# CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**
**HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 8th JULY 2026**

**Present:** Mr D Roberts (Chair)
Mrs K Adamson
Mrs T Burge
Mr T Brown (Clerk)
Mr N Adamson (Finance Officer – for item 7)

Two members of the public were in attendance.

**26/45 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

Mrs Castle and Mr Redmond sent apologies for absence. There were no Declarations of Interest.

**26/46 Approval of the minutes of the meetings of 13th May 2026**

The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly and the Parish Council's Annual Meeting (circulated) were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**26/47 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meetings**

Annual Parish Assembly

APA 26/07: Speedwatch. The Chairman would speak with Mrs McClintock about the filling of the Co-ordinator's role.

APA 26/07: Movable Vehicle Activated Signs. The signs have now been moved from their previous locations to (1) Longworth Road and (2) Main Street/Buckland Road junction. The Chairman had spoken to Mr Champion who had agreed to continue to lead the team.

Parish Council Annual Meeting

26/36: Communfity-Led Plan. The Clerk had yet to make enquiries of those previously involved in the preparation of the Plan.

26/38: Pothole Superhero. In the absence of a volunteer the post will need to remain unfilled.

**26/48 Information Exchange**

Main Street/New Road Junction. The flower bed was no longer being maintained. Mr Ody is prepared to look after it on a temporary basis (agreed with thanks). The Clerk confirmed that this was not part of the adjoining property and is designated as highway verge. Agreed that a request for a volunteer to look after the planting bed should be placed in the next Charney Chatter.

New Road Pavement. Mrs Burge reported that the problem of overhanging hedges, referred to in her report, had been attended to. There were still weeds growing out of the pavement and it was agreed that these were a highway issue and could be removed by any volunteer.

**26/49 County Councillor report**

Mr Evans reported on a number of issues affecting the village and the wider area, including:

- Repairs to Main Street pavements:
- Repairs to Lyford Road surface and bridge:
- Longworth Road verges and potholes:
- Maintenance of public rights of way, especially bridleway 5.

He will forward his report to the Clerk for uploading to the village website.

**26/50 District Councillor Report**

There has been no contact from Jill Rayner.

**26/51 Clerk's Financial Report**

Mr Adamson ran through transactions from 1st April to 30th June. Following receipt of the first half of the precept for 2026-27 the balance currently stands at £19,268.

It was noted that Mrs Castle is currently not able to authorise payments and that the Chairman would be absent from the country for an 8-week period starting in September. In the absence of both, the Parish Council would not be able to authorise payments.

It was agreed that Councillor Mark Redmond be added as a signatory to the Unity Trust Bank Account to authorise payments (proposed by Mrs Burge and seconded by Mr Roberts as Chair).

Councillors also noted the transactions for the period (paras 2-4 of the report).

**26/52 Planning Matters**

Mrs Adamson reported from the agenda as follows:

- P23/V0798/FUL (Commercial buildings/parking etc, Lyford Business Park): The Planning Officer has responded to our correspondence. The S.106 Agreement is being handled by the County Council, and we have been invited to take up concerns about the timescale direct with OCC. Vale Planners advise that if the Agreement isn't signed over the summer period the application will be referred back to the Planning Committee with a recommendation for refusal and further action considered by its Enforcement Team.
- P25/V1803/HH and P25/V1804/LB (Extension to Bridle Cottage): decision awaited.
- P26/V0008/FUL (Extensions etc at Chequers PH): no comment made on amended plans.
- P25/V0111/FUL (Dog Walking Facility, Charney Manor): further comment made on the amended plans. Noted that the Vale Heritage Officer appears to share the Parish Council concerns.
- Long Meadow Barn, Denchworth (HGV Operator's Licence Application). Application by a scaffolding firm in Didcot to operate HGVs from this site had been advertised in a local newspaper. The Traffic Commissioner has, however, confirmed that no application has been received. Councillors reported that the firm's scaffold lorries have been seen in the village and there appeared to be a scaffolding rack on site. Agreed that Vale Planning be asked to advise whether planning permission is needed and to notify Denchworth Parish Meeting accordingly.
- Land north of Hunters Moon, Southmoor (vehicular access). A vehicular access and hardstanding was formed over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. It appears that this will serve a horse related use. Planning permission may be required but the access does not look to create a traffic hazard. KBS Parish Council have been notified.
- (Not on the agenda) P25/V1533/FUL (12 pitches for gypsy/traveller caravans on land north of A417, Challow Station): this is being monitored by OCC Gypsy Officer.

Mrs Adamson's report was noted with thanks.

**26/53 Abingdon/East Vale Transport Strategy (OCC Consultation)**

Mrs Adamson explained proposals in the plan that might be of relevance to Charney. The village itself is just outside the plan area (there appears to be no plan at present for the Western Vale). It was agreed that the intention to reduce car journeys by 25% was a laudable aim but difficult to achieve with yet more housing growth likely. The various proposals to improve links for cyclists and pedestrians are welcome but appear to be focused on Abingdon and immediate area with far less thought given to the western part of the plan area (including Charney/Lyford). The Clerk would make appropriate comment to OCC.

