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**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 3 June 2003
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mesdames Cox and Nurse,
Messrs Bartleet, Batey, Cann, Cowell, Macfarlane and Swift
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
City Councillor Mr. R. Darke

Apologies

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

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 May 2003 were confirmed and signed.

Casual Vacancy

Mr. D.A. Holmes, 43 Horseman Close was proposed by Mr. Batey and seconded by the Chairman. There being no other nominations Mr. Holmes was co-opted *nem. con.*

Highway Improvements Oxford Road (northern part)

Mr. A. Burchett, Technical Support Manager and Mr. N. Worlledge, Conservation Officer, both from the City Council, attended the meeting to discuss serious problems arising from failure of setts and damage resulting to the road edge also caused by the erosion of verges.

The County Council allocation for funds for road improvements was £1m. against a bid of £8m. for work required for 300km. of roads within the City excluding classified roads e.g. Marsh Lane. The result was that £23k was available for Oxford Road, insufficient to improve the whole of the road to conservation standards but would be sufficient if standard concrete kerbs were used throughout. There was no support for that option.

Mr. Burchett provided samples of alternative kerbs called Conservation and Charnwood that was favoured. He suggested a scheme under which the badly damaged and vulnerable lengths of setts would be replaced with Charnwood kerbs; vehicular crossings and less damaged lengths of setts would be used or re-laid at a total cost of about £9k.. A plan of the proposed changes would be prepared. He would also suggest what additional work could be undertaken up to the maximum amount available.

North East Area Committee

Mr. Bartleet reported that the meeting approved the 2 Nicholas Avenue conversion into flats, reversing the previous decision. He was concerned that his presentation was cut short by the Chairman. It was decided to invite the Committee Chair and the Oxford Mail reporter to the next meeting.

The Clerk would seek confirmation of the status of the Parish representative at these meetings.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered:

40 Cavendish Drive – conversion of extension into separate dwelling – objection, this being another example of the intensive development of every square inch of an otherwise typical 1950's open plan estate that will when

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replicated demean the whole area. That must be stopped and this and similar future applications refused.

141 Oxford Road – creation of a one-bedroom house on a small site – repeat application - continued objection.

15 Salford Road – new shutters to shop front – no comment

13. Salford Road - change to hot food take away – strongest possible objections. Such a use implies continual cooking into the late hours with a stream of cars collecting meals or a delivery service. The applicant implies Asian style cooking, usually based on deep-frying, noted for smelly fumes that pollute the atmosphere and cause annoyance. The activity is usually conducted seven days a week. Refusal is recommended. Mr. Darke said he would try to get this application called in.

It is believed that the ground floor plans are not correct.

49 Marsh Lane – single storey extension. There is no formal objection unless, in planning terms, it would be unacceptable as it is possible that a terrace would be the result of the neighbour making a similar extension.

69 Arlington Drive – first floor rear extension – no plans yet but approved

7 Boults Lane – large extension – at the behest of the OPT efforts were being made to call this application in.

Decisions

The following were reported:

12 Boults lane – Conservatory – withdrawn

33 Oxford Road – conversion of outbuilding into dwelling – approved

2 Nicholas Avenue- extension and conversion into flats – approved

57 Elms Drive – extension – approved

46 Mortimer Drive – erection of two flats – approved.

Other Matters

The White Hart. A reply was received from the Planning Services Manager about the Section 106 money derived from the development. It stated that planning consent was granted on 8 April 2003 some six months after the development started. The S.106 agreement being reached about the same time £40,000 being immediately paid to the County Council for a Pelican crossing on Oxford Road at the subway junction; there appeared to be no minute authorising that, the money being “towards improving pedestrian and cycle safety”. The legality of that payment would be questioned. It had been hoped that that money would be spent on traffic calming and a metalled footpath along Elsfield Road An amount of £3,500 for recreational facilities it is hoped would go towards a safety surface in Boults Lane Recreation Ground.

