

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3 April 2001
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mrs. C. Stone Vice-chairman
Mesdames Bradley, Cox, Nurse, and Tiwari
Messrs Agent and Taylor
Mr. Batey and Mr. Cann were representing this Council at the City Council consultation on the Local Plan Review
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
City Councillor Mr. J. Coats

Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Mr. Bartleet

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 March 2001 were confirmed and signed.

Boundary Commission Report

Mr Coats drew attention to the Commission's decision that William Street had not been included in the proposed new Marston Ward. The New Marston Residents' Association were recommending that it should be. Mr. Coats said that the proposed Marston Ward was numerically on the extreme upper limit and the addition of William Street without omitting another area would not be accepted. He suggested that the west side of Marston Road could be put into the Headington Ward and there were other possibilities. He also looked into the grouping of wards being arranged to achieve the City Local Committee Areas suggesting an enlarged grouping including Old Marston. This suggestion was not supported. It was felt that this Council could not become involved in suggested ward boundaries in the New Marston Area. These being best dealt with by those concerned. Mr. Coats was thanked for bringing these matters to the Council's attention.

Correspondence

An invitation to nominate a Member to be available to serve on the City Council's Standards Committee when it was called upon to consider a complaint against a parish council was received. This was deferred to the next meeting.

The County Council's invitation to send representatives to one of its annual meetings with parish councils was received and no appointment made

A Government Circular on its support for rural sub-post offices would be copied to the Oxford Road office.

Casual Vacancy

It was decided to defer the co-option until the next meeting to give candidates the opportunity to make a written submission in support of their candidacy.

Mr. Macfarlane had written expressing interest that was noted. The Clerk would try to bring his earlier submission forward to the next meeting.

Nomination of a Governor for St. Nicholas School

The Clerk who serves until August withdrew from the Meeting. In his absence it was decided to invite him to serve for a further term of four years. On rejoining the meeting the Clerk said he appreciated the Council's confidence and was happy to accept. The nomination was subject to confirmation by the Education Authority.

CMHaynes

Planning Applications

The following were considered:

- 21 Mortimer Drive - replacement of flat roof by sloping roof - no comment
- 19 Horseman Close - first floor side extension - no comment

John Radcliffe Hospital - new hospital buildings, re-submission. There was general acceptance of the need for the development on site but continued concern about parking arrangements, particularly Park and Ride that again was being focussed on Marsh Lane. Mr. Coats suggested that the Hospital was pressing for this option because it would be the least expensive rather than the best for those working, servicing, being treated or visiting the Hospital. It was decided to continue objecting to the Marsh Lane proposal and promoting the alternatives avoiding the Marsh lane Fly-over. A petition would be organised. The Chairman, Mr. Coats and the Clerk were asked to make the arrangements.

St. Nicholas School - minor alterations to prepare for the change to a Primary School - no comment.

Notice of appeal against the refusal of consent for a large side extension at 28 Lewell Avenue was received.

Other Matters

A report of the meeting of the Local Residents' Forum of the Hospital development held on 20 March 2001 was received and noted. The next meeting to be held on 26 June 2001.

An invitation to attend a workshop into Oxford and Its Setting organised on behalf of the City Council by the Countryside Agency was not accepted.

It was reported that the Marsh Lane Park and Ride was back in consideration. Attention was drawn to its flooded condition, the fact that the site was considered unsuitable for travellers and to the traffic problems caused during the periods it was used by showmen for St. Giles Fair. It was decided that an Environmental Impact Assessment should be requested at an appropriate time. It was also decided that a petition should be organised on the same lines as that against the traveller's site.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment:

		£
Oxford City Council	Recreation ground maintenance	362.39
Franklins	Legal fees re. Mortimer Hall Lease	151.88
R and M Pest Control	Moles	25.00

Recreation Ground

Quotations for removing rubbish etc from the areas near the changing rooms in Boults Lane and from the coppice area in Mill Lane were received from the City Council of £168 plus VAT and from C.D. Ward £210. The Ward quotation was accepted as it included rubble and building materials not covered by the City quotation.

The Valuation Officer had investigated the Clerk's contention that the Changing Rooms at Boults Lane were entirely used in connection with the recreation ground and were therefore exempt from rating. The Valuation Officer had argued that the clubroom containing the bar was not so used and was liable to be rated. Recently a Lands Tribunal Decision had held that in similar circumstances relating to a cricket club the clubroom was rateable. As this decision was binding the Clerk was asked to agree the valuation.

The SMP quotation for the provision of equipment and fencing had been accepted in the sum of £17,792.04, subject to a possible minor adjustment to the fence length.

CMay

Highways

The City Council accepted responsibility for cleansing the length of what was bridle way between School Lane and the Cycle Track.

The County Council, on being asked to accept maintenance responsibility for the strip along the frontage of the Mortimer Hall it claimed as highway had decided that it was not highway after all. The Clerk had therefore asked the County Council to pay for the legal work required to have the area added to this Council's title or to have its solicitor undertake the work without charge.

As no volunteers had come forward to maintain the subway mural the Clerk was asked to approach the artists to see whether suitable arrangements could be made with them.

The County Council, on being asked to consider a long-term plan for the replacement of setts, said that it could only undertake to deal with problems as they arose.

The Clerk was asked to remind the City Council of the work required at the end of Mill Lane.

The Clerk drew attention to the apparent alterations to the City F.C. floodlights such that they were again causing dazzle. He was asked to write to the City Council to draw attention to the problem.

The Clerk was asked to request that a finger sign should be put on the post on Marston Ferry Road opposite Oxford Road (north) "Old Marston Village"

Burial Ground

It was decided to accept the Quotation from Singer & James for railings and gates in the sum of £6,901.50 and on further consideration to have them powder coated for an additional £2,600 that would obviate the need for initial and subsequent painting for many years to come.

The Clerk was asked to price strips of concrete mesh blocks from the gate into the burial ground.

Date of Next Meeting

The Annual Council Meeting 1 May 2001, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.

1 May 2001

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