

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Old Marston held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3 May 2004 at the Mortimer Hall

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mrs. M.C. Stone Vice-chairman
Mrs. E. Nurse
Messrs Bartleet, Batey, Cann, Cox, Holmes, McGinn, and Swift
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
City Councillor Mr. R. Darke

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. G. Cox and City Councillor Mrs. M. Clarkson

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held 1 April 2003, confirmed by Council at the May 2003 Council meeting, were read.

Chairman's Report

Planning

The immediate items were of major planning importance. That for seven houses and three flats and the demolition of 4 Mill Lane had been refused but another major application for ten houses at the rear of 109 Oxford Road was to be considered. Overcrowding and access seemed to be the problems that would be passed to the Planning Authority.

The conversion of estate houses into flats continued to be of great concern. Opposition had continued but without much success. Representations to the Local Plan Inquiry were being made to have the practice curtailed.

The possibility of the development of the land at the rear of Colthorns Farm had been raised but there were no developments to report.

Grants to local organisations continued to be made but future applications would be required to be supported by proposals for identified projects.

Communications with the City Council on planning issues have been improved since the Clerk was invited to sit on the City Council Development Control User Panel.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that planning applications are sent to the Parish for consultation and are available for inspection.

Recreation

Arrangements were in hand to replace the railings stolen from the Mortimer Ground. Three lengths 2.75m long were stolen. Where are they now?

Similar fencing has been erected round the play equipment at Boult's Lane

Negotiations concerning the proposed new pavilion continue, optimism about the possibility of a major grant from the Football Foundation having been boosted by all the Club's coaches now having F.A. certificates that will permit the Club to get a Football Association Charter. A steering group has been set up to progress the issue.

Highways

A meeting had taken place to discuss kerbing Oxford Road north of Cherwell Drive and a suitable form of kerb agreed. The work was expected last year but not carried out. Pressure is being applied to ensure completion this year. The proposed widening of the path outside 71 Oxford Road would also be revisited.

The promised Toucan crossings in Cherwell Drive and Marsh Lane are expected within the year.

Investigation into the public footpath extension from the allotments to Boult's Lane continues.

C.W. Haynes

The Council met with representatives of the Traffic Calming Group of Old Marston Residents' Association where its proposals were welcomed. Traffic calming is scheduled for design in 2004/5 in the Headington and Marston Transport Strategy Programme but other programmes have slipped.

The Chairman and Clerk were invited to serve on the joint County and City Headington and Marston Area Traffic Area Strategy Group giving direct access to comment on traffic measures in the area required due to the extension of the JR11.

Burial Ground

Apart from a small area of paving and fixing the seat the work to the extension is complete. Rights to Burials will be for a 75 year period from date of purchase. A stand tap has been provided

Accounts

The accounts for 2003/04 were circulated, amended, and approved. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Manson, the Local Auditor of the Council's accounts, to the meeting. His services were appreciated.

Other Items

Mr. D. Holmes was co-opted to fill the vacancy due to there being one nomination short at the election last year.

Mr. J. McGinn had been co-opted to replace Mr. Cowell who had resigned. Thanks were due to the two City Councillors who had given immense support to the Council in its dealings with the City Council, to the Parish Councillors for their work for the Council, particularly to those who serve the community in so many other ways, and to the Clerk for his continuing efforts.

Open Session

A request for Ponds Lane to be lit was referred to the Council meeting.

1/6/04
C. M. Baynes