

Minutes of Old Marston Parish Council Meeting 1st March 2011

Present:-

Charlie Haynes, Chairman (CH)
 Duncan Hatfield, Vice-Chairman (DH)
 Nils Bartleet (NB)
 Peter Cox (PC)
 Roy Jones (RJ)
 Wally Cox (WC)
 Barrie Lewis (BL)
 Patricia Hall (PH)
 Peter Sarac (PS)
 Angie Tiwari (AT)
 Michael Cadd (MC)
 Gill Cox (GC)

Kate Stratford, Clerk (KS)
 Councillor Mary Clarkson (MRC)

1	Requests from Members of the Public to Speak None.	ACTION
2	Apologies for Absence None received.	
3	Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true and correct record with no additions or corrections other than the word “none” removed from the first line of item one.	
4	Matters Arising from Minutes Omitting Those For Which an Agenda Heading Follows: None.	
5	Correspondence (Letters/Emails) See Appendix A Clerk has written to Brian Spragg. Note response. OCC invitation to meeting between city council and parishes on 28 th February 2011 – attended by RJ/CH. Reported it was a good meeting. RJ reported that he had asked about plans for new garden waste collection arrangements – there will be bins available to buy for £35 or bags available at £3 per bag. More details will be released by OCC in due course. County snow guide –sent out to all. Local Government Boundary Commission – more information. Clerk to pass on to all PCllrs for their consideration and comment. This offers an invaluable opportunity. County – sent a survey re recreation grounds, but the link did not work. Sue Ryder – appeal for chairs. BH advised that the Localism Bill is still at committee stage. IMI – offering H&S inspections and cleaning of memorials. NALC – networking lunches. NAG – consultation forms. Big Society fund. Ox County Co – consultation on the redesign of CYP&F services.	KS ALL

Old Marston Library – is there a Good Neighbour Scheme in OM to assist with taking books to a reader who can not visit the library. PCllr RJ suggested the library contacts the church, who may be able to help. KS to advise.
OCC Planning – advising of next Development Management User Group meeting on 11th May at 10:00am if any parish councillor wishes to attend.
Places available at Emergency Planning Day on 9th March.
Journal of Local Planning – offering to ‘de-code’ the Localism Bill, but would need to subscribe.
IAC – offering Audit services – confirmed happy with current arrangements.

ACTION

KS

6 Planning

Applications to be decided:-

17 Beechey Avenue – Single storey rear extension and first floor rear extension – no objection as long as neighbours consulted.
40 Arlington Drive – Single storey side and rear extensions to include garage, utility, enlarged kitchen and lounge – no objection as long as neighbours consulted.

Applications considered between meetings:-

None.

Decisions

26-28 Oxford Road – approved.
30 Old Marston Road – approved.

Awaiting Decisions

- 2 Cotswold Crescent – still awaited.
- 2 Mortimer Drive – still awaited.
- Friar going to appeal on 29th March 2011.
- 32 Ashlong Road – going to appeal.
- 1 Broughton Close

Clerk has queried whether 88 Oxford Road has or requires planning consent for works currently being carried out – awaiting response.

Note letter from Planning regarding planning changes to HMOs.

7 Boults Lane Development Project

- Marston Saints have requested a presentation evening in late June – Clerk wrote agreeing to event.

Marston Saints and Chairman have given an interview to the local media.

CH reported on the last meeting with MS. Due to the funding situation, the FA are not prepared to fund the building to the current spec, so a “Plan B” is in development, which still should meet the needs of the club, and hopefully will not require a separate planning consent application. Next meeting due on 3rd March at 12:00. PCllr GC commented this was short notice. PCllr WC commented that it would have saved time to have had a lesser building initially. CH noted that the original plan for the building would have been preferable for all.

CH noted the list of things the FA requires, including total project cost, amount of secured and unsecured funding, length of lease (currently 21 years, although when a new clubhouse is built, a new lease will need to be negotiated), specific planning and non-planning issues, length of build, design of scheme, etc.

8 Recreation Grounds

- PCllrs WC/GC to confirm insurance arrangements regarding new clock – confirmed added at no cost.
- PCllr DH to report on informal meeting re fete held on 25th February – approx 4 people in attendance. Agreed to plan something for next year (2012). Agreed they will link in with all local groups and will contact them to see if they are interested in joining in with this. A further meeting will be held towards the end of April/beginning of May.

A number of letters received from St Joseph's school criticising Mortimer Hall Rec Ground. The Clerk has responded after consulting with Chairman and FoOMPA. MS have contacted MRC regarding the ditch. OCC have agreed to clear culvert, which will be done on 2nd March. Thanks to MRC for organising.

