

Minutes of Old Marston Parish Council Meeting 3rd February 2009

Present:-

Charlie Haynes, Chairman (CH)
Roy Jones (RJ)
Graham Swift (GS)
Gill Cox (GC)
Hugh Deam (HD)
Duncan Hatfield (DH)
Angie Tiwari (AT)
Michael Cadd (MC)
Peter Cox (PC)
Mr LeRoy Garner, Clerk (LG)
Mrs K Stratford, Minutes Secretary (KS)
Councillor Beverley Hazell
Councillor Altaf-Khan

Requests from Members of the Public to Speak:

None

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr Nils Bartleet,
Mr Wally Cox
Mr John McGinn.

The Chairman requested that Councillors declare any personal or prejudicial interests at any point on the agenda.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Item 10 amend to read "original location outside old village shop site". Change "by Butts Lane" to read "in Butts Lane". It was agreed the Chairman could sign these as a true and correct record once the amendments had been made.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes Omitting Those For Which an Agenda Heading Follows:

None.

4. Correspondence (Letters/Emails)

None not brought up elsewhere

5. Planning

Applications considered between meetings:

69 Cherwell Drive – refused.

34 Mill Lane – retention of existing facade. Gone to appeal.

Proposed Tesco Store – the Clerk has written to object.

Applications considered at meeting

None

Decisions

None

61 Oxford Road and 14 Mortimer Drive being considered by Planning Enforcement.

6. Boults Lane Development Project

Received plans which were circulated for discussion. Chairman proposed these were passed to give Marston Saints authorisation to move ahead to apply for Planning Consent. DH/GC seconded. Approved. GC asked whether the public were to be invited to scrutinise the plans. The Chairman confirmed this would be so. Will put on the website and in the Marston Times, and possibly in the Oxford Mail. GS also requested information be put on the noticeboard, which will be done. The Chairman confirmed there will be more sub-committee meetings held in the future. **LG**

7. Recreation Grounds

The Clerk proposed the RoSPA inspection be put on hold until issue with the City Council is resolved.

The Clerk has requested Mr Ward give a quote to remove the soil at the end of the pavilion at Boults Lane.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that there would be a need to drain the ground at Mortimer Hall. The quote has been received for a survey and the Chairman requested authorisation for the survey. DH proposed, GC seconded. To be arranged. **CH/LG**

Marston Saints have requested a further seat at Boults Lane in memory of Mr Davenport and his daughter. Agreed. DH, GS, GC.

John Batey has been in touch requesting free access to the recreation ground at the end of Jessops Close (just requires removal of a couple of bars), as it is currently used informally by people squeezing through. This is acceptable, but is a big job to ensure it is DDA compliant. The Chairman to investigate further with John Batey and report back. Would also have to discuss with residents for their view. **CH**

The Clerk requested to be minuted that in his opinion expressed at the time the drainage scheme being laid at Boults Lane, that it was not correctly designed or carried out.

GC commented that a resident of Jessops Close appears to have been lighting bonfires, without clearing up afterwards and is on the recreation land.

KS reported on behalf of the sub-committee that an advisor on the Playbuilder grant application has suggested the sub-committee set up a "Friends" group. KS circulated information regarding Friends Groups for the parish council to consider. CH concerned that the bank account might be out of the Parish Council's control. The Clerk suggested the Clerk should be kept at arm's length from the committee. It was agreed in principal that an organisation was formed to help support the play area.

8. Finance

The Clerk has prepared a document to submit to the bank to put the new Clerk in power by the 1st April 2009.

The following accounts were paid:

- Village Hall Management Committee: Unpaid fees - £120.00
- Mr Hook: Moving noticeboard - £40.00
- D.Hatfield on behalf of Get Online Ltd: Website Hosting Service (195.00) and Registration of the website (126.50) - £321.50
- Green Belt Network: Subscription - £15.00
- D.Ward: Repair to casting - £70.00
- K.Stratford: Postage expenses - £5.05

Quoted over £250 for a dog bin, and a bill has been received, which the Parish Council will not pay. The Clerk to dispute. **LG**

Oxford Green Belt Network has requested a membership fee of £15. DH commented they have informed us about plans to build on this in the area in the past, many parish councils are members of this organisation, and DH recommended keeping membership. CH commented they often hear of information in advance. Agreed.

