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**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council  
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5 November 2002  
at the Mortimer Hall**

**Members Present**

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman  
Mrs. C. Stone Vice-chairman  
Mesdames Bradley, Cox and Nurse  
Messrs Agent, Bartleet, Cann, Macfarlane and Taylor  
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance  
City Councillor Mrs. M. Clarkson

**Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Tiwari and Mr. Batey

**Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Ms. Bradley drew attention to the omission of one item. After the Clerk had reported that the Parish Council seemed to have no escape from being liable for the costs of a Parish election, should one be held in 2003, Mrs. Stone suggested that the Council should seek clarification from the Association of Local Councils, to which the Council subscribes. The Clerk's response was that there was no point in doing so as he was sure of his facts.

Ms. Bradley pressed the point and the Chairman asked the meeting to vote on whether this avenue should be explored. The Council voted against pursuing the matter.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 October 2002 were confirmed and signed.

(N.B. The Parliamentary Order, giving effect to the change in election dates, was made on 19 August 2002. That cannot be amended other than by Parliament.)

**North East Area Committee**

Mrs Stone said that due to the length of the Area Meetings it had been decided that, in future, there would be two such meetings, one to deal with policy matters that Mrs. Stone would attend, and a second meeting to deal with planning applications that Mr. Bartleet would attend. These arrangements were approved.

Reporting on the recent meetings Mrs. Stone said that the police had produced recent crime figures, the policy relating to Historic Buildings Grants had been discussed and she had put down a marker registering this area's interest in the local use of the recreational facilities shortly to become available because of the closure of the Middle School. It was likely that the education administration facility at Cricket Road would be transferred to the school premises.

Mr. Bartleet said that the major planning issues were development in Jack Straws Lane and the British Legion site in Crotch Crescent, both outside the Parish.

**Correspondence**

The Council is now required, under the Freedom of Information Act, to have a Publication Scheme approved by the Information Commissioner. A circular on the scheme was received. A model scheme was being prepared. The Clerk would report when further information was available.

Yet another letter, but still no new Post Box.

**Planning**

**Applications**

The following were considered:

22 Church Lane - conversion of garage to living accommodation and extensions  
(considered between meetings) - no comment

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH - VESTRY EXTENSION - NO COMMENT

0  
C. Batey

71 Oxford Road – erection of a new house (the earlier application for two houses having been refused) – no comment. The request for widening the footpath to be repeated.

2 Nicholas Avenue – large rear and side extensions converting the 3B/R house into 4 flats – very strong Parish Council and local objections to this development This estate is a good example of local authority housing built in varying styles over the period 1946 to 1956, each area having its own character with one factor in common, that of cohesion, being both dense use of space yet creating a spacious feel by the strategic location of a few larger than average gardens. The development of these open sites is already ruining this. 1 Cromwell Close, 51 Rippington Drive and 28 Lewell Avenue have already caused enormous damage to the environment and this creeping malaise must be stopped by the refusal of this application. It is totally out of scale and appearance with the surroundings. The car parking shown is totally inadequate showing an area 10m X 7m, adequate for four cars, one for each flat but in two lines one behind the other. Who would be willing to be the first to park in a line with the prospect of a stranger's car parked behind? Assuming only one car per flat the result will be two more cars parked on the roads that are already over crowded having been designed for households with few having cars. Who is the wizard who will ensure that each flat is be occupied by only one person with only one car? The potential is eight cars with useable space for two.

Off Marston Ferry Road – additional antenna and microwave dishes – there was an opinion against the extension of the use of the existing aerial but as it was permitted development no comment was offered.

Decisions

The following were reported:

- 47 Arlington Drive – extensions – approved
- 61 Arlington Drive – new conservatory – approved
- 8 Dents Close – extension – approved
- 10 Elsfield Road – extension etc. – approved

Other Matters

1 Beechey Avenue – the Building control Surveyor stated that the work of conversion into three flats was not yet completed nor were they occupied. Compliance would be assured.

Accounts

By invitation Mr. D. Manson, who had agreed to be the Council's auditor, in compliance with the new rules, attended by invitation to introduce himself to Council. After he left the meeting it was agreed that he be paid £200 per annum for the first year, subject to review in future years in the light of experience

The following accounts were passed for payment:

		£
L.M. Garner	Reimbursement for stationery	36.74
D.L. Ward	Work to burial ground extension, dangerous tombstone and hedge cutting (subject to detailed checking of total work done to the extension)	1545.00

It was decided that the following grants, under S.137, should be paid at the next meeting:

St.Nicholas Mother and Toddler Group	50.00
Old Marston over 50's Club	100.00
Mortimer Hall Playgroup	200.00
St. Nicholas PCC. (Marston Times)	250.00



Old Marston Mill Lane Allotment Association  
Oxford Fieldpaths Society  
Oxsrad

100.00  
2.00  
300.00

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A review of the year's budget showed that the items allowed for, painting the swings etc. the Burial Ground notice board, the new Burial Ground Register, the railings for the Mill Lane site and improvements to the Oxford Road recreation ground entrance were still outstanding. No payments had been made towards the mowing contract.

#### **Recreation Ground**

It was understood from Mr. Coats, during his period in office, that the letting of the extra land in Marsh Lane, at a nominal rent, had been agreed by the City Council Executive. The recent letter from the City Council contradicted this. Mrs. Clarkson agreed to investigate the position.

#### **Highways**

No progress had been made towards obtaining a parking order in respect of the shop frontage. Efforts would continue.

Bollards in Marston Road were missing.

Efforts to have baffles fitted to the street lamps in the parking area at the rear of Mortimer Drive had failed.

Attention had been drawn to the unauthorised developer's sign at the flyover.

#### **Burial Ground**

The Clerk had completed the artwork for the Burial Register required for the new area and would get it printed and bound.

It had been agreed that an area should be provided for scattering ashes. Because land so designated could be used repeatedly there was no need to restrict the facility to parish residents. Members were asked to consider that prospect, and a system for placing plaques on the wall, for a decision at the next meeting.

#### **Other Items**

Mr Haynes agreed to continue as the Council's representative on OXSRAD.

The Clerk said that due to the requirement that Financial Regulations were needed not only would these have to be drafted but Standing Orders would also need amendment. Members were requested to review their copies of Standing Orders and let the Clerk have any suggested amendments within a week. He would submit drafts to the next meeting.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

3 December 2002