

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3 May 2004
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mrs. M.C. Stone Vice-chairman
Mrs. E. Nurse
Messrs Bartleet, Batey, Cann, Cox, Holmes, McGinn, and Swift
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
City Councillor Mr. R. Darke

Election of Chairman and Vice-chairman

There being no other nominations Mr. C. Haynes and Mrs. M.C. Stone were elected Chairman and Vice-chairman respectively.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. G. Cox and City Councillor Mrs. M. Clarkson

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 April 2004 were confirmed and signed.

North East Area Committee

Mrs. Stone reported that the application for the redevelopment of 4 Mill Lane had been refused. The Clerk had appreciated that the differences in land and floor levels of properties opposite were not illustrated in the application and there was no indication of the degree of overlooking. He had therefore prepared a section across Mill Lane to illustrate the point. This highlighted the deficiencies of the present specification of planning details required by the planning authority. He had raised the subject at a recent meeting of the City Development Control User Panel; the Planning Manager agreed that this was a matter that should be noted at the first Site visit. He also said that the first disclosure of the Highway Authority's requirement for double yellow lines in the vicinity of the development was in the agenda for the Area Committee at which the decision was taken. That could have been a matter of serious concern to nearby residents who were deprived of the opportunity to raise any concerns in the normal consultations because the information was not in the consultation papers. The Clerk was requested to write appropriately to the Planning Officer.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered:

5 Nicholas Avenue – extension and conversion into two 2B/R flats

The Council maintains its stance that the conversion of estate houses into flats demeans the estates affected. They invariably deprive a family of a family home with the long-term loss of pupils at the local primary school. The estates involved were designed and laid out before the growth of car ownership where off street parking is totally inadequate. Conversions that have taken place have made matters much worse. This application is a departure from the pattern of previous applications since the proposal is for two bedroom flats that will, more than likely, bring even more cars into such confined spaces. The application should be refused but in any event should not be granted before it can be shown that proper sound insulation can be provided between houses as well as between floors.

CHaynes

3 Cotswold Crescent – rear extension – the application seems to be in line with the City policy on extensions for single households and it is hoped that that status is not in jeopardy. It is understood that a vented lobby is required between toilets and kitchens.
R/o 109 Oxford Road – erection of ten houses. The loss of this open space is regretted and it is expected that neighbouring residents are best able to comment on that aspect. The Council does consider that the number of houses proposed is excessive for the size of the site and that the access is inadequate. The length of the access is about 70 meters and it is only about wide enough for two cars to pass safely with nothing to spare for cyclists and no provision for pedestrians. The application must not be approved before these issues have been resolved.

It was reported that the S.106 money arising from the Islamic Centre previously allocated to the Sub-aqua Club, believed to be of the order of £100,000, would not now be claimed as an alternative base for the Club had been found. It was decided to renew the claim for funds towards the new pavilion in Boult's Lane as 50% of the Marston Saints F.C. members came from the City area outside the Parish. The Clerk would write to reinforce the Council's claim

Decisions

The following were reported:

- 2 Nicholas Avenue - 2nd floor flat - refused
- 4 Mill Lane – seven houses and three flats – refused

Other Matters

In addition to writing to the Planning Manager about the traffic issues, raised above, the Clerk was asked to raise again the matter of missing plans, notably Site Plans from applications submitted for comments.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment

	£
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils	Subscription
	536.29
Oxford City Council	Burial Ground Rates – on account
	30.00
Allianz Cornhill	Insurance premium
	812.82

Details of the risks insured were circulated. The Clerk would obtain quotations for theft of play equipment and vandalism in view of the damage to the Boult's Lane seats and the theft of three lengths of fencing from the Mortimer Ground. The Clerk had secured replacements and was requested to arrange for their erection as a matter of urgency.

The accounts for the year 2003/04 were circulated and, subject to minor amendments, approved.

Recreation Ground

Details of replacement seats would be obtained.

Marston Saints F.C. wished to arrange a fun week for local children in August, probably 23 – 27 August. That was agreed. The Club staff were F.A. approved coaches qualified to teach children.

RoSPA's offer to inspect the Council's play equipment for safety requirements was accepted. The cost £59 plus VAT per site if carried out in July

Highways

Flyposting continued to be a problem. Various methods of deterring the practice were discussed but Mr. Darke said that the City Council had told event organisers that their licences would be forfeit if flypost advertising of events at their venues continued. That had solved the problem in other areas.

OMay

Paint flaking from the roof of the subway was reported - to be passed to Mr. A. Stevens, Bridges section of the County Council.

It was decided to ask the Street Lighting Dept. to provide a street lamp in Ponds Lane.

The City Technical Support Manager to be requested to provide a schedule of road repairs required on the estate roads, to give an indication when the kerbing of Oxford Road would be done, what progress had been made towards the widening of the footpath outside 71 Oxford Road, and when the required markings on the estates would be completed.

A replacement tree is required at the corner of Oxford and Elsfield Roads.

Burial Ground

A copy of the new format of the Deed of Grant was circulated.

Date of Next Meetings

1 June 2004 and at the Clerk's request the following meeting would be held on 29 June instead of 6 July 2004.

1/6/04

CM