Item on the agenda: Because the payment of the Clerks salary is within Financial Regulations, need to change paragraph 7.2 of Financial Regulations to permit the Clerk's salary to be paid on the last working day of each calendar month instead of quarterly as at present. Agreed. **LG**

9. Burial Ground

Nothing to report.

10. Highways

The clerk has asked Mr Ward to quote for a 3' wide path on the right of way at Back Lane. The Chairman commented the County Council did promise some money some years ago. BH commented that this had been raised by a parishioner, and has been raised with the County Council.

A resident has queried the residential parking in Ashlong Road. A-K reminded the meeting that there had been a consultation there, but as residents had said they do not want a residents parking scheme there, there were no plans to install one.

A-K reported that he had chased the review of the traffic calming, but the county have no issues or problems logged, and the review will take place, although there is no date for this. The Chairman reported there have been at least 3 accidents because bollards have been damaged. At least one involving the police. A-K will report this back to the officers.

Mr Lewis reported an accident on Rippington Drive. Advised he speaks to the City Council.

11. North East Area Committee

WC attended. KS was in attendance as a representative of the play areas sub-committee.

WC spoke regarding the planning application for 69 Cherwell Drive. Councillors also spoke. Thanks to WC for going. A-K commented that the council will not 'give' a building to a religious group. A-K suggested they contact the Faith Council, who may be able to help. GC commented that Mortimer Hall gets a lot of requests for groups to meet on a Sunday, there is a lack of available facilities.

KS reported that the sub-committee were awarded a £5,000 grant for the play areas, with a suggestion that if there is any funding left at the end of the financial year, the sub-committee could apply for more. Thanks to the Councillors who spoke up in favour of the sub-committee being given the grant.

WC passed on thanks to the Parish Council on behalf of the Mortimer Hall Management Committee for moving the noticeboard.

12. Parish Council Bulletin

Nothing to report.

13. Allotments

GS reported Scottish and Southern electricity wanting to lay an underground cable across the site to reach a customer on the other side the by-pass. Would mean digging up 8 or 10 plots. The association not likely to be in favour. The Clerk noted they have a statutory right to do, so might be sensible to negotiate, for example, the route. The Chairman suggested the Chairman, Clerk and allotment association meet with Scottish and Southern. GS to discuss with the allotment association and report back. **CH/LG/ KS/GS**

14. Website

January was the most popular month – nearly 3,000 visits. Appears to be local people who use it (from the pages looked at).

15. Any Other Business

Mr Lewis requested he be elected to the Parish Council. The Chairman explained that if a vacancy becomes available, it might be possible to co-opt him onto the Parish Council. There are elections in 2010, and he would be welcome to stand for election at that time, if it were not possible to co-opt him on before this time.

The Chairman passed on our congratulation to Mary Clarkson who is to be the next Lord Mayor.

Condolences were requested to be passed to the family of Maureen Christian. **BH**

RJ: Could it be put in the Marston Times regarding the collection of rubbish, as the public bins are overflowing. **LG**

DH: Reminder of the Oxclean event in March. There is already interest in this year. Meeting at Mortimer Hall on March 7th at 10:00am. Finishing approx. 12:00. **ALL**

16. GC: Has been emailing Streetscene about the graffiti. Promised it will be done when the weather gets a bit warmer. There is also some graffiti on the rec wall.

GC: Allotment footpath across the fair field. Not currently accessible to all. Asked BH to request the city council maintain.

Discussed the Clerk's leaving present. The Chairman proposed we purchase a computer for him. Agreed to ask if the Red Lion can cater for us to have a small, informal drink with Roy after the meeting. CH will confirm within next few days.

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 3rd March 2009 at Mortimer Hall at 7:30pm.