

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8 January 2002
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mrs. C. Stone Vice-chairman
Mesdames Bradley, Cox and Nurse
Messrs Agent, Batey, Cann, Macfarlane and Taylor
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
City Councillor Mary Clarkson
Apologies for absence was received from Mrs Tiwari and Mr. Bartleet

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 December 2001 were amended and signed.

North East Area Committee

Mrs. Stone reported that the matter of major concern was the rate at which Brookes University was taking over such a large proportion of the Marston/Headington area. It was going over the predicted numbers and it was agreed that the enforcement of a limit on the number of students and staff was essential.

It was regretted that publication of a list of planning applications each month had been abandoned. Arising from the report Mary Clarkson agreed to raise this with the Planners and to mention, to the staff involved that a notice of the Area Committee meetings should be posted in the vicinity of the Post Office.

Old Marston Charities Trust

Mr. Haynes was appointed a Trustee for a four-year term.

Correspondence

The Clerk circulated a copy of The Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001, to which members are to have regard in the manner in which Council business is conducted. To have a code is mandatory and it was resolved that the Model should be adopted with effect from 15 April 2002. N.B. Members should retain the copy of the new Code, in place of the earlier Code, together with Standing Orders.

An invitation to appoint delegates to a meeting to discuss the Planning Green Paper that proposes that strategic planning should be removed from County Councils etc was received. It was decided that the Chairman and Clerk should attend.

The Chairman and Vice-chairman and Clerk had prepared a response to the Consultation Paper "Quality Parish and Town Councils."

The Clerk had drawn attention to the inequality of the Government's proposal to pay to "best value parishes" £30,000 p.a. under the Quality Public Services initiative (restricted to those spending in excess of £500,000 per year) as a share of the grants paid to district councils.

Planning

Applications

The following was considered:

R/o 32 Mill Lane – new chalet bungalow – no comment

Decision

The following were reported:

13 Rippington Drive – extension – refused

45 Mill Lane – extension - approved

Other Matters

Mrs. Clarkson, reviewing the Council's proposed amendment to the Local Plan to reduce the conversion of houses into flats, suggested that it should be amended to:

The conversion of estate houses, of less than 150 sq.m. as originally constructed, into flats will not, except in exceptional circumstances, be permitted to preserve the appearance of the estate and to prevent more vehicles being brought into an area for which there was no provision. For this provision "estate house" shall include a house built as part of a group of similar properties to provide a single unit of accommodation usually constructed on open land.

As part of the review of the Local Plan Review 2001 - 2016 this Council's views on the future development of the Hospitals and Brookes University were requested. It was decided that further extension of non-residential development in the Marston, Headington and Quarry Wards should be strongly resisted but it was accepted that the hospitals could be treated as a special case and dealt with as best suited the needs of the service. The other principal non-residential use was Brookes University where it was decided that no further extension should be permitted. The current level of students was taking a significant portion of family housing in the area. Although student accommodation was being extended into land that could have been used for local housing many preferred to live in shared houses off campus. An immovable block should be placed against any further extension or incursion of Brookes into the community

A meeting of the North East Area Committee was scheduled at 6 p.m. 29 January 2002 to consider the above item. The venue would be announced later.

A review of Financially Supported Bus Services was received from the County Council including the Mill Lane service; under it the service was at risk. The Clerk was asked to write to express the need for the service to be continued.

The Clerk said that, the following morning, he would be meeting two County Councillors who were members of the County Executive Committee to further this Council's policy for a direct link from the A40 to the JRII.

Accounts

The following account was passed for payment

D. Exell	Guttering repairs to Boults Lane pavilion	£ 96.00
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Notice of Audit commencing on 13 February 2002 was received

Recreation Ground

Mr. V. Brown, architect and the Chairman and Vice-chairman of Marston Saints F.C., Mr. D. Herniman and Mr. D. Holmes attended to discuss the future of the Pavilion used by the Club. There was a consensus that the present state of the building was such that a replacement was the best course if junior football was to continue locally. Finance was the problem and without estimates of cost no applications for grants could be made. After much discussion it was decided to ask the architect to prepare a plan, with elevations, adequate for a planning application to be submitted for a building approximately 50% larger than the present building. A very rough estimate the cost being £170,000 and of the plans £800. A planning application would be then be submitted. Methods of raising finance were discussed, Mrs. Cox detailed the successful employment of a professional fundraiser for OXSRAD that cost £1,000 and it was decided to follow that route. The above subject to confirmation by the Parish Meeting to be held on 22 January 2002.

The Clerk was asked to investigate the Awards for All scheme.
A letter was received from the Scouts refusing the Council's request for the site boundary to be changed. The Clerk was asked to arrange a site meeting.
The Charity Commission's approval to a new lease was received.

Estimates

The estimates of the balances at 31 March 2002 and the items previously considered for inclusion in next year's expenditure were considered. The approved items are detailed on the attached statement. In order to allow flexibility in dealing with the Pavilion costs it was decided to make a Precept of £30,500, the same as last year. An unexpected verbal request, unsupported with facts and figures was made on behalf of the Mortimer Hall Management Committee for a grant of £15,000 plus an unspecified loan towards the provision of a disabled toilet and store. No decision was made.

The precept to be confirmed at the 22 January 2002 meeting.

Highways

An estimate in the sum of £64 for the provision of a small window in the Elsfield Road bus shelter was accepted

The County Council's agreement to the provision of bus stops near the Oxrad entrance, subject to the payment of £10 per sign was received. Suggested sites were requested.

The Lighting Authority had considered the request for an additional lamp at the subway and had decided to upgrade the existing street lamp to see whether that would achieve the desired effect

Burial Ground

It was decided not to purchase a notice board

Date of Next Meeting

22 January 2002

SP/102

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**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 22 January 2002
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mrs. C. Stone Vice-chairman
Mesdames Bradley, Cox, Nurse, and Tiwari
Messrs Agent, Bartleet, Batey, Cann, and Macfarlane
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance

Open for some minutes

Precept

To the estimates approved at the previous meeting was added the estimated cost of preparing the land adjoining Marsh Lane for football of £2,000 but no change in the precept of £30,500 determined at the last meeting was required. The Precept was approved and signed.

A request for a grant from the Mortimer Hall Management Committee towards the conversion of the storeroom to a disabled toilet and its replacement was received. No costings were available and no grants or additional funding had been sought.

The Council decided that a grant could not be made until those processes had been concluded but a grant or loan from balances would be considered after that.

5/2/02

CM Haynes