

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1 October 2002
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

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

Apologies

An apology for absence was received from City Councillor Mr. R. Darke

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 September 2002 were confirmed and signed.

North East Area Committee

Mrs. Stone regretted that the City Council budget would be about £1.6m above current resources that would have to be dealt with by increasing revenue or reducing services. Crime statistics reported robbery and street crime showing reductions but muggings had increased by 10%
The bus pass method of assisting pensioners and others was subject to criticism because it was of no benefit to those unable to use the busses due to immobility etc. who relied on taxis. Other areas used tokens acceptable to other forms of transport.

Correspondence

No further correspondence was received concerning the election date of 2003 when the cost of any election would normally be charged to the parish. Mrs. Clarkson said she would ask the City Council to bear some, if not all, of the cost should an election be held.
Still no sign of the promised new post box. The Clerk would chase this again.
The Information Commissioner submitted details of the Council's duties under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The clerk would process these in due course.
A Guide for Public Authorities, received from the Commission for Racial Equality, was noted.
A booklet on Race Equality Schemes from the Thames Valley Police Authority was noted.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered:
47 Arlington Drive – extensions – no comment
St. Nicholas Church – extension to the Vestry – no comment
22 Church Lane (from weekly list but no details yet)- extension etc. to be dealt with between meetings

Other Matters

The application for two houses at 71 Oxford Road had been called in to a meeting of the Planning Committee on 21 October 2002
Mr. Batey raised the question what facilities should be available for community use on the closure of Marston Middle School. These included the four tennis courts, the large hall (badminton, netball, martial arts functions etc.) the excellent fields (football rugby athletics etc) and the classrooms and offices (day/evening classes, music, admin etc.). These facilities are available in other areas of the City, notably, as far as this area is concerned, in Northway. The Clerk would write to the Planning Officer for the area with copies to the County and City councillors.

CRB

Notice of the changed date of the JR II Resident's Forum to 4 November 2002 was noted. It was decided not to be represented at the meeting being called on behalf of the County Council to consider the Oxfordshire Transport Networks Review.

A reply was received from the City Building Control Surveyor acknowledging that the conversion of 1 Beechey Avenue into three storey flats is a matter covered by Building Regulations. There had been no application and no indication that the officer intended to do anything about it. It was decided that the surveyor be asked to act, particularly in relation to escape from fire from the second floor flat.

The appointment of Mr. Michael Crofton-Briggs, from Reigate and Banstead Council, as the City Planning Manager was noted.

Accounts

The following account was passed for payment:

Oxford City Council – Burial Ground Rates - £30.00

Members were asked to bring to the next meeting ideas for capital projects for evaluation and possible inclusion in the estimates decided in January.

Recreation Ground

The clerk reported that he had spoken to the City member of staff responsible for mowing about the recent long intervals between mowings.

The Oxford Preservation Trust had passed the question of the Mill Lane Fence to their agents

The Scouts request for consent for their firework display on 8 November 2002 was granted.

Highways

The City Council had responded to this Council's claim for the reinstatement of the Mural with a plan to repaint the entire subway, it is believed with a plain colour. It was because a plain finish had been a perfect target for graffiti that the mural had been funded. Repainting with a plain colour would be unacceptable and the Clerk was asked to press for the repair of the original mural.

The County Council Highways had altered the path and kerbs outside the Post Office and at the Elsfield Road/Oxford Road junction to comply with the rules concerning the provision for partially sighted persons. Unfortunately two local residents at the latter site had requested that concrete kerbs should be used; the request was complied with. The result being a length of concrete kerb where setts should be, plus the fact that straight one-meter kerbs have been used on the bend where curved ones should have been laid. Two issues emerged, firstly the rule that the Council acts only through the Clerk was reinforced and members reminded that whenever they deal with matters dealt with by the Council they must ensure that it is understood by others involved that they act as a private person, not committing the Council in any way. Secondly the question whether concrete kerbs should be encouraged whenever damage repair or work to setts was required. After some discussion it was decided that the resulting piebald appearance would be unacceptable. To avoid this whole streets would have to be converted. It was thought that the length of Mill Lane north of the Parkway junction would be an acceptable guinea pig. However the authorities had made it clear that the costs of that programme would be unaffordable. It was decided that the Council would require that setts must be replaced with setts and that those undertaking the work must be properly trained so that repairs are permanent rather than temporary as in the past. The Clerk would inform the authorities accordingly.

The occupier of 13 Elms Drive had requested that a silver birch be planted on his verge.

The sign "Old Marston Village" had still not been replaced in Marston Ferry Road.

Overhanging trees at the corner of Salford Road/Cavendish Drive.

The bad state of Lewell Avenue would be reported again.

Chlorophyll

Burial Ground

The Clerk had found relatives of William Walton, whose tombstone had been pushed over as unsafe, none of whom were willing to affect a repair. The Clerk was instructed to have the stone laid flat on the grave and the surface levelled.

Thames Water, in response to further enquiries by the Clerk, had agreed to the possibility of taking a water supply by way of a service pipe from the end of the main near the corner of the building plot adjacent to the Burial Ground. This would be dependant on the Council obtaining consent, depending on the route, from either the adjacent landowner or the Highway Authority. The clerk would make further enquiries.

Allotments

A suggested form of agreement renewing the management agreement for 25 years was received from the Association and agreed. The Chairman was authorised to sign the agreement for countersigning by the Clerk.

Date of Next Meeting

5 November 2002

CRB