

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9 September 2003
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mesdames Cox, Nurse, and Tiwari
Messrs. Bartleet and Swift
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Stone, Messrs Batey, Cann and Holmes and City Councillor Mr. R. Darke.

Eulogy

The Chairman announced, with regret, the recent death of Mr. Alec Gammon who had been a stalwart in parish affairs. He was elected to this Council in 1955, becoming Chairman from 1968 until he resigned in 1973. In 1980 he was co-opted back but did not stand for re-election in 1995. He was one of the Trustees of the Old Marston Charities Trust from 1958 becoming Chairman in 1987. He resigned earlier this year due to health problems. Members observed a quiet period to his memory.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 July 2003 were confirmed and signed.

Casual Vacancies

There being one nomination for Mr. John McGinn he was declared co-opted to the Council. He signed the Declaration of Office and joined the meeting. A letter was received from Mr. L. Macfarlane resigning his membership of the Council for health reasons. His resignation was received with great regret. The Clerk was asked to write to him. A Casual Vacancy was declared.

North East Area Committee

There were no items relating to parish affairs to report. Mr. Bartleet again referred to the need for Parish representatives to have allocated time to present the Parish Council's views. The Clerk said the aims were still under review by the City Council.

Correspondence

The bi-monthly circular from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils drew attention to the payment of allowances to parish councillors that were now permitted. It was decided that such allowances be not paid. From 1 September 2003 the right for parish councils to nominate a primary school governor is withdrawn. Instead the Education Authority will select a community representative. A circular was received from a company offering to set up a parish council web site free of cost. In view of the site costs being met by advertising the offer was not accepted. It was decided to set up a Council site with local advice.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered:

- Adj. 1 Oxford Road – new house – suggest the provision of a turning space within the site, otherwise no comment
- 41 Oxford Road – pitched roof to single storey outbuilding – no comment
- 28 Fairfax Avenue – two storey extension – no comment
- 4 Cavendish Drive – single storey extension – no comment (between meetings)
- Old Middle School Site – retention for one year of pre-fab building – no comment

DMG

Decisions

The following were reported:

Approvals

- Adj. 141 Oxford Road – new house
- Adj. 44 Mortimer Drive – two flats
- 21 Fairfax Avenue – disabled facilities
- 69 Arlington Drive – first floor rear extension
- 36 Beechey Avenue – first and second floor extensions
- 26 Mortimer Drive – first and second floor extensions (amended)
- Park Farm, Edgeway Road – new house
- 4 Cavendish Drive – rear extension
- 9 Fane Road – conversion into three flats

Refusals

- 13 Salford Road – conversion to hot food take away
- 40 Cavendish Drive – two-storey side extension to provide a new house

White Hart. The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the recently appointed Section 106 Officer about the £40,000 obtained from the developer. It appears that the Agreement provided for the payment to be made to the County Council which is entitled to award its own priorities, hence the decision for traffic lights. There seems little that can be done now.

County Structure Plan. Notice was received that the proposed plan would be available for consultation from 26 September 2003 to 7 November 2003. It was decided to write in support of the retention of the present Green Belt Boundary.

Bus Service Services to the Parish have been disastrously affected by changes in timetables and routes. The removal of the No. 10 to Headington and Cowley was one serious blow only to be followed by the diversion of the 13X depriving the estates off Oxford Road of a reasonable service and a walk home opportunity from the Cherwell Drive stop for those needing access from Oxford Road north. The Clerk would write to the County Council.

Parish Review

The Chairman, Clerk, Mr. McGinn and Dr. Swift would inspect the condition of Parish property.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment:

		£
D.L. Ward	Provision and erection of barrier Boults Lane	1,345.00
C. Hicks	Binding Minute and new Burial Book	145.00
L.M. Garner	Salary and expenses to 30 September 2003	1481.96
D. Manson	Annual Audit Fee	200.00

Audit

The Audit form had been completed in accord with the account details approved on 3 June 2003. The audit of the accounts for 2002-03 had been satisfactorily completed by the Internal Auditor, there being no matters to be reported to Council. He had signed off the audit. The Returns to the External Auditors would be sent off after public notice had been given.

