

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6 June 2000
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes (Chairman)
Mrs. C. Stone (Vice-chair)
Mesdames Bradley, Cox, Nurse and Tiwari
Messrs Agent, Batey, Bartleet and Drinkwater
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
City Councillor Mr.M.A. Whittaker

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. R. Taylor

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 May 2000 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

It was noted that the grass had not been cut along the Marston Ferry Road

Correspondence

An approach had been received from the City Council regarding the regular dispatch of all City Council committee minutes and agendas to this Council. The Chair and Vice-chair had discussed this with the Clerk and it was agreed that all that was needed was full Planning Committee papers together with agendas for other committees.

The Chairman and Mr. Drinkwater agreed to attend the Presentation by the Army Board on 26 June 2000

Co-option

Members indicated that the following were likely to be nominated to fill the vacancy at the next meeting: -

- Mr. Mervyn S Broughton, 5 Southcroft
- Mr. Leslie J. Macfarlane, 19a Mill Lane
- Mr. John H. McGinn, 9 Wards Site, Mill Lane
- Mr. Timothy L. Cann, 8 Nichoolas Avenue

It was decided to invite them, separately to the Council in committee at the July Meeting, to give a presentation, without visual aids, giving information about themselves with an emphasis on what they had done specifically for the Parish and its organisations. Their aspirations and local knowledge could be included. Should they be unable or prefer not to attend the Meeting then a written paper could be presented.

Marston Charities Trust

Mrs. G. Cox agreed to accept the Council's nomination as a Trustee for a period of four years.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered: -

- 21a Mill Lane – granny flat - No comment. Determined between meetings
- Colthorn Farm – two new houses. No comment. Determined between meetings
- Bricklayers Arms - Children's play area.– No comment
- 2 Boults Lane – extension . No comment

Decisions

The following were reported –

- 37 Mill Lane – extension. Approved

Ch Haynes

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No information had been received about the missing swings. The Clerk would arrange replacement of two and check the insurance position.

A meeting would be arranged on 1 July 2000 at the Boults Lane Recreation Ground with the Chairman and Clerk and representatives of Scouts and Marston Saints F.C. to discuss the estimate for £1551.12 inc. VAT for marking parking spaces.

Details of the Marston Saints teams expected to play next season were received. There would be six youth teams and the senior team playing and consent was requested for a junior size pitch with portable goal posts to be marked out at the Boults Lane entrance end. This was approved for one season to see whether it caused any problems. The Club was to be asked to liase with the Scouts to stagger events likely to conflict and to have regard to the main use as a public recreation ground.

It was decided to accept the quotation from J&C Conway for the replacement of four manhole covers at £113 each, for a new gully to be constructed costing £255 and for day rate of £135 for investigation of the blocked land drain. All plus VAT. The work to be done in September.

Highways

It was decided not to comment on the proposal to reopen the flyover bridge to heavy traffic.

The Ward Councillors were to be asked to support the Council's request for the provision of yellow lines in Horseman Close.

The Residents' Association letter about safer routes to schools and hospitals was noted, many of the items reinforcing the Parish Council's proposals.

Mr. Drinkwater's offer to repair damage to the Mural was gladly accepted.

The Clerk was asked to write to the ^{Convent} Allotment Association to request that the Oxford Road hedge be cut back, to the City Council to remind it that the Elsfield Road sign had still not been replaced and that the subway lights had been seriously damaged and that some graffiti needed attention. Loose kerbs in Mill Lane and elsewhere still required attention.

Mr Ward to be asked to deal with overhanging trees in School Lane.

Street repair signs etc. had been left in Cotswold Crescent.

Burial Ground

Further trial holes had been dug and in view of the ground conditions found after the heaviest April rainfall since 1881 it was decided that the extension should be confined to the land to the south of that existing. Holidays would delay a start to the project but the autumn would be the best time to do the ground works, an early part of the work.

Council Land Elsfield Road

Details of an application for registration of land to the east of that owned by the Council were received from the Land Registry. These showed that the strip containing the ditch would be on neither title. The true line of the boundary was unclear but the Clerk would try to have the newly registered boundary coterminous with that registered in the Council's favour.

