

(08)

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1 March 2005
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mrs. M.C. Stone Vice-chairman, in the Chair
Mesdames Cox, Nurse, and Tiwari
Messrs Bartleet, Batey, Cann, Cox, Holmes and Swift
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
City Councillors Mrs. M. Clarkson and Mrs. C. van Zyl.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman and Mr. McGinn
A representative of the Police had been invited to the meeting, no one present

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 January 2005 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

Concern was expressed that there were activities at the Harlow Centre with little or no direct connection with education. The Clerk would bring the denial to the next meeting.
Concern remained about the lack of the application of Building Regulations to flat conversions. The Clerk had asked OALC for advice.
BT confirmed that the kiosk at the Oxford Road end of the cycle track would not be removed

North East Area Committee

The appointment of Street Wardens for Northway and Marston areas, in the second tranche, was noted; also the grant of £350 to the Over 50's Club from the City Council.
A resident raised the question of lighting the flyover and interference from the Oxford City F.C. floodlights. It was pointed out that these were repeats of the Council's representations over many years that had resulted in the floodlights being shielded but no possibility of lighting the flyover. It was decided to renew the request for street lighting
Arising from following discussions the question of the separate collection of plastic waste for recycling was discussed. It was noted that Cherwell D.C. had such a scheme in place but it was largely funded by Government grant. Oxford City Council was to have a pilot scheme.
The availability of football pitches was questioned. It was stated that there were sufficient adult pitches but more junior pitches were needed.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered:

34 Mill Lane – revised plan for the garage, the house extension having been approved – no comment

75 Oxford Road – demolition of existing bungalow and erection of two semi-detached houses on site – strongest possible objections since it would destroy the established, low key, ambience of the entry into the conservation area. The new buildings would ruin the existing roofline that is sympathetic to the surroundings. It is a pity that this Council's request for a panorama to be submitted by the applicant in cases such as these had not been followed. It being the proper way to show the impact of a scheme like that proposed the application must be refused on amenity grounds.

C.M. Haynes

Decision

The following were reported:

- 36 Elms drive - rear extension - approved
- 89 Oxford Road - side and rear extensions - approved
- 22 Ashlong Road - loft conversion - refused
- R/o 109 Oxford Road - erection of 10 houses - appeal lodged. The Rt. Hon. Andrew Smith, who joined the meeting later agreed to investigate the application with a view to supporting the rejection.

Other Matters

Drug users leaving needles etc. in the area drew attention to the use of derelict garages at the rear of Mortimer Drive. It was decided to write to the police and the Area Housing Office to draw attention to the events.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment

	£
Mortimer Hall Management Cttee Use of Hall January - March 2005	18.00
L. M. Garner Salary and expenses quarter to 31 March 2005	1,487.56

An application for a grant was received from Marston Wives. The group would be asked to submit accounts

Recreation Ground

A quotation of £450 was received for an inspection of the land drains at Boults Lane, being a single day for one man. It was decided to enquire what activity was proposed.

Mr. Holmes said that work was desirable since the condition of the pitch had resulted in twelve matches being moved to other pitches due to the condition of Boults Lane. The cost being £32 for adult and £28 for junior pitches.

The Rt. Hon. Andrew Smith, Constituency Member joined the Meeting to discuss matters of concern to the Parish.

There is continuing and increasing concern that the traffic measures, implemented so far, have not improved traffic flows nor have parking measures to reduce staff parking at the JR11 increased availability of parking to patients during surgery hours. In fact conditions are worse than ever in advance of the opening of the JR11 extension, the new Children's Hospital and the Cancer Hospital at the Churchill. Mr. Smith appreciated the concerns and would take up with both County and City Councils the Parish's concerns.

He was concerned at damage caused to residential areas by the conversion of family houses into flats and believed that the creation of flats from existing stock was not a realistic solution to the housing shortage in the City. The acute need for housing in Oxford needed to be addressed by carefully planned and environmentally sustainable extensions into selected areas of the Green Belt, for example at Grenoble Road, in preference to exclusive reliance on housing provision in outlying county areas which would add further to congestion. He did not control local planning policies but was bringing pressure to bear to scale down the brownfield designation of residential areas that was encouraging conversions.

He said that he would, on being alerted in suitable cases, investigate and support submissions to the Inspectorate dealing with appeals. R/o 109 Oxford Road was a case in point, which he agreed to take up.

Two matters were raised causing concern and inconvenience outside the Parish.

Dr. Swift asked Mr. Smith to enquire into the withdrawal of two drugs from Alzheimer's disease sufferers that were proved to be of great benefit in the early years of affliction.

Also mentioned was inappropriate siting of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in Cambridge Terrace that was accessed mainly by car dealers registering new vehicles. A more appropriate location being more accessible to the car dealerships was needed.

Andrew

Contracts

A late submission of prices for a more comprehensive schedule of the Council's requirements was received too late for the Clerk to report on the prices. It was decided that the Chairman and Clerk be given power to get the work done at the best prices and report to the next meeting.

Highways

An invitation was received from the Highway Surveyor to meet the Chairman and Clerk to discuss the traffic calming requirements for Oxford Road. The Council recommended that an entry gate in Elsfield Road, arresting road markings and pinch points at appropriate locations would be preferred: accompanied by a 20 mph. limit with electronic reminders now used elsewhere. Any appropriate measures to slow down traffic in Mill Lane travelling towards the "S" bend from the Cumberledge Close direction would be welcome.

The streetlight in Ponds Lane had still not been energised.

There had been no improvements to roads and paths in Carter's Estate. Mrs. Clarkson had made representations for early improvements but there were only limited funds available with many areas requiring work.

Date of Next Meeting

5 April 2005, reverting to 7.30 p.m.

5/4/04

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