

## Minutes of Old Marston Parish Council Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009

### Present:-

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

### Requests from Members of the Public to Speak

None

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Mr Nils Bartleet.

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

#### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Maureen Christian's name was incorrectly spelt and the amount paid to Duncan Hatfield

was incorrect. 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:

RE: 69 Cherwell Drive. MC and AK – meeting and discussing with them to try and find another meeting place for the Sikh community.

RE: Tesco – due to be discussed at the April NEAC meeting.

Jessops Close – the Chairman has visited the site. We will be writing to them.

GC reported yet more graffiti has appeared on the subway, which she has reported for

action

#### **4. Correspondence (Letters/Emails)**

DH has transferred computers.

Flytipping has been removed from Rippington Drive.

TVP looking for people to be rewarded, if the Parish Council would like to nominate an officer.

Orange have confirmed that the current Clerk's contract will end on the 14<sup>th</sup> March.

The bank account remains ongoing. The Clerk to chase.

#### **5. Planning**

Planning

Applications considered between meetings:

None.

Applications considered at meeting

25 Mortimer Drive – porch and rear extension. Raised the issue of the 45 degree angle, but otherwise no objections.

46 Arlington Drive – installation of a box dormer at rear. No comments.

1 Nicholas Avenue – 2 bedroom house on end of 1 Nicholas Avenue. Requested this be called in.

Decisions

38 Oxford Road – Refused.

The Clerk has received a copy of the application for the pavilion in Boults Lane and this will be held with the parish records pending notification via usual channels.

#### **6. Boults Lane Development Project**

Arranged a viewing of the plans on Saturday morning (7<sup>th</sup> March) between 10:00am and 12:00. The Chairman has notified residents, if anyone wants to attend they will be welcome.

#### **7. Recreation Grounds**

The sub-committee met last night and started to set up a Friend's group, in order to attract funding. A copy to be passed to all parish councillors. Suggested the constitution is amended so that the play areas are named (Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground and Boults Lane Recreation Ground). Confirmed Public Liability insurance and auditing functions are covered by the parish council

DH commented that the play areas as they are so dark at night might be encouraging

anti-social behavior, and lighting the area more may be a deterrent. The Chairman recommended the sub committee include this in their plans. WC noted that the police used to fund installation of shelters, and this may also be worth pursuing

The Chairman confirmed Total Turf will be coming on site within the next couple of weeks to start the initial survey.

Copy of the quotation for the feasibility report has been accepted.

Philspace are proceeding the order re the container.

Jessops Close - ongoing

Awaiting quote from Denis Ward regarding the removal of the heap of soil.

Clerk investigating alternatives to RoSPA

## **8. Finance**

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

The following accounts were paid:

Oxford City Council - Planning Fees for Pavilion - £2412.00

D.Ward - Work to recreation grounds - £570.00

Royal Mail - Redirection of postage - £16.15

Thames Water - Burial ground - £9.63

Victor Brown - Balance of fee and additional meetings and amendments to plan - £990.76

Joshua Horgan - Printing - £28.75

OALC - Training sessions (x 2) - £80.00

Lyreco - Stationary - £56.68

Mr Woodley - Repairs to fence on recreation ground and burial grounds - £472.00

Discussed the letter regarding the current Clerk's gratuity. Discussions took place.

The Chairman commented the Clerk has given 50 years of his life to the Parish Council, and the sum being discussed spread over the Clerk's career at the Parish Council is actually a very small amount if worked out per year, equivalent to less a pound a week for each year worked. The Council unanimously agreed to pay the Clerk the gratuity. RJ commented how grateful the parish was, particularly when he first started work, when the parish was undergoing changes and how his knowledge was invaluable.

The Clerk reported that functions (Roy's party, and immediately following the March meeting) need to be funded by extending the Chairman's allowance. Accepted

The Clerk reported that the government published a pamphlet to minor parish councils, warning avoiding double-charging. The Clerk has been in protracted discussions with the City Council – going on for years – including issues such as mowing in the recreation grounds. The City Council have now accepted this, which means that the precept can be lower, without any loss of service. This is approximately £7,000. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk will meet with the City over the next few weeks to confirm how this will work in the future

## **9. Burial Ground**

The Preservation Trust have acknowledged there is a problem regarding the maintenance of the ditch. The Preservation Trust have agreed to have a meeting on site regarding the issue, and will discuss the issue.

No other issues to report. PC recorded thanks for the mending of the fence.

## **10. Highways**

RJ reported the footpath in Church Lane, the pavement is rough and deteriorating. Requested this is raised again. The Clerk to write.

Another motorcyclist has complained about the slip road from Old Marston Village joining the dual carriageway as a rough patch has got worse, and is dangerous. The Clerk to write to the County Council.

AJ reported that he is chasing the issue regarding the traffic calming scheme through the village.

AT reported that a new tree has been planted in Salford Road outside the shops and look very nice.

GC asked whether we would be invited to participate in the current consultation on the 20mph speed limitations. AK to send through information to be distributed.

The bollard which has been knocked down in the village has not yet been replaced. KS to chase.

#### **11. North East Area Committee**

Nothing affecting the Parish.

KS to chase the Chairman receiving paperwork

#### **12. Parish Council Bulletin**

Work to start in April

#### **13. Allotments**

Nothing to report. 30 people have paid subs.

The Clerk, the Allotment Association and the Electricity company have met and agreed the location of the cable satisfactorily. Mr Agent was very pleased

#### **14. Website**

Continues to get a lot of visits – in excess of 2,500 per month. Many thanks to Duncan for his work.

#### **15. Any Other Business**

DH reminded councillors of the Oxclean event, at Mortimer Hall at 10:00.

Job Description and Contract of Employment for new Parish Council Clerk. The Parish Council agreed to ratify this.

Appointments to external Committees.

NEAC – NB first. WC first reserve. AT second reserve.

Charities trust – 2 trustees serving 4 years – CH (2011) and GC was due in 2008. GC confirmed she would continue until 2012

Mortimer Hall – CH

Community Governor – CH

OXS RAD – CH

Marston Saints – CH, GC, DH, and the Clerk as required

Sub-Committee for play areas – DH, GC, RJ.

The meeting wished to record sincere thanks to the Clerk for his fifty years of extremely loyal service.

#### **16. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at Mortimer Hall at 7:30pm. Will discuss the Parish Council  
AGM