The decision to apply for a grant of £2,500 for improvements to Back Lane was confirmed.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment

			£
Oxfordshire Association of Parish Councils	Subscription to “Local Council Review”		11.59
	Councillors Guide 12 x 60p		7.20
	Two copies Audit Guide		23.98
M P Security	Pavilion Alarm Maintenance		56.40
L.M. Garner	Salary and expenses		1604.93

The draft accounts, subject to audit, for 2002/03 were circulated, accepted and signed by the Chairman.

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To note that from October 2003 the minimum wage is increased to £4.50 per hour, £3.80 for 18 – 21 year olds.

To note that new Accounts and Audit Regulations apply from 1 April 2003.

Old Marston Traffic Safety Group

Mr. Cowell reported on the success of the public meeting called by the Group and circulated a table showing the priorities expressed for various measures proposed.

It was decided to call a joint meeting of the Council and the Group to be held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 24 June 2003 at the Mortimer Hall. Each organisation to notify its members, the Clerk to book the hall.

Recreation Ground

The Clerk confirmed that he had been chasing the maintenance team over the lack of mowing at Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground.

Highways

Overhanging vegetation at the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground to be dealt with. Also overflowing litterbins.

De-trunking Orders were received from the Highways Agency for the A40 from the Wolvercote Roundabout and the A420 from the Ring Road both to the County boundary. The effect being to transfer responsibility for them to the County Council.

Mr. Batey had succeeded in the City Council agreeing to erect a new fence between Horseman Close and land adjoining Marsh Lane.

The dangerous junction at the A40 flyover continued to cause concern. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council to enquire when improvements would be made.

Burial Ground

The water supply was being laid on.

Mr. Cooper said he hoped to catch up on the mowing etc.

Other Items

It was decided to ask for an undertaking from the Education Authority that the car parking would be adequate when the Middle School building assumed its new role upon closure as a school. The future of the tennis court to be ascertained.

It was decided to enquire what was the future for the under used garages on the Council estate.

Date of Next Meeting

1 July 2003

Chapman

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 8.00 pm on Monday 23 June 2003 at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mrs. Nurse.
Messrs Bartleet, Batey, Cowell, Holmes and Swift
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance

Apologies for absence

Were received from Mesdames Stone and Cox, Messrs Cann and Macfarlane.

Old Marston Traffic Safety Group

Representing the Group were:
Messrs. Burd, Cowell, Mash, Oldershaw, Spratley and Witt.

Aims

The purpose of the joint meeting was to bring together some of the policies of the two groups.

The Minutes of the Public Meeting called by the Group and the results of the questionnaire circulated by the Group to households in the Parish were considered.

Traffic volumes were expected to increase considerably as the JR11 extension came into use and it was felt that the Hospital Authority was single-mindedly concerned with setting up the new arrangements in the development rather than traffic matters.

Very strong opinions were expressed in the survey in favour of the Traffic Signals at Cherwell Drive/Oxford Road and in Marsh Lane at Horseman Close and their provision was accepted as policy, as shown in the HAMATS rolling programme. The Highway Authority had published no precise locations for these signals. These were considered and it was decided to recommend that they be placed as shown on the attached plans.

At Cherwell Drive a second traffic island, or an extension of the existing, to provide for pedestrians using the tactile crossings in Oxford Road South is recommended. A safer solution would be the addition of traffic lights at the junction. This site would help to control the volume of vehicles turning left from Oxford Road to gain advantage at the Marsh Lane Roundabout.

At Horseman Close the crossing would be exactly at the joining of Footpath No.7 and Bridle Way No.BR13 (adjoining Dents Close). These are well used as a route to school. Additionally cycles using the proposed Cycle route from Boults Lane via Horseman Close would also come to the end of Footpath No. 7. A further advantage would accrue to vehicles wishing to turn right out of Horseman Close.

Toucan Crossings should be advantageous and must be considered.

