

# Minutes of the Old Marston Parish Council Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at the Mortimer Hall from 7:00pm.

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## CONFIRMED

### Present:

#### Parish Council:

Duncan Hatfield (DH) – Chairman	Pat Hall (Vice-Chair)
Charlotte Vinnicombe (CV)	Mary James (MJ)
Peter Williams (PW)	Louise Milford (LM)
Skye Denno (SD)	Alistair Morris (AM)
Peter Cox (PC)	Charlie Haynes (CH)
Tim Cann (Clerk)	<b>Members of Public: 8</b>

**23/06/01 Intention to record the proceedings of the meeting:** NONE.

**23/06/02 Apologies for Absence:** Parish Councillor Louise Upton – Work commitment.

**23/06/03 Website and social media:** DH advised that followers of the council on Facebook and Twitter had increased. There was a temporary technical error on the website with downloading the current agenda but it was still available from another link which is working.

### **23/06/04 Public, County & City Councillors & Thames Valley Police participation (if any requests received)**

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

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

**AM** advised that the city council are keen to plant more trees on the Queen's Jubilee Avenue. AM to inform the Clerk details.

**MC** advised that she had received several complaints about the grass verges not being cut. It was confirmed that grass cutting would be done in August.

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

- A member of the public asked about:
  - **drainage** for the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground as at times it gets very boggy. It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk would contact Highways.
  - **Mural:** on the back of the garage of the adjacent property. PC agreed to speak to his relative who owns the property.
  - **Boundary with Red Lion:** In need of maintaining, barbed wire removing. Although this boundary was not the parish council's responsibility the Clerk advised that he had removed some of the wire. It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk contact Green King. It was also **RESOLVED** the Clerk gets a quote for a new fence inside the current boundary and to get advice on cost of maintaining hedge.
- Another member of the public asked about the future of the Mortimer Hall being on the parish council agenda. After some discussion it was

reminded that this appeared later in the agenda under Marston Community Centre.

### **23/06/05 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

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

### **23/06/06 Matters Arising (omitting those for which an Agenda heading follows):**

- **Love Marston, Love Life Stand** : SD informed the council that the stall went well; several people talked to those on the stand.
- **Acceptance of Office Reminder**: The Clerk reminded all present that by signing of the acceptance of office meant they were all agreeing to abide by the Code of Conduct and that they are supporting the Civility & Respect Pledge.
- **Mailbox on the Oxford Road**: The Clerk informed the council that Royal Mail had replied to his email asking when it was going to be fixed. The response was that if a repair was not possible in the next few weeks, then a replacement would be needed which can take up to 25 weeks. It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk contact Royal Mail again, stating that a 25-week delay was not acceptable.

### **23/06/07 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. The newly installed 'NO DOGS' sign in the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground had been ripped down and the gate mechanism on one of the self-closing gates had been completely removed. Also, the zip wire had broken.

### **23/06/08 Planning:**

**Applications considered between meetings: NONE.**

#### **Decisions:**

23/00701 – 6 Harlow Way – APPROVED  
23/00144 – 73 Cherwell Drive - APPROVED  
23/00087 – 86 Arlington Drive - APPROVED  
22/03014 – 3 Ewin Close - APPROVED  
22/02984 – 142 Oxford Road - APPROVED

#### **Awaiting Decisions:**

20/02457/DEL – Willow Barn, Oxford Road  
21/03294/FUL – 56 Marsh Lane  
22/00960/FUL – 21 Haynes Road  
22/01801/FUL – 10 Nicholas Avenue  
22/02983/FUL – 4 Haynes Road

22/03049/FUL – Land North of Bayswater Brook  
 23/00549/FUL – 60 Cherwell Drive  
 23/00607/FUL – Court Place Farm Pavilion, Marsh Lane  
 23/00795/FUL – 31 Beechey Avenue  
 23/00956/FUL – 45 Arlington Drive

**Applications to be decided:**

- **Land North of Bayswater Brook:** It was **RESOLVED** to send PW draft response in Appendix A.
- **23/01076/FUL – 71 Cherwell Drive** - Demolition of existing garage. Formation of part single, part two storey side and rear extension and front porch. Alterations to rear extension roof and insertion of 2no. rooflights. Removal of 1no. door, 1no. window and insertion of 1no. window to rear elevation. Alteration to fenestration – **NO OBJECTIONS.**
- **Update on Land West of Mill Lane and Hill View Farm:** No further information received.

