

Minutes of Old Marston Parish Council Annual General Meeting 6th May 2008

Present:-

Charlie Haynes, Chairman (CH)
Wally Cox, Vice Chairman (WC)
Duncan Hatfield (DH)
Michael Cadd (MC)
Peter Cox (PC)
Roy Jones (RJ)
Graham Swift (GS)
Angie Tiwari (AT)
Hugh Deam (HD) – NOT HERE AT START
Nils Bartleet (NB)

Cllr Mary Clarkson
Cllr Beverley Hazell
Mr LeRoy Garner, Clerk (LG)
Mrs K Stratford, Minutes Secretary (KS)

	Requests from Members of the Public to Speak	ACTION
	None received	
1	Apologies for Absence Mrs Gill Cox, Mr John McGinn. Welcome to two parishioners who attended the meeting. The Chairman requested that Councillors declare any personal interests at any point on the agenda.	
2	Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting The Clerk read the previous Minutes. Change minutes to read that allotments are “well used” rather than “fully used” from previous meeting. The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the last annual general meeting.	
3	Matters Arising from Minutes No matters arising not appearing elsewhere.	
4	Chairman’s Report An item from this year to highlight - land deemed by the Council to be suitable for housing. In our Parish; Mill Lane, the “Fair” field (off Marsh Lane), Courts Farm allotments. Charlie met the officer to discuss, nothing else to report at this stage, other than to watch this space. The Parish Council has had the normal applications to turn houses into HMOs, the Parish Council will usually object to these. Nothing major, just normal applications. The Parish Council to be vigilant for future applications. Boults Lane – plans have gone off to Football Foundation, steering group still meeting. Barry Parsons is feeding back to Football Foundation to resolve their queries – the ball is in their court. Drainage completed on Boults Lane Recreation Ground. Drains well and very dry within a day. Holding back some money. Received 55% from Football Foundation for pavilion. Moles now under control. Rather expensive, but effective. The Parish Council has formed a sub committee led by Gill Cox for the recreation grounds and these are being reviewed. Ring fenced 10k towards new play areas and will seek funding as we progress. Will tie in with sports pavilion. ROSPRA report – some items to action. New gates at recreation ground for use next season.	ACTION

Finance will be covered by Clerk later in these minutes. Continue to give financial support to local businesses who approach us.

Paid an honarium for people who volunteer to help the PC – burial ground, minutes secretary, etc.

Mr Hoffler is appointed as our new auditor. Will be along to introduce himself at a future meeting.

Burial grounds is closed for burials. Thanks to Peter Cox it is looking better than has ever done. Have brought a new mower and installed a new bench. Steve Woodley is paying for it and we will install a small plaque.

There had been an issue with levelling off the grounds after burials, and this has now been resolved.

Now intern ashes in the strip along the west fence.

Had a report that there were some ashes under the tree that were left in the burial ground. Trying to investigate who these belong to.

Highways – nothing major. CPZ being discussed with the Council. Main concern at the shops at Cherwell Drive where people are leaving cars all day. Although the council has heard our concerns sympathetically, this issue has not been resolved.

Had a meeting where residents of Ashlong Road attended re parking – a problem. St Nicholas School – travel plan.

Footpath along allotments – progress very slow, to speak to the Councillors.

NEAC continues to be held once a month – thank you to those who attend.

Bulletin – going well. Very good response. Many thanks to Gill, Duncan, Hugh

Allotments – looks the best it has done for ages. A concern was raised back last summer regarding wanting to dig a ditch. This issue has apparently died away.

Website – goes from strength to strength. First Class. Thanks to Duncan.

Finance. Clerk's accounts. Only 811 out on previous year. Balances remain almost unchanged. Commitments provided for in precept and should have a few pennies left at end of next year. PC will have to provide a portion of the cost for the sports ground scheme. Use of the land plus a bit from our balances may be the PC's contribution towards the project. Suggest try to maintain this balance in future years as will be needed in due course. In very strong position currently. Wally highlighted an error in first line of expenditure.

Duncan requested a breakdown of the codes. Duncan will put them on the website when he has received electronically.

AGM correspondence – none

Website – usage gone up and up. DH been approached by several people and likes to keep the information up to date.

5 Any Other Business

Done Risk Assessment on the Clerk's office – to go through with Wally Cox.

Done PAT text and JD and contract of employment – on hold as the Clerk has decided to retire.

Got fire-proof cabinet.

Oxclean event, led by Duncan, very successful.

New noticeboards look very good. Had £500 from OCC if we advertise NEAC.

Thanks to the Clerk for doing his job.

Thanks to all the people who sit on committees, Peter Cox, Kate Stratford, Duncan Hatfield and two city councillors.

ACTION

A very busy year ahead with the Clerk retiring. We need to start thinking within next couple of months with a view to replacement, review JD again.

NB – thanked Chair for report. Highlighted the issue of houses turning into HMOs. Power only limited. To be discussed under planning, later in the normal meeting.

Mortimer Hall – roof being repaired currently. Thanks to Parish Council for new central heating system. This summer will change stage and organise new storage there. WC to discuss with Angela Cristofoli for grant applications. Our thanks to the Parish Council for their help.

LG: footpath across allotments that has been claimed properly. Raised with the dept concerned – gates, will it affect our application? No. 2 more years to go before application is considered (5 year process).

Graham Swift – GS involved with one about 5/6 years ago. Went to a public enquiry and it fell on the history. Recommend to collect written/signed evidence – already done. About 15 people.

6 Date of Next Meeting – AGM
May 2009. Agenda to be agreed.