

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 January 2004
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mesdames Cox and Nurse
Messrs Bartleet, Batey, Cann, Cox, Holmes, McGinn, and Swift
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
City Councillor Mr. Darke
Mr. D.S. Manson, the Council's local auditor also attended.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. M.C. Stone Vice-chairman and Councillor Clarkson.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 January 2004 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

Mr. Bartleet, following complaints about vandalism and general unacceptable behaviour of young persons on Carters Estate, had contacted the police and found that local policing was at an extremely low level. It was decided to write to the Chief Constable to draw attention to the lack of a local presence and to invite a representative of the Force to a later meeting.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered:

21 Fairfax Avenue – rear extension (considered between meetings) – extending too far to the rear

7 Boults Lane – single and two-storey extension – a re - presentation of the earlier application that was refused. The new proposal represents only a minor change to the overriding domination of the existing property, the extension being larger than the existing house. The extension is almost up to the boundary with the neighbouring bungalow completely overshadowing it. Unfortunately the site plan requirement in the planning application rules appears not to have been complied with so that the effects of the development on neighbouring properties is not clearly demonstrated. There is no demonstration of parking arrangements. The existing garage appears to be lost. Adequate parking for visitors is essential; already visitor's vehicles are parked on double yellow lines in what is essentially a single carriageway causing obstruction. It is recommended that the application be called in and refused.

44 Mortimer Drive – substitution of two 2B/R flats for permission already granted for two 1B/R flats – no comment

Decisions

The following were approved

- 11 Fane Road – conversion into 4 flats
- 40 Cavendish Drive – extension
- 4 Windsor Crescent – extension

The following were refused

- R/o 1 Nicholas Avenue – erection of two 1B/R flats
- 5 Nicholas Avenue – conversion into two 2B/R flats
- 18b Lewell Avenue – extension

Letters of objection to the new house at 139 Oxford Road were noted.

Other Matters

The campaign to secure a designated slot for Parish comments on planning applications at Area Committees had met with only a small concession. It was decided that additional comments would not be productive.

It was reported that a planning application for the development of the site at the Mill Lane "S" bend was likely.

MB

Precept and Estimates

A wish list of desirable projects was made comprising £5.500 for a larger basket ball area (brought forward from the current year) £5.000 for improvements to the recreation areas, £3,000 for completion of the subway mural, advance provision of £3,000 each for the Mortimer Hall and the new pavilion at Boults Lane and £10.000 to replace the old wooden fence at Bolts Lane. Although these projects had not been accurately costed it became apparent that to increase the precept to include anything like the funds required would be unacceptable. It was therefore decided to increase the precept by 5% from £32,000 for the current year to £33.600 and to decide priorities in due course.

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Accounts

Cheques were drawn for the grants to local organisations approved at the last meeting and the following accounts were passed for payment

		£
Mrs. M.C. Stone	Approved travelling expenses	48.50
HLVB Audit	Professional Audit 2002-03	293.75
L.M. Garner	Work towards Burial Ground Extension	600.00
D.S. Manson	Local Audit 2002-03	200.00

Audit 2002-2003

Formal notification of the satisfactory conclusion was received from HLVB Audit. There being no matters to be brought to the Council's attention.

Mr. Manson said his investigations into the day-to-day activities of the Council and the maintenance of appropriate records had shown that the affairs of the Council had been properly conducted.

Recreation Ground

A further draft agreement from the Oxford Preservation Trust relating to the Mill Lane Land was received. There were still inaccuracies therein and the Clerk had prepared a revised deed that was approved and would be signed on behalf of the Council and sent to the Trust for ratification.

The Clerk had prepared a Schedule of Work for the maintenance items identified in the recent survey. The Schedule was circulated and approved. A quotation would be obtained.

Highways

The County Council said that there was no justification, based on accident records, for the A40 flyover to be lit. The request was refused.

Attention would be drawn to the missing and ineffective green studs at the flyover access lanes.

In response to a request from the County Council Countryside Service for suggested routes capable of being upgraded for use by wheelchairs it was decided to suggest Back Lane.

The possibility of the use, by pedestrians, of the route from the Oxford Road gate into the allotments to Boults Lane becoming a footpath on the Definitive Map was considered. The Council agreed to support the proposal. Mr. Haynes agreed to co-ordinate the actions required. Support would be sought from the Oxford Fieldpaths Society.

Attention was drawn to the urgent need for the road markings at the Raymund Road/Mortimer Drive junction to be re-painted.

Burial Ground

A deed of grant was signed the appropriate fees having been paid.

Future Meetings

It was decided that the Annual Parish Meeting should precede the Annual Council Meeting on 4 May 2004

Date of Next Meeting

3 February 2004

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