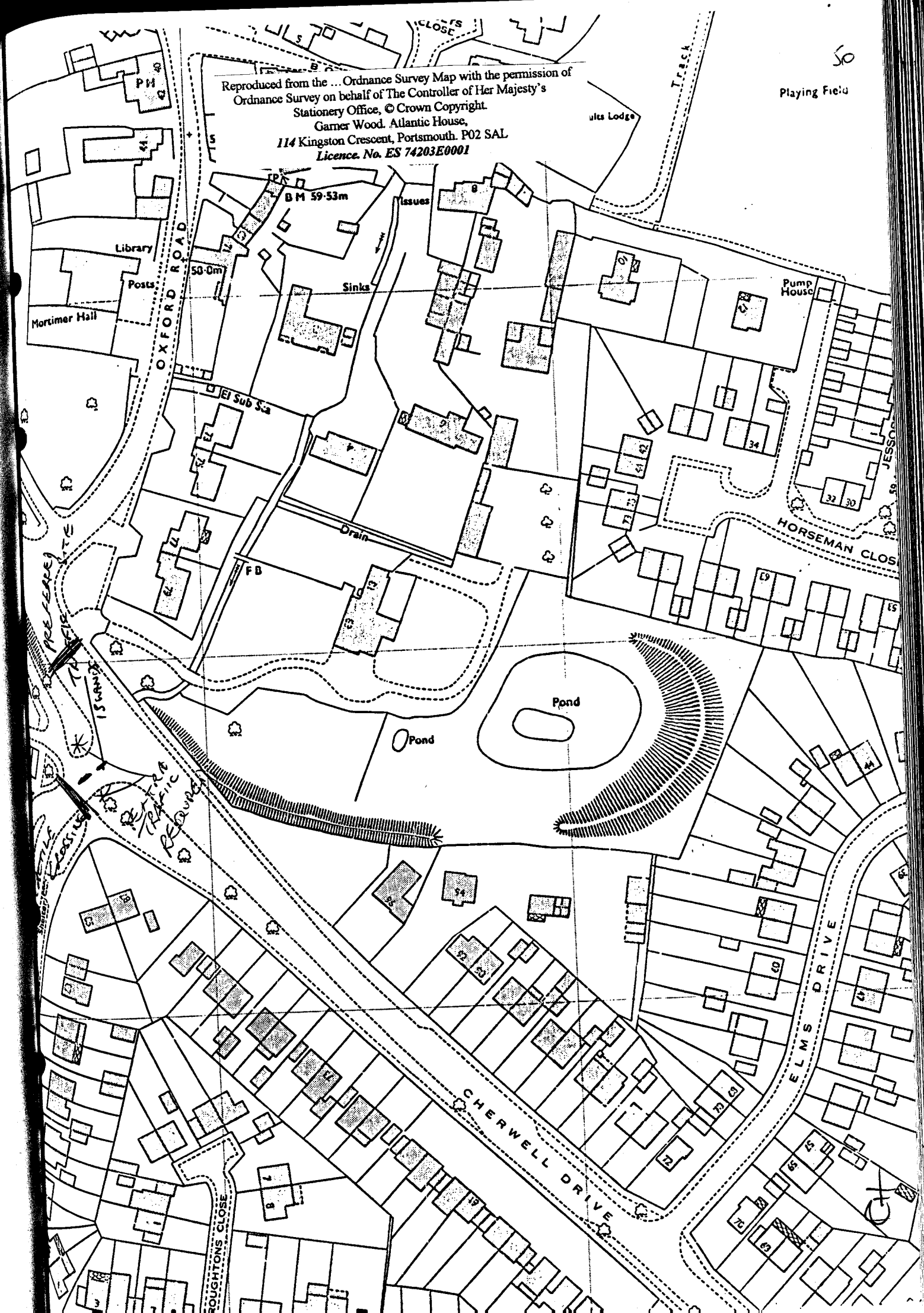
It was also decided that the Council should press for early meeting with the Highway Engineers to plan the Oxford Road traffic calming/20mph. scheme as a joint scheme with the Group.

The Chairman thanked the Group's representatives for their help and hoped that co-operation would continue.

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Playing Field



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