

Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2 October 2001
at the Mortimer Hall

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mesdames Bradley, Cox and Nurse
Messrs Agent, Bartleet, Batey, Cann, and Taylor
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
City Councillors M Clarkson and Mr. J. Coats

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Stone, Mrs. Tiwari and Mr. Macfarlane

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 September 2001 were confirmed and signed.

JR II Extension

Mr. Coats reported that it had not been possible to secure sufficient funds, so far, to cover the costs of a Judicial Review. The Clerk added that the attempt to raise the matter with the Ombudsman had failed since it was prohibited for one local authority to use that route to complain against another. He had, therefore, registered the same complaint in his own name. Mr Coats, supported by M. Clarkson, said that the matter had been placed on the Planning Committee Agenda for the Meeting on 10 October 2001 and from there to the next available Full Council Meeting in December. This effectively blocked the Agreement that would have finalised planning consent and gave many weeks for the City Council to consider the application again. This was necessary as the public response to the consultation had not yet been presented to the City Council nor considered as part of the planning process. The Brookfield Crescent residents were holding a meeting to protest against the proposal to route the P&R busses via that road.

City Council Area Committees

The City Council had requested that a deputy should be appointed to attend the meetings when Mrs. Stone was unable to attend. Mr. Bartleet agreed to serve. The Committees would meet on the third Tuesday of each month at a convenient location within the Ward.

Correspondence

No reply had been received from Royal Mail but the boxes in Mill Lane and Salford Road had been painted.

A revised map of the Boundary Commission's recommended Ward boundaries was received, there was no change affecting this Ward

Planning

Applications

The following were considered:

11 Fane Road – conversion into two flats (retrospective) – no comment.

7 Haynes Road – extension – no comment.

Park Farm, Edgeway Road – retention for three years of mobile bungalow – no comment

Decisions

The following were reported:

13/15 Oxford Road – illumination of fascia – approved

110 Oxford Road – extension – approved

46 Mill Lane – extension – approved

CG

Other Matters

A letter of objection to the Cavendish Drive development was received and noted. The trend towards the conversion of estate houses into flats for letting purposes, usually by an owner living away from the property, was discussed. The conclusion being that it should be discouraged; an absentee landlord often taking less interest in the appearance of the premises and the division almost certain to bring more cars to the property for which there was no proper provision. It was therefore decided to ask the City Council to include, in the Local Plan, now under review, the following:

The conversion of estate houses, of less than 150 sq.m. as originally constructed, into flats will not normally be permitted to preserve the appearance of the estate and to prevent more vehicles being brought into an area for which there was no provision. For this provision "estate house" shall include a house built as part of a group of similar properties to provide a single unit of accommodation usually constructed on open land.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment

		£
Mortimer Hall Committee	Use of hall	18.00
Oxford City Council	Burial Ground Rates	33.93
Oxford Fieldpaths Society	Subscription (S.137)	2.00

Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that it would be possible to reuse the railings removed from the Burial Ground, suitably adapted, to provide the roadside fence to the Mill Lane land for about £1,000. This would be about 10% cheaper than new railings and be sturdier. A substantial fence would be required considering the treatment meted out to the existing fences. It was agreed that this should be done but that a contribution should be sought from the Preservation Trust.

The Clerk would report a hanging item on the electricity wires over the Mill Lane land. A letter was received from the City Council stating that it did not favour a pavilion being erected on the land between the Boult's Lane recreation ground and Marsh Lane that it was hoped to acquire. It suggested that a site might be provided for a pavilion on vacant allotment land adjacent to the amusements. The Clerk was asked to write to the City Council saying that although a pavilion on the Marsh Lane land had been mentioned it had never been adopted policy and the area would still be welcomed to provide a junior football pitch for which there was inadequate space at present. It was accepted that a large-scale pavilion would not be sustainable but additional space was required if girls football was to be introduced. The present building was in such a poor state as to be beyond redemption and the present site too small to accommodate a new structure sensibly. The Clerk would write accordingly.

A copy of the Ordnance Survey map of the Boult's Lane area would be circulated. A copy of the minutes of the meeting with representatives of Marston Saints was circulated. It was noted that the Club would now construct the garage of concrete blocks, the prefab panels proving to be beyond use and that some guttering, possibly stolen, needed replacing as a Council responsibility. Attention drawn to problems with uncontrolled parking on match days. It was decided to warn the Club that unless it took steps to ensure that problems like the obstruction of the allotment gate ceased the good will of the Council would be in jeopardy.

The Scouts firework display to be held on 2 November 2001.

The Charity Commission had published a Scheme that would lead to consent for the Council to grant a new lease in respect of the Scout Hut. This closely followed the draft prepared last month and was approved. The Commission enquired why the Council wished to grant 35 years instead of 25 in the original lease, which was to bring the Mortimer Hall and Scout lease into line to ease future administration.

Highways

The City Council said that the County Council had made funds available to kerb Elsfield Road. The kerbs used would be splayed concrete; these were not favoured and the Clerk was asked to endeavour to persuade the City Council to use a material more sympathetic to the conservation area. The low stone wall to be kept.

The following problems to be reported:

Footpath overgrown at Fane Road/Salford Road corner,

Broken drain cover outside the Village Hall

Street sign damaged at the corner of Park Way/Lodge Close

Cumberledge Close street sign upended

Sign on Marston Ferry Road opposite Oxford Road not replaced

Consent for a notice board to be affixed to the Mill Lane bus shelter was given.

Mural

Mr. J. Collins had come forward with a proposal to restore the damage to the Mural as part of the Children in Need Appeal due shortly. He would involve local school children, the Council paying for materials and expenses. His fee would be £10 per hour for an estimated 10 hours and he pledged to donate it to the appeal. The initiative was welcomed and the expenditure approved.

Burial Ground

Samples of bricks for the wall in the Burial Ground extension were examined and 1bstocks selected.

Date of Next Meeting

6 November 2001. It was also decided that the January meeting should be held on 8 January 2002.

6/11/01

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