

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council  
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4 February 2003  
at the Mortimer Hall**

**Members Present**

- Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
- Mrs. C. Stone Vice-chairman
- Mesdames Bradley, Nurse, and Tiwari
- Messrs Agent, Bartleet, Batey, Cann and Macfarlane
- The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
- ~~Area~~ City Councillor Mrs. ~~M. Clarkson~~ <sup>R. DAVEN</sup>

**Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. G. Cox, Mr. R. Taylor and Councillor Mrs. M. Clarkson.

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 ~~February~~ <sup>January</sup> 2003 were confirmed and signed.

**Planning Issues**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Michael Crofton-Briggs, who had recently been appointed by the City Council as Business Manager for Planning Services. He joined the meeting to discuss the reorganisation of the planning staff and practices introduced to speed the processes of applications to meet Government guidelines. He said that the past designation of his post would have been City Planning Officer. He described the strategy for achieving the goals set by the government that 70% of applications should be delegated to staff rather than to committee. These applications would fall into previously agreed categories and policies. Members thought that the List of Delegated Powers was too wide and that the sub-division of residential accommodation into smaller units and the conversion of three bed houses into flats locally should be subject to committee decision although there was a shortage of small units there was also a shortage of family houses. It was acknowledged that any delegated item could be "called in" to be decided by the Area Committee but it required four City Councillors to sign the motion. This appeared to be too many; surely two members would be adequate. This all had to take place within the 21 day consultation period that appeared inadequate, many residents taking two week holidays.

There had been instances in the past when, in pre-planning discussions with staff the impression had been given that if the officer's recommendations were followed then permission would be automatic. Mr. Crofton-Briggs agreed to discuss this with his staff. He also agreed to look at the fact that most application drawings ignored the stated requirement that new work should be coloured. In view of the presentation of applications on the web he would consider changing the requirement to the hatching or shading of new walls as colour would complicate the web presentation.

It was suggested that the notifications to neighbours should include the web address. The Chairman thanked Mr. Crofton-Briggs for attending the meeting and he left.

**Correspondence**

- Notification of the change of licensee at the Victoria Arms was received
- The Information Commissioner had accepted the Council's adoption of the Model Scheme
- The S.E. Regional Assembly's policy booklets on Transport Strategy were received.
- It was decided not to enter The Best Kept Village Competition

**North East Area Committee**

Mrs. Stone reported that the Headington and Marston Area Traffic Strategy report had produced little new information and the presentation was not particularly noteworthy dealing with detail rather than future planning, factual surveys and developments. The remainder of the meeting did not affect Old Marston.

*CMHaynes*

Mr. Bartleet stressed the need for more detailed traffic impact assessments to be made and published in respect of major planning applications.

Planning Applications

The following were considered:

- 2 Nicholas Avenue-extension and conversion into four flats. Strong objections. Not in keeping with the estate, insufficient parking, over development of the site, adverse effect on school numbers and a dangerous precedent.
- 141 Oxford Road - extension and conversion into two dwellings. It would have bad effect on the appearance of a long stretch of terraces of four houses, it would be an over development of the site, the proposed parking arrangements appear unattainable and would result in many cars backing out on to a busy road on a blind bend.

It was decided to make no comment to the following:

- 9 Dents Close - extension
- 33 Oxford Road - conversion of outbuildings to residential use
- 5 Boult's Close - extensions

Decisions

The following were reported:

- R/o 32 Mill Lane - new house - approved
- 7 Fane road - conversion into three flats - approved
- 8 Oxford Road - extension - approved
- 65 Cherwell Drive - extension - approved
- 53 Elms drive - conservatory - approved

Other Matters

An appeal had been lodged against the refusal of the application for two new houses adjoining 71 Oxford Road

The Clerk reported that he had drawn the attention of the Planning Authority to an apparent breach of the planning consent in respect of the White Hart Development, namely the demolition of a short length of the front wall, being part of a Listed Building. He would also deal with the apparent adoption by the Developer of an unauthorised name for the development - White Hart Place.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment:

		£
Oxford City Council	Recreation Ground Maintenance	2173.75
Oxford Field Paths Society	Balance of subscription	2.00
Abbey Engraving	Memorial Plaque	31.26

Recreation Ground

The Clerk had received confirmation from Mr. Davis of the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association that play equipment erected before the current safety rules came into effect could continue in use.

Mr. Darke said he would deal with the lack of emptying of the subway litter bins.

Highways

The Clerk was asked to report the bad condition of the entrance to Beechey Avenue and to ascertain the position of the responsibility for carrying out the promised safety work at the flyover now that the road had been transferred to the County.

It was also decided to seek better visibility for traffic at the "T" junction leaving the bridge heading west.

The schedule of road schemes and priorities submitted to the Area Committee showed Oxford Road setts being replaced by kerbs. That was unacceptable and the Clerk was asked to write to the Highway Engineer to say that concrete kerbs were not acceptable.

CMB/ps

**Burial Ground**

A reply from the County Council concerning the possibility of this Council laying a water pipe along the verge indicated that it would be prohibitively expensive. It was decided to approach Thames Water again.

Mr. J Cooper was now not fit enough to carry on maintaining the Burial Ground. He would continue to supervise the contract and that was agreed.

**Date of Next Meeting**

4 March 2003

*Chasyn*