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**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3 September 2002
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

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

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. G. Cox and Mr. R. Taylor

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 July 2002 were confirmed and signed.

North East Area Committee

Mrs. Stone reported that there were no items of significance to the Parish discussed at the meeting

Correspondence

The Clerk reported on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 that required the Council to have regard to the likely effect of any of its activities on criminal or disorderly activities with the object of discouraging them. It was noted.

The Clerk had made further representations to the Chief Executive of the City Council about previous attempts to obtain a clear statement of measures to avoid the Parish residents paying both the City Council Tax and a Parish precept for services provided. The new approach arising from the recently published draft of Guidance Note on Financial Arrangements with Parish and Town Councils published by DTLR. A reply was awaited.

Notice of the Annual Meeting of the County Council and Parish representatives to discuss matters of mutual interest was received. Mr. Bartleet agreed to attend.

Notice of a preliminary meeting to discuss the formation of an Oxford City Patients' Forum was received and noted.

A revised Statement of Registerable Interests filed by Mr. Agent was noted.

No progress had been made to change the date of the next Council election.

The bi-monthly circular from the OALC was noted. The Clerk would advise the Council at a later date whether Standing Orders required revision in the light of changes in audit procedures.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered between meetings:

Victoria Arms Mill Lane – erection of a sign with combined facilities spaces without illumination at the roadside and two wall mounted signs on the buildings, one illuminated – the comment made suggested that there was no need for an extra road sign to the existing pole mounted sign. The application had been approved.

20 Gordon Close – conversion of garage into living accommodation (a limited extension) – no comment.

33 Oxford Road – conversion of outbuildings into living accommodation – no comment.

10 Elsfield Road – demolition of lean-to, erection of new utility room and a new boundary fence – no comment.

The actions were confirmed.

The following were considered:

Embryne

61 Arlington Drive – new conservatory – no comment
 8 Dents Close – first floor rear and side extension – no comment
 Marston Middle School – retention of temporary building for one year – no comment
 71 Oxford Road – erection of two houses – it was decided to object to the creation of additional traffic being generated on that stretch of road and the proposal was an over development of the site. The point that the opportunity to widen the footpath on the site frontage should be restated.

Decision

The following was reported:

New house adj. Burial Ground, Elsfield Road – approved.

Other Matters

Due to the speeding up of the planning process the period available to this council to consider applications and to follow up contentious applications where it is necessary to secure the support of four City Councillors to bring the application before a Planning Committee is inadequate. Representations to be delayed to await the appointment of the replacement Planning Control and Conservation Manager

Attention was drawn to the fact that the two most recent City planning consultation exercises had required public representations to be made in the main public holiday period of July and August. The HAMATS consultation presentation 12-14 July 2001 with comments required by the end of July 2001 and the draft Local Plan published on 28 June 2002 with the statutory consultation period of six weeks covering the whole of July and August to the 9th. The Clerk to write to the City Chief Executive to ask that in future any similar major inquiries are published so that the months of July and August are not included in any consultation period.

As a result of representations made to the Government Green Paper on Planning it has been announced that the 28-day period in each year on which days activities can be conducted without planning consent will continue. Also parish councils will retain their status as statutory consultees on planning applications.

An Order has been made, effective from 1 July 2002, providing that any Section 106 agreements must be entered in the Planning Register. These include monies that are paid by developers as contributions towards subsidised housing and for infrastructure work required to enable the development to proceed. The provision is not retrospective. The City Councillors agreed to ask what information is available and the Clerk would seek details of the City's auditors.

The question as to the advisability of Planning Officers determining planning applications under delegated powers when they had previously given the applicant pre-application advice was deferred to be raised with the new Planning Control and Conservation Manager when taking up the appointment.

A circular prepared by the City Council giving details of the City Councillors and membership of the Area Committees was received. Ms Bradley asked whether a future edition, or a similar publication, could contain details of Parish Councillors. The City members would enquire into the possibility.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment

		£
L.M. Garner	Reimbursement of cost of Local Plan	40.00
- do -	- do - Ordnance Survey Plan	45.00
P.G. King	Repairs to Recreation Ground seat	67.50
W.J. Cooper	Burial Ground Maintenance	1273.74
Mortimer Hall Management Committee	Use of Hall	30.00
L.M. Garner	Salary and expenses	1401.64

Handwritten signature/initials
 O.M. King

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Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Clerk recommended the appointment, as the Council's Internal Auditor, of Mr. D. S. Manson, 3 Southcroft. The recommendation was accepted the Clerk to discuss remuneration and details with him.

Recreation Ground

The Clerk had written to the City Chief Executive to hasten the availability of the extra land adjoining Boults Lane Recreation Ground. A reply was awaited.

Mrs. Clarkson agreed to raise the question of the safety of various materials and items in the area of the cycle speedway with the City Environmental Dept.

The suggestion that the speedway area should be used for skateboarding was not proceeded with.

The Scouts requested that the eastern boundary of the site in the new lease should be one meter from the front wall but the parking area should not be reduced by a barrier except to protect the doors. It was also requested that the western boundary should be marked with posts. The Clerk would arrange this. It was decided that no alteration in parking arrangements would be made.

Highways

Attention was drawn to the poor appearance and finish of the road works to provide for the visually impaired at the Post Office and the corner of Elsfield Road and Oxford Road. Straight kerbs were used where curved were needed, concrete ones had been used and the undertaking made to consider the Marshall variety ignored. Rubbish remained as did clods of tarmac in the entrance of Ponds Lane and the road margin at the Post Office had not been repaired. The Clerk would write to the Divisional Surveyor. Further repairs to the footpaths were needed. Correspondence from Mr. Aylmer was noted.

Changes to the Cherwell Drive bus stops were likely as road markings had been changed. The Clerk would obtain details.

Further consideration was given to the name to be given to the White Hart development. It was decided to recommend White Hart.

As the City Council was making bylaws preventing the consumption of alcoholic liquor in certain streets in the City the question was raised whether Oxford Road from Elsfield Road to Cherwell Drive could be included. Mrs. Clarkson agreed to investigate.

No reply had been received to the claim for damage to the mural had been received. Mrs. Clarkson would chase this.

Burial Ground

The Clerk reported that a grave headstone was slightly loose. In the event of the owner of the stone not being traced it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for the stone to be laid flat with the kerbstones buried under.

The Chairman and Clerk would arrange the paving required in the new area.

Landscaping would be considered when work was completed and the grass grown.

Allotments

It was noted that the hinge pins required an addition to prevent the gates being removed.

The Association were preparing a draft new agreement for consideration in due course.

Other Matters

Mr. Bartleet reported on his visit to the County Archives and announced the appointment of a Liaison Officer to advise on material suitable for the archives

Date of Next Meeting

1 October 2002

11/10/02
C. Manson