at Buckland Road and is now campaigning for a 7.5 tonne Weight Restriction Order to keep HGVs out of Charney (details in Latest News on www.charneybasseett-pc.gov.uk). There were two operational issues that needed addressing:

- The Co-ordinator of the **Speedwatch Group** (Rosemary McClintock) wishes to stand down and attempts to find a new volunteer have so far been unsuccessful. Without a co-ordinator sessions cannot take place. There was a suggestion that perhaps Speedwatch had had its day, but the clear majority felt we should do our best to see it continue. Mr Brown advised that there are now 2,860 volunteers across the Thames Valley (500 more than last year) and an impressive 37,000 warning letters have been issued by TVP as a result of their work. In Charney 122 motorists received a warning letter last year for exceeding 25 mph in the village. Speedwatch currently has 9 volunteers and could ideally use more. Volunteering takes no more than an hour of time each month and residents who care about speeding vehicles through the village should please speak to Rosemary about taking part – while she is available!

- The **Movable Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) Task Force** has been depleted recently, so the signs have not been moved for some time. This means the Parish Council is in breach of its delegation agreement with OCC which requires that the units can only be temporary and have to be moved every six weeks or so. Mr Champion leads this team and at least two people are needed when moving the signs: the more people we have, the less time each has to spend on moves throughout the year. The

team had acquired one or two new recruits, so the signs should be moved shortly. At the conclusion of discussion a point was made that not everyone in the village is in favour of MVAS and that at least one resident is considering making complaint to OCC over the length of time that the signs have remained in their current positions.

Mr Brown reported that the **Lost Footpaths Group** is currently putting its energy into trying to open up a lost path between Cherbury Camp and Bushy Cottages (Pusey). This was closed off circa 2000 and if there is sufficient evidence of the path being continuously available for use over a 20-year period prior to its closure a case can be made to support its re-opening. The Group currently has three witness statements attesting to this, but more would be helpful. Discussion has taken place with the landowner recently, but it seems unlikely the route will be opened up voluntarily. If there is no change in this position a formal application would need to be made to OCC to take the matter further.

Mr Gooding confirmed that the **Charney and Lyford Educational Trust** continued to meet and that application could still be made for grants to support local educational initiatives and projects.

APA 26/08 Information Exchange

Mr Eld wished to give a public thank you to the patience of local motorists in giving way for the weekly outings of the Shifford RDA Carriage Driving Group.

Mr Gooding praised those involved in the May Queen crowning and Maypole Dancing event on the Village Green. All agreed this annual event was very well run and that this was a noble tradition to continue.

APA 26/09 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 12th May 2027 in the Village Hall.

Mrs Castle proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Roberts for chairing the meeting and this was duly carried.

Mr Roberts closed the meeting at 08.40 pm

Signed:.....David Roberts (8th July 2026)