

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Old Marston held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1 May 2001 at the Mortimer Hall

Members of the Council Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes (Chairman)
Mesdames Bradley, Cox, Nurse and Tiwari
Messrs Agent, Bartleet, Batey and Cann
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
City Councillor Mr. J. Coats
Four electors were also present.

Apologies

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

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 April 2000 were read and signed.

Chairman's Report

Planning continued to be a major concern. During the year the proposal for the provision of a traveller's site off Marsh Lane was successfully opposed. Although the Council supported opposition to the Islamic Centre because it was to be too close to the road and the one parking space for a development incorporating a 250 seat theatre appeared inadequate, consent was granted.

Traffic arrangements to provide for increased traffic expected as a result of the JR II extension were the subject of major debate as, apart from the diversion of the 13 Northway bus route out via the Hospital Site, the existing access from Headley Way would continue to be the only access unless an alternative could be found. The Council would continue to press for some link from the A40. The proposed Marsh Lane Park and Ride now seemed less likely. Mr. Batey had continued to represent the Council at various consultation meetings.

On highways he thanked Ms. Bradley who had increased pressure for and secured No Through Road signs in Mill Lane. Damage to the subway mural was a cause for concern since the search for an artist willing to do the repairs had not been successful. It would continue. There had been little improvement in the level of repairs and the Mill Lane bus shelter had not materialised. At last the footpath required between Horseman Close and Elsfield Road had been put on the list of required works but this did not mean it had any priority.

On recreation grounds he said new equipment and fencing had been ordered for the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground costing nearly £18,000, erection was expected within three months. It was hoped to mark out parking spaces in Boult's Lane. Here an investigation into land drainage in the swings area had been ordered. It was still hoped that additional land could be acquired from the City Council that would provide space for a new pavilion. The Valuation Officer had decided that the Saints Clubroom was rateable. The Clerk was negotiating with him but it was certain, supported by a recent Lands Tribunal decision, that it is rateable. Discussions on value were continuing.

The Burial Ground Extension continued to be held up by bad weather but it was expected to commence shortly. A quotation for the railings had been accepted.

On other matters the Chairman referred to the Ward Boundary changes that would unite the Parish for the election of City Councillors, with a large part of New Marston.

He paid tribute to Mr. R Drinkwater, who had resigned from the Council on leaving the area, for his long service to the community and he welcomed Mr. Cann who had been co-opted to replace the late Mrs Deam. He thanked Mrs. Burgess for her support to the Parish as part of her membership of the City Council representing Northway, Mr. Agent for running the day-to-day matters for the allotments, the Council members and the Clerk for their support.

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Finance Report

The Draft Accounts for the year 2000/2001 were presented and would be adopted at the following meeting.

Open Discussion

City Councillor Mr. J.A. Coats outlined the discussions taking place about traffic and parking for the Hospital development. Emphasis was still on the use of Park and Ride but the Council considered that additional facilities were required and would continue to press for an improved provision.

Mr. D. Manson asked about potential sources of funding for the proposed new football pavilion. The Chairman said that Lottery Funding would be applied for after the additional land had been acquired.

Mr. D. Manson, Treasurer of The Old Marston Mill Lane Allotment Association, said that the Association was now in its second year of managing the site and asked whether the Council was satisfied with the state of the site. The Chairman and members agreed that they were. M/s. Bradley said that the Site Manager, Mr. W. Agent, had done an excellent job of maintaining the site and asked that the Council's appreciation of his hard work should be minuted.

7 May 2002

R. Mayne