**23/06/09 Finance:** Bank balance as at 30/05/2023 –

Unity Trust Account £31,469.46 (incl. CIL Money) £27,272.56    Petty Cash £73.79  
 Newbury Building Society A/c £82,636.07,  
 Skipton Building Society A/c £10,585.37.

The following accounts to be paid:	£ Incl. VAT
Clerk's Pay Including Expenses, Pension, etc. – May 2023	
BGG (March & April Grass Cutting & Litter Picking)	468.00
Clerk & Councils Direct (Annual Subscription)	14.00
Castle Water (Cemetery Water Use)	28.66
Mr D. Ward (Mortimer Hall Parking Area Cycle Racks)	2,815.00
Wild Oxfordshire (Annual Membership)	35.00
Mr Wiggins (Burial Plot Refund)	125.00
Ms Savage (Burial Plot Refund)	500.00
BT (Clerk's Office Phone)	161.26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,220.49</b>
<b>Petty Cash Expenditure:</b>	
<b>Amazon (Sweets for Love Marston, Love Life Stand)</b>	<b>27.96</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>None.</b>

- It was **RESOLVED** to accept these accounts.
- It was **RESOLVED** that, as the account is instant access, to transfer £20,000 into the Skipton Building Society to capitalise on interest.
- It was **RESOLVED** for the Chairman, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer to sign the AGAR ready for submission to the external audit.

**23/06/10 Pavilion, Recreation Grounds & Cemetery:**

- It was **RESOLVED** that the Pavilion, Recreation Grounds, Allotments & Cemetery Committee look at additional picnic tables in the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground at its meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**23/06/11 Street lighting around Bradlands, Mill Lane:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Pavilion, Recreation Grounds, Allotments & Cemetery Committee look at the need for more streetlights at its meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**23/06/12 Clerk's Report:**

The Clerk asked if there were any questions on the report which was sent out with the agenda. Items in red are completed, in blue are new items.

After some discussion it was **RESOLVED:**

- DH would chase up Salford Road resident who was willing to have noticeboard on wall,
- The Clerk would investigate planning permission for noticeboard on railings by the Orchard Triangle,
- Email the Oxfordshire County Council and City Council giving them notice the parish council intended to install noticeboards in the bus shelter on the Elsfield Road.
- All would be same design as those already on the outside of the Mortimer Hall.

**23/06/13 Report from Members:** Nothing to report as no organisations had a meeting since the last council meeting.

**23/06/14 43rd Scout Group: Lease Renewal.**

**23/06/15 Group of people survey on a Community Centre:**

**23/06/16 Items from the Parishioners Annual Meeting:**

- **Cemetery/Paddock Mowing Regime:** It was **RESOLVED** this would be discussed at the June Pavilion, Recreation Grounds, Allotments & Cemetery Committee meeting.
- **Reactive Speed sign(s) along Oxford Road, through the village, to encourage drivers to slow down:** It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk would contact Oxfordshire County Council regarding this.
- **CCTV to properly manage speeding traffic through the village:**
- **Parking on Elsfield Road: could double yellow lines be extended the length of the Elsfield Road:** It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk would contact the Oxfordshire County Council regarding this.
- **Club Car Parking Space: Can the parish council provide a club car parking space. Nearest is John Garne Way:** MC advised that club car spaces tended to be on road rather than in parking areas. It was **RESOLVED** that anyone interested in this should contact MC direct.
- **Can the sign leading into the village from Elsfield Road be changed to saying 'OLD MARSTON ONLY':** It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk contact the Oxfordshire County Council.
- **Hold regular parish council surgery in the Mortimer Hall:** DH is personally organising a 'farmers market' type event at the Mortimer Hall. This will not be until later in the year so will be on the agenda nearer the time.

