

Old Marston Parish Council Minutes 01 July 2008

Present:-

Charlie Haynes, Chairman (CH)
Wally Cox, Vice Chairman (WC)
Duncan Hatfield (DH)
Michael Cadd (MC)
Peter Cox (PC)
Roy Jones (RJ)
Graham Swift (GS)
Nils Bartleet (NB)
Gill Cox (GC)
Angie Tiwari (AT)

Mr LeRoy Garner, Clerk (LG)
_Mrs K Stratford, Minutes Secretary (KS)

1. Requests from Members of the Public to Speak

Mr Cowell. Mr Lewis

2. Apologies for Absence

Mr John McGinn, Mr Hugh Deam.

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

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

One correction. GS was not at the last meeting, but appeared as an attendee.

The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the last meeting once they had been amended.

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

None

Introduced Mr Phil Hoffer. Our new auditor. Mr Hoffer Introduced himself, and gave details of his previous experience.

5. Correspondence (Letters/Emails)

Parish Transport Representatives Meeting on 25th July at County Hall. Anyone wishing to attend, inform the Clerk.

The Chairman due to meet Mr Wood on 8th July.

The Clerk to provide the Auditor with a cheque for services rendered.

Letter from the Police drawing attention to the Thames Valley Police Museum open Saturday 9th August. Advise the Clerk if you wish to attend and the Clerk will arrange.

Invited to send a representative to meet with the Police Authority – consultation with local people.

Monday 21st July at the Belfry Hotel. Advise the Clerk if you wish to attend and the Clerk will arrange.

6. Planning

Planning

Decisions

2 South Croft – application for a porch and side extension – withdrawn.

Applications considered between meetings:

112 Oxford Road – Erection of single storey detached dwelling at the rear with parking – approved.

8 Mortimer Drive – roof extensions and dormer windows – approved.

1 Nicholas Avenue – erection of two storey extension at the side – refused.

Applications considered at meeting

Church Farm, Church Lane application to remove and replace doors – listed building consent. No comment.

23 Salford Road – demolition of garage and erection of 2 storey building to provide 2 x 2 bedroom flats. GC queried the tree on the verge – it is shown on the existing plan. NB confirmed access was on The Link. The Council to raise concern about the existing tree on highway be protected during building work. GS raised concern about 2 flats in a back garden in an area that is already very dense with flats.

Mr Lewis commented that the development was due to be on the boundary hedgerow.

Overdevelopment of the site was also raised as an issue.

34 Mill Lane – retention of existing façade and roof of bungalow. This is a property built at the back of number 34. This incident has gone to court, and Councillors may not consider the court case and anything arising from it. The only issue the meeting can consider is the application.

Member of the Public wishing to speak – Mr Cowell. The description on the application is incorrect. It is seeking permission to retain as a garage, workshop and store (which already have consent). In particular the façade looks much better than a pair of garage doors and the garden looks better than a driveway. The building is at a minimum pitch for the tiles which fit with the main building. The building is much lower than other buildings at the location.

MC asked for details of the original garage. Mr Cowell said there was no original garage - it was just the end of the garden, but had permission for a garage with a pitched roof. The roof was slightly steeper on the original plan.

The Parish Council agreed to make no comment.

Mr Cowell thanked the Council for its time.

67 – 69 Oxford Road – Oxford City Council Planning Authority have asked for

43 – 55 Oxford Road – more information which the Clerk has to provide.

2 Mortimer Drive – alleged overdevelopment. Inspected in January but is still live.

Dormer Windows – 49 – 53 Oxford Road – The Chairman and Clerk think there is one more window installed than there is permission for, to report to Planning Dept.

Meeting of the Development Control User Panel. The Clerk attended in previous years and if he available on 14th July, will attend again. If not available, the Chairman will attend.

GC requested planning permission for the temple in 69 Cherwell Drive be chased as more signage has been erected with increased parking.

7. Boults Lane Development Project

Had meeting last week. Looked through plan, a few minor alterations to be made within 2 weeks. Once received, will hold a Steering Group Meeting, which the Chairman will arrange. Football Association grant looks promising, and hopes the rest will be grant funded with input from others. The Clerk noted the value of the site could be taken into account as it was quite considerable. And dedicating the old site for car parking raises the value considerably.

