

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Old Marston Parish
Council
Tuesday 1st May 2007**

Members Present

Chairman: Charlie Haynes

Vice-Chairman: Wally Cox

Mick Cadd, Peter Cox, Hughie Deam, Duncan Hatfield, John McGinn, Dr Graham Swift, Gill Cox

Parish Clerk: Roy Garner

No members of the electorate attended.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of 16 May 2006 were read confirmed and signed

Chairman's Report

- He was pleased to announce that the Parish Council had a fully functioning web site thanks to Duncan Hatfield who masterminded the whole process. It had received 398 hits in April, 36 yesterday.
- The Chairman welcomed Mrs. K. Stratford who had been appointed as Minutes Secretary to relieve pressure on the Clerk.
- **Marston Bulletin**, a newsletter, delivered quarterly to households without charge, had become a reality thanks to Mrs. Gill Cox, who prepared the early issues. Mr. Hugh Deam would take over after the June issue.

Planning

- There had been no major applications but the Chairman expressed concern that Brookes University continued to expand, increasing pressure on residential accommodation. Local developers were continuing to apply, usually successfully, to extend and convert into flats, family houses. The Planners appearing to favour such schemes in spite of strong opposition from the Council.
- At 34 Mill Lane there appeared to be a contravention of planning consent as a building originally shown as a double garage fronting Cumberledge Close had been shown as a bungalow and now as a studio.
- The consent granted for houses at 3-13 Cavendish Drive, where development started recently has stalled since an injunction is likely to succeed preventing development because area residents were given consent to use the area for parking. The future maintenance of the site, after the injunction is granted, is under discussion.
- The Post box in Oxford Road had been replaced in accordance with the undertaking secured by the Clerk when the old box was removed:

Recreation Ground

- Funding from the Football Foundation, for the drainage of Boults Lane had been secured and the work was now in hand.
- Plans for the new pavilion were now nearing finality.
- Marston Saints had obtained the lease of the land adjoining Marsh Lane and funding

from the Football Foundation, W.R.E.N. and others. Work was well underway to make the area available for football.

- Unfortunately a tree survey required by the Council's insurers had disclosed -unsafe trees, that had to be felled, and other work that had been completed.

Burial Ground

- The old site was now closed since all vacant spaces had been purchased, the new area was now in full use.
- Maintenance of the site had been by volunteers led by Peter Cox, supported by Mike Holden and Tony Harper. They had transformed a neglected site into one to be envied by many. Thank you.

Allotments

These were now more fully in use and were a credit to the Association.

Highways

- The traffic calming scheme with reconstruction of the footpaths was almost complete and a credit to the area.
- Concern was voiced into the changes taking place to parking control in the vicinity of the Old Marston Road shops. Mr. Ahaf-Kahn said that much of the area would be for a maximum of one hour that would drive away the long-term parking. The result feared was that it would transfer to the Cherwell Parade. He was asked to incorporate that area into the plan, and to consider a one-way scheme at Old Marston Road.
- Mary Clarkson would investigate the proposed box junction requested at Oxford Road/Cherwell Drive.

North East Area Committee

Meetings had been attended by various members over the year and presented the Council's views.

Finances

- Local organisations had received support totalling £2,248 which had been distributed during the past year.
- The Precept for the current year showed an increase of 2.5% to cover inflation. Future calls on the Council would arise from the new pavilion and the need for refurbishment of Mortimer Hall.
- The accounting package developed by the Clerk's grandson has proved most helpful.
- He expressed the thanks of the Parish to all those who had helped the Council. in so many ways.

-