**26/54 Bridlepath 5**

Mrs Burge had circulated the replies from Charney Chatter on the condition of the bridleway to Stanford-in-the-Vale. All 10 called for better maintenance and reported difficulties of usage caused

by the narrowness of the path from encroaching vegetation. The Clerk drew attention to a NALC Guidance Note on responsibilities for Rights of Way. It appears that OCC is responsible for:

- Keeping a right of way clear of obstructions (this would include stems growing from the path);
- Maintaining the width of a right of way;
- Maintaining most bridges and culverts;
- Maintaining the surface of the path in a state fit for its purpose.

Most paths cross private land, and the guidance note lists landowner responsibilities as:

- Keeping paths clear of overhanging vegetation;
- Maintaining stiles and gates;
- Ensuring there are no misleading signs;
- Providing a bridge over a newly created ditch.

Bridleway 5 has no recorded width in the Definitive List of Right's of Way for Oxfordshire (the much earlier Inclosure Award records the route as being 12' in width at the time). The NALC guidance says that a bridleway would normally be expected to be at least 3 metres in width.
The Clerk had written to OCC Footpaths to ask what width OCC is working to for bridleway 5, if they agree the NALC advice on responsibilities and the terms on which OCC might delegate responsibility for maintenance of rights of way to a willing Parish Council. A response has been promised in the next couple of weeks.
Councillors noted that OCC had visited the path recently with a mower but had not cut back anything of substance and did not appear to have travelled beyond the lower reaches of the path. Some overhanging vegetation at the upper end of the path had recently been cut back but this was definitely not done by OCC. It was felt that the single visit normally made by OCC in July is entirely at the wrong time of year for biodiversity and that a better plan would be to programme two cuts, one in early Spring (say late April) and one in late Summer/early Autumn. In discussion mention was also made of the stile across footpath 4 (some are apparently finding it difficult to use this).
Mr Eld confirmed that Charney Army had done maintenance work 2 years ago. It had stretched resources but is willing to do so again, subject to being to consider the scope of the work required. Agreed to discuss the matter further with advice from OCC's Footpath Officer to hand.

**26/55 Government proposals for a Foundation Strategic Authority**

The Vale Council has notified Parish Councils of proposals for a Berks/Bucks/Oxon strategic authority to be presided over by a Mayor. Mr Evans reported that discussions have been ongoing since the start of the year and that Swindon also wanted to be involved.

**26/56 Weight Restriction Order** .

There has been no update from OCC on our proposal and no offer of a meeting. Mr Evans is trying to find out how long this is likely to take.

**26/57 OCC Proposals for 'Quiet Lanes'**

OCC will consider proposals from Parish Councils for turning an existing stretch of road into a 'Quiet Lane'. This would effectively remove through traffic and allow use by local residents, cyclists, pedestrians and horses. A member of the public had suggested that Lyford Road could be a suitable candidate. If nominated, a suitable alternative route for through traffic has to be identified. A comment was made as to the difficulty of enforcing such a scheme. Agreed that we should continue to pursue a Weight Restriction Order as the best way of keeping unwelcome HGVs off Charney's roads.

**26/58 National Emergency Briefing (NEB)**

The Chairman reported on a film on Climate Change that he had been invited to watch in the Village Hall. The film can be viewed via the NEB's website.

**26/59 Move to .Gov.Uk**

Three Councillors have now set up their email accounts.
CHAFT is happy with the arrangements that have been made for the new website. The Clerk has further work to do on the Finance and Policy sections of the site before it can be promoted as the village website. The old site is being transferred to a new server provider and will continue to hold archive material as well as the History sub-domain.

**26/60 Lost Paths Group**

The Group met on 30th June and is continuing to concentrate efforts on re-opening the path from Cherbury Camp to Bushy Cottages (Pusey).

**26/61 CHAFT Matters**

The draft minutes of the CHAFT meeting on 30th June were discussed.
The curry night had been a great success: congratulations to all involved in its organisation.
Playground fencing: Mrs Burge clarified that the support posts were not being replaced with metal posts. The existing posts are to be protected by meta posts (at the base) to protect from strimming.
Query as to whether the work planned to Charney Wick Ditch (CWD) later in the year will involve the section adjoining Bridle Path. It was reported that the bed of the ditch had almost risen to the head of the culvert under Main Street and the clearance was barely noticeable. Also, that sycamores had seeded and were growing amongst vegetation on the south facing bank.
Noted that the involvement of Charney Army in maintenance of the Village Hall had been raised.
The Chairman will ask if CHAFT wishes to discuss these matters at a Joint Liaison Group meeting earlier than the planned meeting in November (Mr Adamson to be asked to consider attending should Mrs Castle be unavailable).

**26/62 Clerk's Correspondence**

Thames Water is asking all local authorities to reduce water usage where possible.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 9th September** in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 09.30 pm.

Signed Chairman…….Date……..