

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th April 1998
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr A T Jones (Chairman)
Mr C W Haynes (Vice-chairman)
Mesdames Cowell, Cox, Deam, Nurse, Stone and Tiwari
Messrs Drinkwater and Phipps
The Clerk Mr L. M Garner was in attendance
The Chairman welcomed Mrs Deam who returned following her accident.

Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Mr Bartleet

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd March 1998 were confirmed and signed.

Correspondence

A letter was received from the County Council indicating that the 14/14a bus service was ceasing, due to the withdrawal of subsidy. This was a cause for great concern because it was the lifeline between the Parish and the Oxford Radcliffe Hospital. The Clerk was asked to write to the M.P. to enquire what was happening to the £500,000 bus subsidy which the Government had announced.

Information was received that the Mortimer Hall library would not be closed but the service reduced by two and a half hours each week.

Casual Vacancy

Mr J.C.Batey was proposed by Mrs C.Stone and seconded by Mrs G.Cox. Mr J.McGinn was proposed by Mr C.Haynes and seconded by Mr R.Drinkwater.

The Council went into Committee to give the candidates an opportunity to speak which Mr Batey did.

On the resumption of the Council meeting there were four votes for Mr McGinn and five votes for Mr Batey who was declared co-opted. He signed the Declaration of Office and joined the meeting.

Planning

Applications

The following applications were considered;
34, Lodge Close- two storey extension- No comment
15, Salford Road-dormer windows to front and rear- No comment
62, Marsh Lane- extension- No comment
59, Horseman Close- extension- No comment

Decision

The following was reported;
42, Raymund Road-garage- Approved

A.T.J

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment;

Mr J.Cooper- Cemetery maintenance	£254.18
Thames Water- Allotments	£11.61
Oxford City Council- Recreation Ground maintenance 96/7	£240.00
do do do 97/8	£661.75
D.Ward- Hedge cutting Mill Lane	£770.00
Hedge trimming- small area Mill Lane	£70.00
cemetery hedge	£50.00
Boults Lane	£150.00

Allotments

A letter was received from the Allotment Association enquiring why the hedges were cut so severely, who instructed the Contractor, the cost and why a lighter and cheaper trim was not considered. The Clerk replied that he had asked the Allotment Association, in December for it's proposals for the management of the occupied part of the site. No proposals were received. The proper management of a hawthorn hedge is long established maintaining a height of four of five feet and an appropriate width at which size they are the most effective. Hedges left to grow higher than this are inevitably sparse at the base. The drastic cutting was required to leave the basis for a sound hedge. The cost was £770 in accordance with the quotation accepted in October 1997. He had instructed the Contractor.

It was resolved that Mr R.Ward of Parkway House should be paid the sum of £200 if, within a period of ten years from his voluntarily ploughing the vacant plots, the land should be sold for development.

Recreation Ground

Permission was received from the Oxford Preservation Trust for the clearance and maintenance of the end of the land used for recreation in Mill Lane, The Clerk would obtain quotations.

The Clerk would investigate damage to the barrier in Boults Lane.

Village Hall

Mr Haynes agreed to serve for a further year as the Parish Council's representative on the Management Committee.

Mrs Cox reported that the City Council would not continue to subsidise the Hall for the current year. Mr Yeoward agreed to investigate this.

Highways

The Clerk had reported injuries to Mrs Richardson, due to a fall on the rough footway between the Three Horseshoes and Elsfield Road, to the City Council.

A quotation of £3,500 was received for the sub-way mural which was more than was expected. It was decided to invite the artist to reconsider his proposals and make a presentation at the June meeting.

Burial Ground

A deed of grant in respect of plot H14 was signed, the appropriate fees having been paid.

Other Matters

The Clerk reminded members that the next meeting would be the Annual Meeting which would be held following the Parish Meeting which would be held in the Church Hall on 5th May 1998.

Alwin Jones

5/5/98