**23/06/17 Plus anything of an urgent nature which has come to the Clerk's attention since the agenda was set:**

- Double Yellow Lines at the end of Boult's Lane: After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to defer any decision to the July meeting.

**23/06/18 Information Sharing:**

- OALC Newsletter: Already sent.
- Correspondence.
- Rural Services Network Digest.
- DH advised that the county council will soon be putting the protective surfacing on the subway mural.

**23/06/19 Date of next meeting:**

- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 at 7pm in the Mortimer Hall.

**MEETING CLOSED: 9:20pm**

Signed: ..... Chairman

Date: .....

Please note: Minutes become CONFIRMED following resolution at the following Full Council Meeting.

## APPENDIX A

Re Planning Application P22/S4618/O – Land North of Bayswater Brook

Dear Sir/Madam,

Although the development in question lies outside the Parish boundary, it impacts heavily on Old Marston, particularly on Marsh Lane and the unofficial through-route via Old Marston village, which has itself been subject to three major planning applications for new housing in the last three years.

The main three objections to the development north of the Ring Road, which are themselves inter-connected, are as follows:

1. The impact on traffic into the City from Marston Flyover has been underestimated.
2. The density of housing and lack of adequate infrastructure exacerbates the problem.
3. The loss of Green Belt, at a time when we should be paying urgent attention to Climate Change, needs further examination.

The Parish Council has, on numerous occasions, drawn the attention of planners to the build up of traffic from the Ring Road and over Marston Flyover at certain times. So dense is it on weekday mornings that there is often a tail back on to the Ring Road itself creating a danger for existing traffic on the Ring Road travelling in an easterly direction. The build up of cars between 7 and 9am along Marsh Lane encourages many drivers to cut through the village which should be 'Access only'. Vehicles are regularly seen mounting the narrow pavements along Oxford Road endangering pedestrians, particularly those making their way to the local schools, of which there are many. Now, with the expectation of more cars from new housing developments along Mill Lane and Marston Paddock, the parish is facing a serious congestion problem which can only be made worse by further traffic from the development north of the Ring Road. Elms Drive can be affected too, by rat-running. The suggestion that traffic lights close to the flyover would be helpful in managing the flow of traffic seems fanciful when you consider the volume of traffic.

While the Parish Council appreciates the need for more affordable homes, this should not be at the price of the safety and nuisance caused to the residents in Old Marston, many of whom already complain about the traffic at peak times, the damage to their cars parked along Oxford Road, and the pollution vehicles cause. The transport assessment, in our view, does not adequately take into account these congestion and safety issues, not only along Oxford Road but also at school drop-off on Raymund Road, and ignores the existing impact of additional housing in the parish. The assessment points to a "challenging" set of circumstances and accepts that there is a rat-run through the village, despite it being 'Access Only', but offers no solutions. As a Parish Council we have lobbied our own City Councillors

(unsuccessfully) to meet with representatives from the County who are responsible for highways to discuss our concerns but have met with resistance and complacency over what is already a serious problem in Marston.

While the proposals do address the need for improving bicycle access to the city, the assumption made that the majority of householders will either not possess a car or find other means to travel, for example to the schools nearby, must be questioned. Even if the number of cars, vans and lorries is reduced, *any* increase will add to a pre-existing problem which is not going to go away over the next ten years. The density of housing alone will inevitably make the issue worse and while cycle lanes within the development may be adequate, they are conspicuously absent within the village with its narrow roads and narrower pavements.

Finally, while acknowledging the need for additional housing, surely space needs to be sought on brown field sites rather than green field sites. A modest incursion into green fields may be necessary, but not the wholesale destruction of green field sites beyond the Ring Road.

It is the wish of the residents of Old Marston, represented by their Parish Council, that these plans be re-examined in the areas found wanting, notably in terms of traffic and congestion and the impact beyond land north of the brook be looked at in more detail.

Yours sincerely