

Minutes of Old Marston Parish Council Meeting 6th January 2009

Present:-

Charlie Haynes, Chairman (CH)
Wally Cox, Vice Chairman (WC)
Roy Jones (RJ)
Graham Swift (GS)
Nils Bartleet (NB)
Gill Cox (GC)
Hugh Deam (HD)
Duncan Hatfield (DH)
Mr LeRoy Garner, Clerk (LG)
Mrs K Stratford, Minutes Secretary (KS)
Councillor Mary Clarkeson
Councillor Beverley Hazell

Requests from Members of the Public to Speak

None

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr Michael Cadd, Mr Peter Cox, Mrs Angie Tiwari and 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

It was agreed the Chairman could sign these as a true and correct record.

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

None.

4. Correspondence (Letters/Emails)

Letter received from the County Council re village and town web pages, the County Council is looking at creating a page for each of their website. DH will be progressing this issue (endorsed by the meeting). There will be no expense to the parish. LG to write to the County to advise them that DH will be leading on this issue. **DH, LG**

There is a new Freedom of Information Act published by the government. We comply with the best recommendations and will continue to do so. All parish council records may be made available to members of the public. We have formally to adopt this. WC proposed. CH seconded. Confirmed as unanimous.

5. Planning

Applications considered between meetings:

None.

Applications considered at meeting

38 Oxford Road. Recommended for refusal due to site being over development in a conservation area and because of the lack of clarity of the intended use. CH requested that the city councillors called this in. MC/BH agreed to do so.

Decisions

None **MC/BH**

CH asked MC whether council policy had changed, as no copy of the plans was recently received until the Clerk had made the request. MC said there was no decision made that she was aware of to stop sending this information to groups such as parish councils who regularly discuss planning. MC to confirm and report back. **MC**

MC confirmed there was no current plan to take planning out of Area Committee. The Parish Council confirmed their support for putting applications to Area Committee.

GC requested we discuss the Tesco proposal at the Friar site, as it has an impact on the parish. GC further noted that there were errors on the application that had been highlighted by people within the parish. The Clerk to write to Planning making objections on behalf of the parish – impact on local stores, impact on parking, impact at the junction. May lose the post office if Costcutter closes. NB commented that that this is the kind of environmental issue that Highways Officers should comment on. MC commented this is likely to come before the February NE Area Committee. **LG**

6. Boults Lane Development Project

No progress to report. CH has contacted Total Turf Solutions regarding the land adjacent to Mortimer Hall; and asking for a completion certificate for the land at Boults Lane.

7. Recreation Grounds

Mr Ward has cut the hedge at Mortimer Hall.

The team has started working on another grant application, and is seeking further quotes.

The Clerk to put a vote of thanks into the Marston Times to thank the sub-committee for their work. **LG**

GC commented that a parishioner had raised that there is a sign saying “no dogs” at Boults Lane, but there are dog bins there, which seems to be a contradiction. CH commented that the sign for ‘no dogs’ – endorsed by a by-law - had been there for years, but was unenforceable, so the bin was there because the by-law was not enforceable. GC has confirmed this with the parishioner.

8. Finance

It is necessary for the parish council to resolve the issue of salary and details for the new Clerk, arrangements for which are more complicated than they have been previously. The County Council has advised the Chair, including hours, super-annuation, employee’s contribution and employer’s contribution (£91.50 per month based on salary). Employer/employee valuation rates are re-evaluated every three years, next evaluation due 2010. There is also the issue of tax and national insurance contributions. The County recommend using an agent, although there is a cost involved in that. GC commented that

the pre-school do this themselves. KS/CH to investigate further. A resolution is required from the Parish Council. A Resolution was made at this meeting that "the Parish Council should ask the County Council Pension Department to manage the pension requirements for the newly appointed Parish Clerk Mrs Kate Stratford on their behalf as from the 1st April 2009". This was agreed by all the Councillors present. The parish council will also need to adopt the job description and contract of employment. **KS/CH**

Precept:

A paper was circulated, the Clerk has given a breakdown of figures and a recommendation from the City Council that there be an increase of 5%. No comments were made, so this resolution was passed unanimously by the Council. (Proposed by CH, seconded by WC).

The following accounts were paid:

1. Mrs Haynes - Reimbursement for rule Book for Parish Councils - £64.50
2. National Auditors - Audit Fee - £775.50
3. Michael Holden - Burial Ground Petrol - £9.92
4. Total Pest Control – Moles - £500.25
5. Mr Garner - PC World computer cable - £22.50

Some nice thank you cards for grants received by the Clerk.

9. Burial Ground

Some moles noted, CH has reported for action.

PC has reported there has been a leak from the tap. LG is dealing. **LG**

10. Highways

Bus Stop was moved temporarily, but needs to be reinstated in the original location outside old village shop. LG to chase. **LG**

RJ requested a give way sign/no through road sign at the Church Lane junction/Butts Lane, and white lines on the road. RJ reported there were three minor accidents there over the Christmas period. The Clerk to write to the City Council highways department. **LG**

RJ asked how often inspections for road repair are carried out, as the road in Butts Lane is in a poor state. Unadopted roads are the responsibility of the landowner. LG to confirm and will write, if necessary to the council. **LG**

GC noted a letter in the Oxford Mail commenting on the promised review of the traffic calming. The Council will continue to chase the County Council for the promised review of the traffic calming in Old Marston. **LG**

The last surface dressing has still not been swept. The Clerk to chase. **LG**

11. North East Area Committee

WC attended. KS was in attendance as a representative of the play areas sub-committee. The area committee was sympathetic, but no agreement was reached as they're not aware of what is still available in their budgets – they're going to discuss and confirm at next meeting.

12. Parish Council Bulletin

DH asked when the next bulletin should come out, and noted the quantity of work involved and that he would need help to produce. Agreed wanted to distribute January and June. All agreed, and agreed to help. **ALL**

13. Allotments

Nothing to report. The site is pretty-much full.

14. Website

Averaging over 2,500 visits per month. So it is regularly used. Please pass any news on to DH to keep it relevant. Thanks to DH for his work.

15. Any Other Business

Men at Work signs been left in the parish as an obstruction. Resident Mr Moore has complained to the city council that these have not been removed. Needs to be reported. **BH**

Rubbish, including a bicycle frame on Rippington Drive has been dumped. Risks blocking up the brook, near the garages. Needs to be reported. **BH**

DH reminded that the OxClean event is happening on the first Saturday in March, operating from Mortimer Hall.

Noted the Council has not paid the Mortimer Hall rent for these meetings. The Clerk to check and rectify. **LG**

The Mortimer Hall Committee did request a separated noticeboard for use by the Hall. Currently the hall notices are lost within the parish council notices. WC to show the Clerk where, and will ask Mr Hook to resite the noticeboard. **LG**

The fair field is all churned up since the fair was last there. LG to confirm whether or not there is a footpath across the field. **LG**

Confirmed the "do" for the Clerk is Saturday, 16th May. 6:00pm – 9:00pm.

Price of garages has risen substantially, Rippington Drive, Mortimer Drive, etc. MC to make some enquiries and report back. **MC**

16. Date of Next Meeting

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