Recreation Grounds

The Clerk said that after waiting months for a quotation for dog railings and safety surfaces from the City Council he had been informed that the staff involved was now too busy to do the work. Competitive provisional quotations had been obtained for 55.6 meters of dog fence, two pedestrian gates, one vehicle gate, galvanised and powder coated green, from Steelway Fencesecure to provide and fix for £3,535.80 compared with £5,776 from Wickseeds. It was decided to re-measure the work and, subject to any minor amendments accept the Steelway Fencesecure quote. The decision not to accept plastic safety tiles was

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confirmed but to have wet pour mats to the two sets of swings in Boult's Lane, Wicksteeds representative said that the cost of providing a safety surface to the roundabout would be excessive in view of the likely life expectancy of it. In his opinion it should be left alone as it complied with standards when erected and was within regulations. Wicksteeds quotation for supply and lay wet pour safety surfaces to the two sets of swings is £11,232 including the base, from RTT Leisure £11,232. Subject to a five-year guarantee.

It was decided to accept the lower quotes subject to compliance with E.N. standards and suitable references. The Chairman to advise the Clerk appropriately in both cases.

In discussion with the above contractors the Clerk was informed that the width of gates to permit disabled access was 1.1 meters. He was instructed to order the fencing agreed for Mill Lane taking that measurement into account.

The lockable barrier at Boult's Lane was now in place. Keys had been distributed to the Allotment Association, the Scouts and Marston Saints. It will be kept locked from the end of September except when the buildings are in use or by allotment holders and the City Council for access and egress. The organisations will be asked to safeguard the keys and recover them from those no longer qualified to hold them. They will keep records of the key holders. Seven pounds each will be charged for replacement keys.

A Health and Safety survey of the Pavilion had taken place drawing attention for the need for work to uneven parts of the floor and the need for a periodic electrical survey. Some of the bar chairs did not comply with fire regulations. Since the meeting the Clerk has been assured that these matters had been dealt with. The damp condition was also mentioned, but not as a condition of the survey.

Highways

Proposals were received from the Old Marston Traffic Safety Group to re-route the Oxford Road, in the vicinity of 71 Oxford Road to provide a footpath of a minimum width of one meter along its frontage. The proposal was welcomed but needs to be with the agreement of the Mortimer Hall Management Committee to which the land required is leased. It was recommended that the two groups discuss the matter and report back.

Mr. Collins, who had taken on the repainting of the Mural, wrote to say that as a result of the break up of his marriage he was unable to carry on. He had passed the job on to the Youth Offending Team that had repainted the Headington Subway. He had spent £90.88 on materials that he had passed to the Team and had repaid to the Council the balance of the imprest of £250 that he was given (£159.12).

The Chairman and Clerk had a site meeting with Mr. J. Gagg, Transport Planner and Mr. J. Cramer, Traffic Engineer of the County Council at the Marsh Lane/Horseman Close junction to discuss the siting of traffic signals. Mr. Cramer said that the planned site was away from the junction towards Elms Drive where he believed pedestrian use would be greatest. This did not accord with the Parish Council's view and he was persuaded to have a pedestrian count and if the point was proved to site the lights at the junction. The representatives were then persuaded to visit the Oxford Road/Cherwell Drive junction where the proposed site of traffic signals was confirmed. The Clerk's suggestion that a further refuge should be constructed between the tactile crossings, on the line of the Cherwell Drive path, would be considered further. A letter has now been received confirming that it will be provided.

Burial Ground

The proposed site for the stand tap proved unacceptable. It was decided that it should now be sited near the gate at an additional cost of £300.

A Deed of Grant was signed the fee being paid.

Date of Next Meeting

7 October 2003

On May 11