8. Recreation Grounds

Marston Saints had a 2-day event on the recreation ground. A resident phoned the Chairman his thanks and appreciation for his thanks for a wonderful day, and to comment that all litter was removed after the event.

GC noted the two new kissing gates were missing. The Chairman to chase.

DH reported that the sub-committee has met since last meeting and is due to meet again. Several residents (parents) attended. Survey forms currently being printed (DH organizing - to get bill) for distribution at the school and other locations. The Chairman to come to next meeting.

KS (member of the sub-committee) reported she had attended a session run by ROSPRA for how to carry out playground checks and had been given some useful advice and tips that the Parish Council could use when they are ready to progress, such as recommendations for types of equipment and some information on different types of flooring.

9. Finance

The following accounts were paid:

Mr Haynes PC World Wireless router	£69.99
Mr Hoffer Audit Fee	£240.00
Connaught Gasforce Limited Balance of Account for Central Heating.	£4083.13
Mr P Cox Fuel for Mower	
	Amount to be confirmed
Total Pest Control Quarterly Account	£511.13
Mr Garner Dell Printer Cartridges	£105.75
Thames Water Estimated Reading. Water Supply for Burial Ground	£71.71

Auditor's Report (Appendix A). Examined all the financial. In full agreement with bank statement, other than two items. The precept quoted as 49.414 but two item not included. Only other item came to his attention were that the minutes that could be made by the Clerk on a regular basis, but found four items which were paid between meetings that were approved, although did find the relevant invoices. These were all cheques from November 2007 – White Horse Contractors, Total Turf and two for PC World. The accounts show and accurate record for last year and are approved as a true and accurate record.

The Clerk to show Mr Hoffer the forms that require signage.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hoffer.

Clerk received letter from the bank dated May, received 6th June. Now a computerised account, paying interest on the account. The Clerk has written a strongly worded letter as changes were made without consultation and charges are being made. A reply is awaited.

PC queried the cost of Total Pest Control as the costs are high and the level of infestation has dropped. To be revisited once the Chairman has had his meeting with Mr Wood from the City Council.

RJ commented he had reports of rats in the area. Suggest residents report to Oxford City Council Environmental Health Department when noted.

Estimated bill from Thames Valley. PC to read the meter.

Paid in bill to Kalamara and put in application to Football Foundation.

10. Burial Ground

Need to arrange a meeting to install the plaque.

Due to meet the Preservation Trust imminently.

No progress on the issue with the ashes.

11. Highways

Direction signs to the church are on order and will be put up in due course

Underpass – no change in status.

More signage has appeared in the village advertising pubs. Have got a designated power to remove. One pub which has not previously been allowed to display signage has objected. Parish Council proposes Clerk be authorised to secure the removal of unauthorised notices displayed on the public highway within the Parish. MC seconded. Unanimously agreed. The County Engineers statement of 1993 was referred to. DH suggested that an area be designated for all pubs to advertise. GC suggested the Parish Council bulletin could be utilised.

Elsfield Road exit – directional sign for hospital has been removed. The Clerk commented it was unlikely to be replaced as it was a duplicating sign. The Clerk to query with the County Council.

To request the allotment association cut back the boundary as nettles are across the pavement. The Clerk has already mentioned, the Chairman to send an email to confirm.

The elderberry at the front is overhanging the highway. To request Mr Ward remove it.

12. North East Area Committee

Nothing affecting the parish

13. Parish Council Bulletin

Next one due in September, any items to DH, GC.

14. Allotments

GS has resigned as Chairman of allotments, but is still a member, and agreed to keep in touch and report back.

15. Website

Continues to be very popular. Over 2000 visits this month. Updating regularly with information. Local groups have contacted DH wanting to be included. Local Business and Local History pages very popular. The Chairman suggested local pubs with websites be linked.

The Chairman thanked DH for his work.

The Clerk needs the MAC code to give to Orange. DH to provide to the Clerk.

DH to sort the Clerks email for him as currently not working.

16. Any Other Business

Appointment of Clerk – the post has been advertised locally. One person has expressed an interest, which the Chairman is to pursue. The proper process is to be followed to be fair to all.

WC: Potential additional notice at the front of Mortimer Hall – agreed. Order one to match. The Mortimer Hall one will move to the library wall when the second Parish Council sign is installed following order. DH noted that the website address to be displayed.

17. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 2nd September 2008 at Mortimer Hall at 7:30pm.