- 38 Oxford Road – extension. Approved
- 17 Cavendish Drive – extension. Approved
- 2 Elms Drive – extension. Approved

Other Matters

The City Council required a nomination, between meetings, for a Parish Council representative on the Conservation Area Committee and Forum. The Chairman had nominated Mrs. Stone. This was confirmed

A letter was received from the County Transport Officer stating that the Oxford Bus Company was withdrawing the commercial operation of the 13C service serving the village and JR II. Tenders were being invited for a subsidised service. The Council's views were requested. It was considered that the service was essential and that pressure should be exerted for its continuance. Mr. Bartleet pledged his support. A suggestion was made that it was not vital that the bus should enter Mill Lane on both legs of its journey and should an economy of this scale help to ensure the future of the service then it would be accepted. A minimal level of evening service would be requested.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment

		£
R & M Pest Control	Treating moles (Burial Ground)	25.00
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd.	Routine equipment inspections	58.75
Oxford City Council	Recreation Ground maintenance	359.93
C.D. Ward	Hedge cutting	690.00
Oxford City Council	Burial Ground Rates	35.00
L.M. Garner	Salary and expenses	1353.22
Old Marston Residents' Assn.	S.137 Grant	100.00
Old Marston Mill Lane	Notice Board	375.00
Allotments Association		
Mortimer Hall Management	Hire of Hall	18.00
Committee		

The Clerk was chasing the late payment of the Precept.

It was decided that the total balance of the Council's bank balances should follow the income and expenditure figures on the agenda for a trial period.

The Clerk had considered the Abbey National plc.'s offer of a special deposit account. Because interest would be credited annually instead of quarterly there was little advantage and it was decided not to accept the offer.

Police Matters

PCs Jackson and Wizard attended for this item. PC Jackson had obtained the crime figures for the area that showed that Old Marston had the lowest reported crime figures for any other part of the City Area. Numbers for the quarter to the end of March were dwelling related 8, vehicles 12, theft from vehicles 11 robbery 0, violence against the person 1, Sexual 0 and other offences, damage etc. 51. Drug related offences were not in these figures. The Chairman asked if the figures for the future could be made available. This seemed likely.

The Clerk was then asked to write to the Chief Constable to express this Council's appreciation.

Recreation Ground

It was decided to renew the request to the City Council to release more land at the end of the Boults Lane Site to allow for the erection of a new pavilion and to seek the support of the Ward Members.

Ambyre

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Old Marston Parish Council

Proposed Burial Ground Extension

Your Chairman, Vice-chairman and Clerk visited the site recently and make the following recommendations:

The fence on the line A – B be removed

The area enclosed by the lines A – B – D – C be treated with Roundup or similar, rotovated and graded to meet the existing levels A – B

A solid gravel path made approx. 2.5m wide over the hatched area. This cannot meet exactly on a straight line with the existing path (dotted lines) but it is close enough.

The fence removed as above, refurbished if cheaper than providing new, be placed on the line C – D

The post and rail fence be replaced with railings C – A

Railings be erected D – B

After the railings have been completed remedy any damage to the soil preparation and seed with a good quality grass seed

The tree and bushes shown O are required to remain as a condition of the planning consent

Two sighting posts be erected at E and F to assist aligning plots

The footpath diversion be continued on the basis of the full planning consent at cost to the Council

The gate hinges are badly worn so that the gates do not close properly. They will need taking to a workshop to be repaired

The old rubbish area X needs ground level reduced to the original and seeding

The footpath to the west of the existing Burial Ground and the fence line requires clearing of scrub and dead trees, and the path leveling and gravelling. A tree has been planted, in the middle of the path that must be removed.

The remainder of the land to remain a nature reserve but the dead trees, mainly elms, must be removed, as they will soon become a danger. The opportunity to tidy the verge and to plant a hedge on the road boundary should be taken.

L.M. Garner
Clerk
1 July 2000

