

# Minutes of the Old Marston Parish Council Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the Mortimer Hall from 7:00pm.

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## CONFIRMED

### Present:

#### Parish Council:

Duncan Hatfield (DH) – Chairman	Charlotte Vinnicombe (CV)
Skye Denno (SD)	Pat Hall (PH)
Mary James (MJ)	Louise Upton (LU)
Peter Williams (PW)	Mick Bates (MB)
Alistair Morris (AM)	Martin Smith (MS)

#### In attendance:

Tim Cann (Clerk)

Members of the Public: 6

**24/01/01 Intention to record the proceedings of the meeting:** NONE.

**24/01/02 Apologies for absence:** Parish Councillors Louise Milford – unwell, Charlie Haynes – unwell, Oxfordshire County Councillor Mark Lygo & Oxford City Councillor Mary Clarkson – clash of meetings.

**24/01/03 Website and social media:** DH advised the council that news items are posted regularly and followers continue to increase.

#### **24/01/04 Public, County & City Councillors & Thames Valley Police participation (if any requests received)**

**a. Thames Valley Police:** No Report received.

#### **b. County & City Councillor Reports:**

- **Report from City Councillor Alistair Morris:** reported that the flooding along the cycle track through the parks is receding. A tree which fell along the Marston Ferry Road has been cleared.

#### **c. Public:**

- A resident spoke about the construction work going on at Marston Paddock in Butts Lane. It had been two months since the work had started and there was still mud on the roads, damage to road surfacing and people being held up for construction vehicles. It was understood that lorries should be no more than 3 tonnes, however this is not being kept to.
- Another resident spoke about the development at Marston Paddock in Butts Lane was being raised making the already flooding issues worse. Construction vehicles park all day on double yellow lines making the area congested and dangerous. Still concerned with insufficient parking when development finished, two five bed dwelling will be on the site.
- Another resident spoke about the road closure. They had contacted the county council who advised that a TTO was needed. The email from the County Council is being forwarded to the clerk.
- Another resident spoke about the bins in the play area in Mill Lane and Boults Lane being full.

The Clerk advised that he had emailed the city council regarding the issues raised at the December parish council meeting. He had recently received an email from Lila Haracz, senior housing development officer at Oxford City Council, saying that she was now overseeing the project. The clerk will email her with all these issues. The clerk also informed the meeting that there had been ongoing issues with the contractor regarding emptying of the bins. A new contractor was being installed for this year so things will hopefully improve.

#### **24/01/05 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

It was **RESOLVED** these are a true record.

#### **24/01/06 Matters Arising (omitting those for which an Agenda heading follows):**

- Rights of Way: The clerk advised that he had heard nothing from Charlotte Richie who was leading this project.
- Policy for outgoing parish councillors: The clerk advised that he had contacted the OALC who recommended not adopting a policy. It was acceptable for the council to acknowledge an individual's past service but anything more than this should be avoided.

#### **24/01/07 Operational Checks:**

- The clerk reported that the weekly checks on the defibrillator had been carried out. All working correctly.
- The clerk reported that the weekly checks on the play equipment had been carried out. All working correctly.

#### **24/01/08 Planning:**

**Applications considered between meetings: NONE.**

##### **Decisions:**

23/02017/FUL – 21 Haynes Road – APPROVED  
23/01414/VAR – Marston Paddock – APPROVED  
23/02480/FUL – 32B Oxford Road – APPROVED  
23/02518/FUL – 28 Cavendish Drive – REFUSED.

##### **Awaiting Decisions:**

20/02457/DEL – Willow Barn, Oxford Road  
21/03294/FUL – 56 Marsh Lane  
22/03049/FUL – Land North of Bayswater Brook  
23/02294/DEL – 46 Oxford Road  
23/02532/FUL – 68 Elms Drive  
23/02460/ADV – Bus Shelter Outside 4 Elsfield Road.

##### **Applications to be decided:**

- **23/02881/FUL – 78 Oxford Road** – Demolition of existing front porch. Erection of a front porch. – **NO OBJECTIONS.**
- **23/02818/FUL – 25 Fairfax Avenue** – Erection of a single, part two storey rear extension. Alteration to 1no. window to front elevation. Relocation of bike storage. – **NO OBJECTIONS.**

**24/01/09 Feedback from Transport Meeting between Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council and Old Marston Parish Council:**

- CV informed the council that the overriding message is that no investment will be considered until the traffic filters are installed.
- PW stated he felt it was a useful broad discussion on village traffic and safety. One main point for concern is outside the Mortimer Hall where there is dropping off/picking up parking as well as through traffic making it an accident waiting to happen. Peter stated that there needed to be somewhere to report instances, to give weight to any future discussions. It had been suggested contacting the monitoring team which would cost approximately £200.
- PH pointed out that the traffic issues were not just restricted to the Oxford Road through the village but a wider issue. The Oxford Road on the other side of the Marston Ferry Road was also dangerous with dropping off/picking up congestion as well as Raymund Road.
- MS stated that it had always been an issue, however never this bad.
- It was **RESOLVED** the clerk will contact the Monitoring Team and invite the headteachers of St Nicholas Primary School and the Swan School to a parish council meeting.

