

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

Members Present

Mr A T Jones (Chairman)
Mr C W Haynes (Vice-chairman)

Medames Cowell, Deam, Nurse & Stone
Messrs Batey, Bartleet, Drinkwater & Phipps

An apology was received from Mrs Tiwari and from the City Council Messrs Critchley & Yeoward.

The Clerk Mr L M Garner was in attendance

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th September 1998 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

Gypsies were reported in Mill Lane. The Clerk had already drawn the attention of the Gypsy Liaison Officer to their presence. She had already served the requisite notice to secure their removal (subsequently she informed the Clerk that she was permitting one van to remain for the time-being as the children had been enrolled at school and housing was expected). The Gypsy Liaison Officer had been informed that the other vans had moved back to the fly-over. Mr D.Ward had offered to provide kerb-side posts at the Mill Lane hammerhead to prevent further damage to the verge. The City Council were expected to accept the offer subject to the Parish Council's approval which was given.

Mr Bartleet reported that it had been proposed that a 40mph speedlimit should be imposed between the Woodeaton turn on the north side of the by-pass and the commencement of the 30mph speedlimits in Marsh Lane and Elsfeld Road. The Police had objected to 30mph.

Crime & Disorder Survey

The Clerk was advised of the answers to be given.

Correspondence

The following items were noted;

Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association -request for support
Oxfordshire County Council- Friends of Libraries meeting 7th November 1998
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils- General Meeting 16th November 1998
Old Marston Mill Lane Allotment Association- AGM 24th November 1998

Other items were tabled

Police Matters

Sergeant L.Price and PC.P.Jackson attended the meeting to respond to the reports of vandalism at the end of August. It was confirmed that all reported incidents would have been recorded. The normal practice, which would have been followed, is for reports of minor incidents which have taken place to be logged but not acted upon. Reports of crimes in progress would, subject to availability of cars, would be responded to promptly.

The Council was informed that both Community Beat Constables had been off sick for a prolonged period which had reduced coverage of the area. Special Constables had been deployed. PC. D.Sanders had been replaced by PC. M.Wizard. Telephone numbers- Sergeant Price Ox.266405, Community Beat Office (at Brookes University) Ox. 484840.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered;

Cedar Cottage, Church Lane- division into two units- No comment

New House adjoining Burial Ground, Elsfield Road- Strong Objections

It was in a conservation area and represented an extension of the Village envelope. The plot formed part of the land to the rear which was landscaped, by the City Council and volunteers, and should be left open. See drawing to 199/12687 10th May 1992 "Marston Nature Park". The conformity of the access to County standards needs checking and it should be noted that there is no pedestrian footpath serving this site.

Decisions

The following were reported;

23, Lodge Close- Extension- Approved

Marston Ferry Road- Radio mast- Approved

1, Horseman Close- Boundary Wall- Approved

Other Matters

Between meetings notice of an Appeal against the refusal of planning permission for land at Colthorns Farm had been received. The Chairman had decided that since the Parish Council's views to the City Council would automatically be passed to the Inspector, further comment was unnecessary.

Accounts

The following were passed for payment;

		£
L M Garner	Reimbursement for stationery purchased	16.45
Oxford Fieldpaths Society	Affiliation fee (S.137)	2.00
W J Cooper	Cemetery maintenance	361.99
Oxford Greenbelt Network	Affiliation fee (S.137)	10.00

Recreation Ground

The Clerk advised that as doubts had been expressed, in the Wicksteed report, as to the structural safety of the swings these should be inspected by a Professional Engineer. A quotation in the sum of £155 had been received from B & M Constructional Engineers. It was decided that this should be accepted.

The Marston Saints F.C. submitted a list of events for which it would like to open the bar. This was approved.

Mr Haynes offered to chair a Committee which could be formed should other organisations wish to see a wider use of an improved facility. The Clerk was asked to call for volunteers in the January issue of the Marston Times.

The use of the Boults Lane recreation ground for the Scouts firework display was approved.

Mr Phipps reported that he had ordered a suitable seat for the Norman Jones tribute, from St. Johns Saw-Mill. The cost would be £150 plus £15 for a plaque. This was approved.

Highways

The Clerk had secured the agreement of the City Engineer to provide the Council with a key to the bollards, to give access to the land adjacent to St. Nicholas School, subject to the guarantee to provide a replacement if required.

A letter from the City Engineer said that street name-plates were now being checked.

ATJ

Mural

Mrs Nurse stated that she had persuaded the City Council to set aside £1,000 towards the cost of the mural from the City Regeneration Fund but this money needs to be spent by May 1999.

By six votes to three it was decided to proceed with the mural at a cost of £3,500, £1,000 having been set aside this year toward the project. The possibility of a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment Ltd, which the Clerk would follow up, remained.

Mr Drinkwater would approach a Mr Cummings, a signwriter, who might possibly undertake the mural.

Burial Ground

It was reported that the wooden seat had been stolen.

Munt Jones

December 1998