

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd December 1997
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr A T Jones (Chairman)
Mr C W Haynes (Vice-chairman) and all Council Members
The Clerk Mr L M Garner was in attendance

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th November were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

Mr Bartleet confirmed that the City Engineer had visited Ashlong Road and will inform the residents' of the outcome in due course.

The Clerk reported that the County Committee which will take the decision on Library closures had been deferred to the 27th January 1998. He was requested to attend the meeting to present the Councils' case again. In reply to the question of local subsidies to prevent a library closing the County Council had said that they would require an annual payment of the full running costs, approximately £14,000. The suggestion that voluntary helpers should be used was not proceeded with.

Correspondence

The following items were noted:

Oxford City Council- Members' information sheet
SPISE- Newsletter
Over 60's Club- Letter of thanks
Oxford City Council- Report of meeting with Parish Council representatives
Brewery- Change of Licensees at the Victoria Arms

Land Registration

Two replies had been received from Solicitors willing to provide the service. The subject was deferred for one month.

Planning

Applications

The following application was considered;

9, Fane Road- Single storey extension- No comment

Decisions

The following were reported;

7, Cotswold Crescent- Conservatory- Approved

4, Rimmer Close- Extension- Approved

54, Mill Lane -Extension- Approved

1, Lewell Avenue- New 1B/R accommodation- Refused

St. Nicholas School

The Clerk, as the Parish Council's representative Governor reported that the current financial situation was giving cause for great concern. Funding was being cut and pupil numbers were dropping and there was a fear that this would affect the School.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment;

Oxford City Council-	Recreation Ground Maintenance	£1588.21
	Tarmac repair	£167.10
St. Nicholas Mother & Toddler Group-Grant (S.137)		£50.00

Trade Services-	Tree maintenance	£15.27
L M Garner-	Salary & Expenses	£1101.07

A request for financial assistance from St.Nicholas School Governors for a new safety surface to the adventure playground was deferred to the next meeting.

The Clerk reminded Members that costed estimates for additional work would be required at the January meeting.

The Clerk was asked to ascertain what facilities could be provided with the Developer's open space contribution now mounting to £1111 held by the City Council.

The Clerk said that he was negotiating a Wayleave payment from the Electricity Company in respect of the underground cable on the Boult's Lane Recreation Ground.

Allotments

The Chairman reported that the Allotment Sub-committee had met the previous day, with representatives of the Allotment Association to consider outstanding matters and correspondence. The Clerk read the following report;

In response to a question as to the Parish Council's plans for the future use of the site the Chairman said that it was impossible to prevent a future Council meeting making it's own decision.

The Allotment Association offered, through the assistance of Mr R.Ward to plough, harrow and roll the unused land without cost to the Council. It requested that the Council should flail twice each year with the Association arranging with the Council's approval of Contractor to undertake any further flailing required without cost to the Council. Written confirmation was requested. Should the Council not agree to the site being ploughed the Chairman thought it possible that the Council would make alternative arrangements in respect of unused plots. The Association was asked to put in writing it's plans for the future maintenance and management of the occupied section of the site. The Association requested that plot rents should be reduced to ten pounds to undercut other local sites to encourage more tenants to Mill Lane. It also requested an allowance of time to get plots into productivity, The Association Chairman was reminded that the Clerk had said to him, some weeks ago, that if a tenant wanted a second plot he should apply to the Clerk so that Council's approval could be considered.

The Allotment Association questioned the status of the land and it was suggested that a legal opinion should be sought.

No comment was available to the question about the offer for the unused site.

The Council then considered the questions raised at the Sub-committee and it was decided to obtain written confirmation from Mr R.Ward of his intentions to plough, harrow and roll the unoccupied plots without cost to the Council. Should the ploughing take place the Council would flail twice each year with any further flailings required being carried out with the Council's approval without cost to the Council.

The Association to be asked to put in writing it's plans for the future maintenance and management of the occupied part.

It was decided that plots rents should be reduced to ten pounds p.a. for the first year.

That a legal opinion as to the status of the land should be obtained.

A letter was received from Mr Cowell concerning a possible purchase of the vacant part of the Mill Lane site was deferred pending confirmation of the status of the site.

Recreation Ground

The Clerk confirmed that he had sent the draft agreement to the Marston Saints F.C. for acceptance and signature.

It was noted that a seat on the Mortimer Hall site had been vandalised, a replacement to be considered next month.

Highways

No progress had been made to screen the Oxford City F.C. floodlights from approaching traffic. Mr Yeoward's offer to expedite action was accepted.

The Clerk said that he would write again to the City Engineer concerning the overgrown tree at 1, Salford Road.

The City Engineer confirmed that Lewell Avenue had been added to the street repair list but with little immediate chance of funds being available.

The Clerk said that the City Engineer had visited Footpath Number 5 but no comment had been received. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Baker.

The Clerk had reminded the City Engineer of the requirement for cycle stands at Salford Road and Cherwell Drive. Mr Yeoward said that he would help.

The Clerk reported that the following items had been inserted in the draft list of bids for finance;

£12,000, 1998/00- Traffic calming in Oxford Road

£100,000 1999/00- Cherwell Drive/ Marsh Lane junction

£30,000 1999/00- Cherwell Drive/ Oxford Road junction

In response to a question the Crown Prosecution Service stated that where members of the public reported traffic contraventions to the Police it was the Police which decided whether to take action or not. It was possible that a failure to take action could be challenged by judicial review.

Two possible artists for the sub-way mural had been contacted.

Bus Service

The County Council were reviewing the Village service, which was subsidised, possibly because of low use levels. Mr Bartleet would raise this with the County Transport Planner and the Clerk would write.

Burial Ground

It was reported that nine plots had been sold within the last year and that if this rate was maintained the existing ground would not last for two years. It was decided that this should be considered again at the next meeting.

A. Hunt Jones
3 Feb 1988