**24/01/10 Oxfordshire Charter Survey:**

- The clerk made the council aware of the survey being done to share councillors' views on the draft charter in another survey which will run from 3 January 2024 until 11 February. The charter is looking to bring a partnership between Oxfordshire County Council, the district councils (Oxford City Council) and parish councils so each level of authority can support and work together.

**24/01/11 Finance:** Bank balance as at 02/01/2024 –

Unity Trust A/c. £36,933.15 (incl. CIL Money) £27,272.56      Petty Cash £51.74

Newbury Building Society A/c £85,339.05, Skipton Building Society A/c £22,333.50.

The following accounts to be paid:	£ Incl. VAT
Clerk's Pay Including Expenses, Pension, etc. – December 2023	
The Red Lion (Chairman's Christmas Buffet)	330.90
Mr D. Hook (Installation of Cemetery Bench)	200.00
Royal British Legion (Wreath Donation)	200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,711.28</b>
<b>Petty Cash Expenditure:</b>	
Oxford Bus Company (Clerk's Ticket to County Hall)	4.00

<b>INCOME:</b>	
Newbury Building Society (Annual Interest)	2,702.98

- a. It was **RESOLVED** to accept these payments.
- b. **Oxford City Council Business Rates for Elsfield Road Cemetery:**  
The Clerk advised the council that the city council had sent a court summons for unpaid rates despite not sending any demand or reminders. It was **RESOLVED** LU will take this up with the city council.
- c. **Tree Survey:** It was **RESOLVED** to accept the tender of £1,030.00 including VAT.
- d. **Reserves:** The clerk informed the council that at the last meeting it had agreed to transfer £50,000 from the Newbury Building Society to the Skipton Building Society. On investigation service charges are applicable on balances up to £50,000 at the Newbury BS. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to retract this earlier resolution and to transfer £30,000 to the Skipton Building Society.
- e. **Grants:** The council **RESOLVED** the following:

▪ Marston Community Garden –	£500.00
▪ Mortimer Hall -	£500.00
▪ Mortimer Hall Pre-school -	£500.00
▪ FOSNS -	£300.00
▪ Court Place Farm Allotments Community Shed -	£500.00
▪ 43 <sup>rd</sup> Scout Group -	£500.00
▪ St Nicholas Church Junior Choir -	£350.00
▪ St Nicholas Society of Bell Ringers -	£500.00
▪ Marston Times -	£350.00
▪ Mortimer Hall Book Club -	£312.00
▪ Marston Community Forest Group -	£300.00
▪ <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4,612.00</b>

The council deferred deciding, asked for further information, on the following applications:

- Court Place Farm Allotments Association,
- Swan School PTA
- OXSRAD.

#### 24/01/12 Clerk's Report:

- **The council asked the clerk to chase up:**
  - The Rights of Way officer and The Footpath Association regarding the stile leading from Elsfield Road to Court Place Farm Allotments.

#### 24/01/13 Report from members:

- Mortimer Hall Management Committee meeting: CV informed the council that the committee were looking at a five-year plan for future capacity. She confirmed that the hall committee are willing to engage with the parish council.
- Public Transport Meeting: MJ reported that most of the meeting was not relevant to Old Marston; however, there is planned improvement to the number 700 bus service at weekends.

**24/01/14 Plus anything of an urgent nature which has come to the clerk's attention since the agenda was set:**

- It was **RESOLVED** to accept the tender to repairs needed on the play equipment in the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground for £1,998.71 plus VAT.
- Water leak in Oxford Road: CV advised that this has been leaking for a very long time without being resolved. ODS state it is Thames Water responsibility and Thames Water state it is not their responsibility but with developers. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk will contact OFWAT to try and move this forward. The council also **RESOLVED** that, depending on cost, it would consider contributing to wards the repair.

**24/01/15 Information Sharing:**

- OALC Newsletter.
- Rural Network Digest etc.
- Correspondence

**24/01/16 Date of next meeting:**

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7pm in the Mortimer Hall.

**24/01/17 Closed Session:**

To resolve, under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act), that the public and media be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**24/01/18 Finance Committee draft minutes held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023:**

- It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the draft budget for 2024/25.

**24/01/19 2024/25 Precept:**

- It was **RESOLVED** to increase the 2024/25 precept by 2.5%. However, due to the increase in the tax base, number of dwellings paying council tax in the parish, this will appear as a 0.19% increase on residents' tax bills.

**MEETING CLOSED: 8:55pm**

Signed: ..... Chairman

Date: .....

Please note: Minutes become CONFIRMED following resolution at the following full council meeting.