

**Minutes of Old Marston Parish Annual Meeting
Tuesday 8th July 2014, 7.00pm at Mortimer Hall**

Present:

Charlie Haynes (Chairman) (CH)

Angie Tiwari (AT)

Patricia Hall (PH)

Michael Cadd (MC)

John Batey (JB)

Tim Cann (Clerk)

Members of the public 2

Duncan Hatfield (Vice-Chairman) (DH)

Peter Cox (PC)

Nils Bartleet (NB)

Barrie Lewis (BL)

City Councillor Mick Haines (MH)

14/01 Apologies for absence

Parish Councillor Peter Williams

County Councillor Mark Lygo

Parish Councillor Tony Greenfield

City Councillor Mary Clarkson

14/02 Minutes of the last meeting on 7th May 2013

The minutes of the meeting on 7th May 2013 were approved

14/03 Matters Arising (omitting those for which an agenda heading follows)

None

14/04 Chairman's Report

Planning

- Hill Farm: A large development was proposed, but after opposition never happened
- The Victoria Arms car park and pub extensions
- Bradlands finally started after some controversy

Boult's Lane Development Approach by Oxford Bridge Club to use facilities in return for a cash injection sounded good but after research was not practical. After going out to tender it has been narrowed down to three builders. Fundraising has now caused everything to come to a stop as basically without the money in place nothing can happen. There will be a public meeting once finances are in place.

Firework night held at the Red Lion was a resounding success, achieving our aim of providing the Community of Old Marston with an entertaining evening and Marston Saints who collected donations through the event with much needed funds.

Parish Fete held at the Victoria Arms was also well attended and allowed the organisations of the Parish to show people who they are and what they do. Unfortunately, due to a change in management this will not take place this year.

Recreation Ground:

- A picnic table was installed in the Mortimer Hall recreation ground and is very well used, so another one is being obtained.
- The annual safety inspection carried out on play equipment and issues dealt with.
- OxClean event organised by Duncan Hatfield was supported well.
- We have lost quite a few trees over the years and we will be looking into getting replacements. Two people have already expressed an interest in supporting this scheme.
- We have new contractors for cutting the grass and litter picking on Parish Council land.
- We had a large bill this year from the Oxford City Council, £11,350, this was for previous years grass cutting and litter picking as they had not invoiced us since 2009.

Burial Ground

- Several plots have been pre sold this year. However future requests looked at on individual basis simply due to shortage of space
- Each year we review the charges so as to ensure we keep in line with the City Council's charges
- Funeral Directors now use their own gravediggers

Highways

- Parking issues are ongoing. The County Council did a parking survey which proved what we already know - that parking was increasing. An Open Meeting has been planned for 29th July 2014.
- The kiosk at the end of the Ferry Link Road has finally been removed.
- Overhanging Vegetation letters have been sent to residents whose garden plants overhang the footpath or verge. These have been well received and works well.

Library

- No further news on future services
- New plaque has been installed commemorating 50 years

Allotments

- Grant given for installation of a storage unit

Website

Thanks to Duncan Hatfield for keeping the website up to date and now we have even more presence with our FaceBook page and Twitter account. Always getting excellent feedback about how well the website looks.

14/05 Finance Report

- Precept of £52,000 plus £10,000 received from Oxford City Council
- Continue to support local organisations at Christmas with grant of £300 (maximum)
- Accounts have been audited and no issues for a second year running.
- We now have quarterly budget v expenditure reports which enable the Council to manage the finances better.
- Diane Malley continues to do our payroll services
- New financial regulations are being looked at shortly
- After some research the Council has opened an account with Newbury Building Society so as to get a much better interest rate on reserves.
- Account balances are currently as follows:

Expenditure £64,613.20	Income £89,585.17
Business Reserve £18,726.85	Current Account £32,937.31
Newbury Building Society £200,000	

14/06 Correspondence No items.

14/07 Acknowledgements

- All contractors
- Oxford City and County Councillors
- Rachel Stratford and Gemma Woodley
- Parish Councillors and Sub-Committee members.

The Parish Council Meeting follows at 7.30pm