

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3rd March 1998
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr A T Jones (Chairman)
Mr C W Haynes (Vice-chairman)
Medames Cowell, Cox, Nurse & Stone
Mr Bartleet
The Clerk Mr L M Garner was in attendance

Apologies

Mrs Deam and Mrs Tiwari

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd February 1998 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

The Clerk confirmed that where a plot has been purchased at single fees, single fees are chargeable for subsequent burial and memorials. To acknowledge that residents might move out of the Parish shortly before death it was decided that double fees should not be charged to former residents who have moved out of the Parish within five years of the date of death.

Correspondence

With the agreement of the meeting circulars received since the last meeting were placed on the table. The Clerk confirmed that matters of interest would be the subject of a specific comment, otherwise reference would be omitted from the minutes. It was decided that this would be the procedure in future.

An invitation to enter the Best Kept Village Competition was not accepted.

The City Council confirmed that no Poll had been requested. The casual vacancy would therefore be filled at the next meeting.

The City Public Affairs Committee is preparing a statement of responsibilities between City and Parish Councils for public distribution.

The Thames Valley Police are to arrange a meeting to discuss the lack of facilities for teenagers locally.

Oxsrad

Mrs Cowell's offer to represent the Council on the Oxsrad Management Committee was accepted.

Planning

The following applications were considered;
4, Boults Close- Extension- No comment
Colthorns Farm, Renewed outline application for ten dwellings. It was decided that the following comments should be made.

The traffic access had been little improved and it was essential that Oxford Road pedestrians should have a safe route across the entry point.

The long terrace was not appropriate to the site

The visibility from Marston Ferry Link Road would be dependant on summer or winter foliage
The footpath to Back Lane should be open to public access from Oxford Road.
Any traffic calming contribution must be specific to Oxford Road

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment;

M P Security- Recreation Ground pavilion alarm maintenance	£48.95
R & M Pest Control-Moles	£25.00
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils-Subscription	£58.74
Parish Handbook	£33.50
L M Garner -Salary & Expenses	£1039.12

St.Nicholas School indicated that a rubber surface to the adventure playground would cost £16,000 or replacement bark chips £3,000. It was decided to await the school decision.

Allotments

The Clerk reported required undertaking from the Allotment Association had now been received and the appropriate authority had been given to Mr Ward for ploughing etc. and the provision of a skip. It was decided that allotment number five should be let last.

The Clerk was asked to confirm that Mr Ward would agree to a tenant crossing his land from Parkway before letting a plot.

Recreation Ground

A reply was received from the City Council giving a broad range of options for the use of deposit money held for local recreation uses in Mill Lane. Members were asked to bring ideas forward at the next meeting.

The Clerk had spoken to the Clerk from Aston-under Wychwood Parish Council and was told that it had received £69,000 of Lottery funding for a new pavilion, but to qualify for the grant had had to raise £20,000 locally. The possibility of doing something similar was considered in this Parish but no conclusion reached.

With consent of the Oxford Preservation Trust an area of land adjoining the access to the Victoria Arms was used for recreation. The western end was becoming overgrown with scrub and the Clerk was asked to seek the Trust's consent for it to be removed.

The City Work's quotation for recreation ground maintenance in 1998/9 in the sum of £1667.62 was accepted.

Mortimer Hall

The Clerk had discussed with the Secretary of the Management Committee the changes needed to the lease in extending it for a further 35 years. The changes required related to the list of organisations having the right to representation on that Committee. Organisations already represented or who had asked to be represented were :-

- Old Marston Parish Council
- Court Place Farm Allotment Association
- St.Nicholas Bell Ringers
- Mortimer Hall Playgroup
- Old Marston Over 60's

It was decided to recommend this change to the next Parish meeting.

The Committee was arranging for the agreed refurbishment work to commence shortly.

Highways

The Clerk had been invited to meet Mrs Baker who jointly owns the land crossed by Footpath number 5 from Elsfield Road to the Allotments. She had produced a Plan of landscaping of the area prepared by the Oxford City Council. Work which the City Council funded, in part, with the intention of diverting the Footpath through it. Apparently this failed due to opposition from the Footpath lobby. The stile was 3.5 metres out of place and would be moved by the Baker's who would fence and hedge the footpath both sides. The Clerk was asked to seek an explanation from the City Council since it's involvement had not been known locally.

Work on the City F.C floodlights had not cleared the dazzle. The City Council were investigating redirecting the lights.

Mrs Cowell drew attention to the difficulties to pedestrians crossing Marsh Lane, particularly at the fly-over end and during the rush hours. Mr Bartleet explained that past schemes of improvement had fallen due to lack of money which remained the current position.

Other Matters

Mr Bartleet reported on the effectiveness of the Police helicopter service which was being moved to Benson airfield. He hoped that this would not jeopardise local policing.

Muriel Jones

7 April 1998.