

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 March 2000
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

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

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Deam, Messrs. Bartleet and Taylor, and from City Councillors Coats and Tiwari.

Clerk's Service

The Chairman, supported by the Members paid tribute to the Clerk who completed 40 years service to the Council that evening.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 February 2000 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

It was noted that a list of road works discussed with City and County representatives at the last meeting had not been recorded. The Clerk had omitted the list since he had noticed that some of the works requested had already been done. The Chairman would ask Mr. Taylor to ascertain what now needed to be done.

Correspondence

The following were noted: -

- City Members information sheets
- Oxfordshire Community Health Council – Notice of Mental Health Meeting
- Oxfordshire County Council – Appointment of Rural Community Transport Worker
- Best Kept Village Competition
- Royal Mail Reply to complaints, not very convincing.
- Old Marston Residents Association – Minutes of a meeting 9 February 2000.

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council request for parliamentary support for post offices in view of the proposed payment of State Benefits direct to banks. Agreed:

A request for sites for the Guides/Brownies to plant seedling trees. It was decided to offer the hedge between the Boults Lane Recreation Ground and the Allotments. Mrs. Stone offered additional stock.

The Clerk was instructed to accept Newsham and Weitz quotation in the sum of £440 + VAT for the Jack Russell Notice Board and press for the quote for the Burial Ground board.

The solicitor dealing with the Council's land registrations reported that there was still a problem with the School Lane boundary. The Clerk has provided evidence in support of the claim.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered, and no comment made to extensions at: -

- 52 Mill Lane
- 5 Ashlong Road

CA

37 Mill Lane
17 Cavendish Drive

Decisions

The following were reported –

- 5 Fairfax Avenue Conversion to flats – Refused
- St. Catherine's Sports Ground, New Pavilion etc. – Permitted
- 6 Haynes Road, Extension – Permitted
- 27 Elms Drive, Extension – Refused on appeal

Other Matters

Mrs. Stone regretted that she would be unable to attend the City Council Conservation Area Committee the following day. She had arranged for Mr. Alun Jones to represent Parish interests. The Clerk had asked him to draw attention to the fact that the list of potential sites for Travellers still included sites in Marsh Lane, which are in the Conservation Area

Mr. Batey reported on the City Public Consultation Meeting held to discuss the Hospital merger proposals. He was concerned that scant mention had been made about traffic increases and its effect on the Parish. After some discussion it was decided that the Clerk would write to Mr. Mc Andrew on the subject for him to circulate to City Councillors and follow up through meetings. A copy to be sent to the M.P

The Charity Commission's Scheme relating to the Mortimer Hall Lease extension was approved.

Police

PC P. Jackson attended the Meeting and discussed current crime levels and received details of further happenings. He was pleased to report that there had been two arrests recently. He also emphasised that the Community Beat Office phone should not be used for matters requiring an early response as it was manned intermittently.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment

		£
Mortimer Hall Committee	Use of Hall for meetings	18.00
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd.	Swing Seat	126.31
Oxford City Council	Fixing Memorial Seat and new litter bin	271.65
Audit Commission	Audit fee	411.25
C. Ward	Digging trial holes in burial ground site	30.00
Potters Garden Machinery	Strimmer for Burial Ground	430.00
L.M. Garner	Salary and expenses	1347.19

The Clerk had obtained accounts from the Treasurer of the Old Marston Mill Lane Allotment Association and would enquire into the payments made to the National Association

The Council's bank had agreed to waive future charges and refund those already made

The City Council had agreed to amend the leaflet accompanying Council Tax bills to reflect more accurately the financial relationships between it and this council.

CF

Recreation Ground

A reply was awaited from the Oxford Preservation Trust about the provision of amusements in Mill Lane.

The Clerk would ask the City Council whether City funds set aside for a skate board facility, now abandoned, could be available to this Council to replace the condemned swings.

The Parks Dept. quotation for recreation grounds maintenance in 2000/01 in the sum of £1850.50 + VAT was accepted.

Wicksteeds were withdrawing its free annual inspection of amusements but would be willing to continue at a charge of £25 per site. It was decided to accept the service.

A quotation was received from Mr. D. Ward for work at Mill Lane to remove rubbish and bramble overgrowth, trim hedge and level pits. Subject to the agreement of the OPT the quote should be accepted in the sum of £265.

Highways

The request for the upgrading the footpath along the west boundary of the Purcell Road houses was denied. The City Council have now suggested that provision for cyclists to use Purcell Road leaving the footpath as it is, was approved.

The traffic counts for Marsh Lane were received and accepted.

The problems relating to dazzle from the City F.C. floodlights have been resolved. The Club Chairman has admitted instructing the lighting contractors to remove the baffles. The City Council has given instructions for their replacement and told the company to accept no further instructions from the Club.

The City Council now confirm that the paved area in Cavendish Drive was never formally adopted as highway in spite of the old County Council letter. It was decided to continue to press for adoption and the Clerk would write to the owners to seek their support.

Mrs Deam requested that the anonymous complaint she had received concerning the blocking up of the old path from Church Lane to the White Hart should be drawn to the Council's attention. Since the path was not a Definitive Path it was a private matter.

Burial Ground

In view of the exceptionally wet weather in February the Clerk had had two further trial holes dug which showed that the proposed extension to the east was not satisfactory for burials in very wet conditions and that part of the proposed extension should not go ahead. Land to the south would be investigated further next month.

Any Other Business

It was decided to accept the quotations from D. Ward for cutting the hedges, top and outside the A40 hedge along the allotments in the sums of £110 and £422.28 respectively for the provision of galvanised gates and posts to the allotments.

4 April 2000

Orlowski