

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4 March 2003
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mesdames Bradley, Cox, Nurse, and Tiwari
Messrs Agent, Bartleet, Batey, Cann and Macfarlane.
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance

Apologies for absence

were received from Mrs. Stone ^{the Town} and City Councillors Mrs. Clarkson and Mr. Darke.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 February 2003 were confirmed and signed.

Traffic Calming

By consent of the meeting Mr, N. Cowell made a presentation on behalf of the Traffic Calming Group, formed of members of the Old Marston Residents' Association, that was pressing the case for traffic calming in Oxford Road. The Chairman said that the HAMATS Steering Group meeting on 12 February 2003, that he had attended with the Clerk, a programme of proposed works to be carried out as part of the area traffic plan was presented and approved. It included traffic calming in Oxford Road and the new footway in Marsh Lane to Elsfeld Road. Both are programmed in 2004/5. The point was made that the work in Oxford Road should not make matters worse in Marsh Lane but should be directed at traffic speed. Speed Humps were not acceptable. The presentation was made under the umbrella of OMRA and it was suggested that it should have the blessing of the OMRA Committee. It was most fortunate that the Clerk had secured the invitation to the Parish to have representatives accepted as members of the Strategy Committee. They were instrumental in ensuring that the above works were placed in the programme.

North East Area Committee

Mr. Bartleet said that the notice of planning applications in the agenda were preliminary relating to 141 Oxford Road and 2 Nicholas Avenue. It was understood that these applications had now been called in, to be considered at the full planning committee.

Correspondence

The Minutes of the February Meeting of the Old Marston Residents' Association were received. The Chairman would draw the Association's Chairman's attention to the unjustified comments therein.

The Boundary Committee for England was now reviewing County Ward Boundaries for Oxfordshire and invited comments. None were offered.

The Bi- monthly Circular from the OALC announced that the S.137 money that the Council was able to spend outside specific permission had been increased to £5 per elector.

The circular contained a recommendation that the Association of Burial Authorities recommended a minimum stability test of 30kg. for existing memorials should be accepted. The Clerk had received no support from the Health and Safety Executive for the acceptance of the National Association of Monumental Masons' erection standards. He was asked to bring the issue to the attention of the OALC.

The Clerk had responded appropriately to misleading information given to Royal Mail. Unfortunately Royal Mail had been influenced thereby to refuse the erection of a new box at the Post Office.

Other items were circulated and noted.

Chapman

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Members were requested to submit written comments to the circulated drafts to the Clerk by 11 March 2003. This would permit any amendments to be incorporated in the final documents for approval at the April Meeting.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered:

10 Dents Close – extension – no comment

41 Elms Drive – extension – no comment

Park Farm, Edgeway Road – new house – no comment

3 Little Acreage – rear dormer – no comment

1 Cromwell Close – conversion into five flats – strongest objections, not in keeping with the estate and adverse long-term effect on the viability of the Play Group and St. Nicholas School due to the loss of family housing. Although five parking spaces are shown no account has been taken of the probability that some flats will be occupied by two persons with two cars, and there is no provision for visitor's cars.

9 Beechey Avenue – porch – no comment (decision taken between meetings)

Mr. Darke had taken up with the planners the demolition of the front wall of the White Hart at the Post Office side of the entrance. Part of it had been rebuilt in accordance with the plan and no further action was necessary.

It was noted that the agents for the developers of the White Hart had decided to call the development White Hart Place in defiance of the official name. The Clerk was asked to write to rectify the position.

Decision

The placing of solar panels at 41 Oxford Road was approved.

Other Matters

An acknowledgment was received to the letter written to the Business Manager, Planning Services recanting the points raised at last month's meeting. He said he had no control over consultation periods and delegated powers. It was decided that these matters should be raised via the political process.

Accounts

The following account was paid:

L.M. Garner. Salary and expenses £1,487.32

The minute of the January 2003 meeting, recording the signing off of the 2001-2002 accounts did not record the approval of them. The approval was confirmed.

A request for funding to provide two computer printers at St. Nicholas School at a cost of £75 - £90 was received. It was agreed to fund these via S.137 funds.

Recreation Ground

Two quotations for the fencing to Mill Lane had been received and sent to the OPT Agents. In order to stop the undesirable use of the land at the side of the Boult's Lane pavilion by car drivers it was decided to erect bollards along the curved edge of the metalled road and a single bar gate at the end of the bollards adjoining the wooden fence. The Clerk to obtain prices.

Highways

The Clerk was asked to write to OMRA outlining the importance of this Council's invitation to join the HAMATS Steering Group and to explain that the HAMATS Report to the Area Committee was for information not consultation. The Council's representatives would not comment as their requests for improvements within the Parish had been incorporated in the strategy.

A broken tree from the land between St. Nicholas School and Marston Ferry Road would be drawn to the attention of the Education Authority.

CMayors

Trees outside 2 Mill Lane were in need of attention and tree roots had made the footpath dangerous near 61 Rippington Drive.

A report from Mr. Darke said that the verges in Lewell Avenue would be tarmaced soon; Nicholas Avenue would be done later.

Burial Ground

The Clerk had succeeded in getting Thames Water to accept a lesser standard of pipe work for a supply to the Burial Ground. The revised estimate being £945 plus VAT. It was decided to accept the quotation and arrange for a standpipe to be erected and connected to the stopcock.

Other Matters

The Chairman would discuss the unfortunate remarks made at the recent OMRA AGM with its Chairman.

Date of Next Meeting

1 April 2003, proceeded by the Annual Parish Meeting. It was noted that this meeting would be the last of the present Council.

1 Apr 2003

CM [Signature]