

**Minutes of Old Marston Parish Annual Meeting
Monday 14th May 2018, 7.00pm at Mortimer Hall**

Present:

Michael Bates	Duncan Hatfield	Angie Tiwari	Peter Cox
Patricia Hall	Tony Greenfield	Alistair Morris	Mary James
Mick Cadd	Michael O'Keefe	Tim Cann (Clerk)	

18/01 Apologies for absence

Parish Councillor Nils Bartleet, Parish Councillor Peter Williams, County Councillor Mark Lygo, City Councillor Mary Clarkson.

18/02 Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 8th May 2017

The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record.

18/03 Matters Arising (omitting those for which an agenda heading follows)

None

18/04 Chairman's Report

Welcome to our annual parish meeting 2018. As we look forward to the coming administrative year so we shall look back at the events of the past twelve months.

Pavilion

Since the Roy Garner Pavilion was erected last year, a lot of work has been done to get it ready and up to standard, dealing with snagging issues, water and electricity supply, and various other issues as they have arisen. The pavilion is now in regular use by Marston Saints and we are looking at how to develop it for future use. The pavilion was officially opened in November by former Marston Saints and England footballer Martin Keown and former parish clerk Roy Garner, who had faithfully set aside money each year that allowed us to purchase and install the pavilion debt-free.

Elsfield Road Path

After funding has been made available, the clerk has asked the city council works department to extend the path from the cemetery to Marsh Lane which will make it safer for members of public to walk along Elsfield Road. We expect the work to be done late Spring or early Summer.

Swan School

We attended an exhibition regarding the proposed school and have raised concerns with the planners and developers. There are concerns about the effects on traffic, parking in residential areas, loss of recreational space for St Nicholas Primary School, increase in pollution and flooding, affects on water and sewage, and a road crossing the cycle track putting many pupils of Cherwell School at risk. Since many of the target group would be coming from Barton, would it not be better to have it built there? Regardless of our concerns it seems the school will be built.

Access to Headington

The Access to Headington Scheme was postponed but is now being undertaken. Concerns have been raised and largely ignored. There are concerns that it may increase traffic congestion in the parish whilst ignoring the state of the roads, especially Cherwell Drive, which is in urgent need of repair. Many of the trees have been cut down as well.

Recreational Grounds and Cemetery

With the installation of the pavilion, the play equipment was removed from Boults Lane recreational ground. As it no longer met current standards we are looking to install some new equipment. Several members of the public have asked us about this. We regularly check the equipment in Mortimer Hall recreational ground to ensure it is safe and in good working order. We were disappointed when our equipment was stolen from the shed at the cemetery but now have a local contractor who is now undertaking the maintenance.

OxClean

Our annual litterpick around Old Marston was delay this year due to the weather and we also had fewer volunteers as a result. However a large amount of litter and fly tipping was collected and removed. Thank you to all those who volunteered. Members of public have thanked us for our efforts and for the difference it makes to the environment.

Development Near Elsfield

Earlier in 2017 we were made aware that there could be a possible development on the green belt land near Elsfield and the Barton development. We were then approached by Christ Church College who own the land to confirm that they wished to develop the land. They arranged a meeting with community and the developers Dorchester. 115 persons attended the public meeting voicing their concerns. Many were concerned about the location of the development and wondered if the properties would be bought up by people not from Oxford and thus would not benefit Oxford. The developers did say that if approved then they would consider building the Swan School within the development.

Fireworks

There was an excellent bonfire and fireworks display held at the Red Lion Pub in November which was attended by a large number of local residents. The parish council paid for the fireworks for the benefit of the local community.

Fête

There was a family fun day at the Victoria Arms. Although a great event, it seemed more aimed at people outside the parish and little encouragement was given to local people to participate. The parish council gave a grant towards the event. Another fête is being planned for 23rd June 2018 and members of the parish council and St Nicholas Parish Church are involved in the planning and provision of activities.

GDPR

Government legislation is changing the way data and personal information is stored and used. Both the clerk and chairman have had training in how to handle this. We are reviewing all our data to ensure that it complies with the new legislation and is kept secure. A lot of what the council does is already compliant and we will continue to ensure everything is compliant.

Committees

We are looking at the structure and scope of powers and responsibilities of the committees and when they will meet. This will bring more structure to parish council business and make it easier for members of the public to know when to attend.

New Vicar

In May we welcomed our new vicar Skye Denno and her family. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman attended her inauguration.

Underpass

A group of local residents have come together to raise funds and to organise the repainting of the underpass under Marston Ferry Road. The parish council have also

given a grant towards the project. The pupils of St Nicholas Primary School are involved in helping to design the new look underpass. We look forward to seeing the finished project.

Traffic and Parking

Traffic is an on-going issue in Marston as is parking in residential areas, especially during school terms. We will continue to monitor and raise our concerns.

Local Elections

As well as the city council elections, there was also an election for the parish council. John Batey decided not to stand again. We would like to thank him for all his commitment to the council and the parish, especially for all his hard work in helping to get the pavilion up and running and wish him all the best for the future. We are sorry to lose Barry but also welcome our new members onto the parish council.

Planning

We are a statutory consultee for all planning applications in the parish and we will continue to monitor all local planning in the interests of the local community. We were disappointed that the former Jack Russell will no longer be a community asset.

Boundary Review

Oxford's parish councils were invited to a meeting with the Boundary Commission. They are reviewing the ward and division boundaries in Oxford, which could be changed by 2020 local elections. The chair and vice-chair attended. The commission does not have the power to amend the parish boundaries – that decision lies with the district council, however it was felt that we should review the parish boundaries in consultation with local residents.

Information

The parish council has a website as well as a Facebook and Twitter site. We are looking for new sites for a public noticeboard to increase awareness of local activities and parish council business.

18/05 Finance Report

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Council had a budget of £65,100 this year but had actually spent £162,594.10. However £100,589.13 was spent on the new pavilion, so if you took this figure away from the expenditure it actually gives £62,004.97. Income for the year was £105,118.07

18/06 Correspondence No items.

The Annual Parish Meeting ended at 7:26pm