PCllr RJ reported he had received two complaints regarding branches on trees on entrance to Mortimer Hall Rec Ground. CH advised one of these trees was dead and scheduled for removal, but Clerk to contact DW and ask him to prune the other as required.

KS

9 Finance

- Typographical errors in minutes – to be corrected and signed.
- Bank balance as at 23rd February 2011 – current account £20,970.27; deposit account £173,444.42.

KS

The following accounts to be paid:

		£ incl VAT
Duncan Hatfield	Expenses around computer	180.00
Richard James	Audit and expenses	183.00
Thames Water	Burial Ground 16/11 – 5/2	8.48
Kate Stratford	Printer cartridges for CH	144.97
Kate Stratford	Reimbursement for phone February 2011	26.67
HMRC	Tax and National Insurance for February 2011	39.20
Oxfordshire County Council	Pension for Clerk February 2011	93.33
Kate Stratford	Salary for February 2011	555.29
Kate Stratford	Heating and electric weeks 47 – 49 (Thur 3 rd Feb – Weds 24 th Feb) @ £3 per week	15.00
OCC	Grounds Maintenance	1,161.54

Oxford Green Belt Network	Annual subscription	15.00	ACTION
Rogers Family	Return of flowers deposit.	50.00	
Wakefield Family	Return of flowers deposit.	50.00	

The following income has been received:

		£ incl VAT
BT Openreach	Wayleave payment	8.82

Richard James has completed the half-yearly audit and provided report and invoice. Oxford Green Belt Network – annual subscription of £15.00 is due on 1st April – to be paid. **KS**

OCC have confirmed that council tax arrangements will be as last year.

Webroot software – due to expire at end of March – to be renewed. **KS**

10 Burial Ground

- Highworth contacted regarding missing base to Handley memorial – they have provided photographic evidence that there was never a base.
- Tony Hayward asked to top up Collins, Handley and Humphries graves urgently – done.
- Roger flowers – grave has been cleared.
- Wakefield flowers – grave has been cleared bar for a planted pot, but this looks to be being managed.

Tony Hayward asked to top up Rogers and Wakefield graves – done.

Rogers family have emailed to thank Clerk for help and assistance.

Met with Shaun Gibson of OCC Parks to discuss possible planting at land beyond burial ground. He recommended planting willow, poplar, elder or river birch as short/medium term solutions, and recommended the land be pegged with willow or poplar. Planting needs to take place between October and March.

Moles at the burial ground – TPC contacted.

Angela Belgrove enquired about memorial for Ellen Merriman – responded.

11 Highways

- County still to complete parking restriction work. Latest deadline for completion is 11th February 2011. The work was not carried out. County have now said they have money available to do some resurfacing work, and roads awaiting parking restriction are included in that scheme which will be completed before 31st March 2011. The have assured the Clerk, line painting shall swiftly follow the resurfacing. Note letter from OCC – details in correspondence file. Signs have gone up saying work will be done between 14th and 25th March. Letter to KM will be sent if this work is not completed to deadline. **KS**
- PCllr RJ to raise enforcement of speed on approach to the A40 – reported that Sergeant Wynn will re-organise the community officers to that they can be there and monitor.

•	<p>County have requested access via Back Lane Gate to carry out works to footpath. First stage of work carried out 18/19 February and new lock installed on Back Lane Gate. These works have really opened up Back Lane, and the path is already drier than it was originally. PCllr RJ reported residents of Barns Hay had requested who has access to keys. To advise them the Clerk should be contacted in the first instance, and the Chairman also holds a key.</p>	ACTION
	<p>PCllr BL advised of damage to grass verge by 88 Oxford Road – Clerk advised Highway team, who had already taken action – advised BL.</p>	RJ
	<p>CH chasing County over promised works to bus stops.</p>	
	<p>Flyposting has been removed. The PC will replace the Clerk’s kitchen scissors which got broken during removal and will provide a better tool to remove the plastic tags.</p>	CH/KS
	<p>The new Highways Team has offered to be contacted to investigate any concerns the parish may have with regards to any highways maintenance issue. Clerk to invite them to next meeting.</p>	KS
	<p>Mark Wallace of Ashlong Road contacted the PC with issues regarding parking/residents parking. See correspondence file. MRC noted that the county has announced a moratorium on parking restrictions due to funding costs, but recommended that continue to raise issues with them, because at some point the moratorium will be lifted and we may then be closer to the front of the queue. Suggested invite them to a meeting.</p>	KS
	<p>AT: Current issue with cars parked everywhere. CH noted that when the road markings go down this should have an impact.</p>	
	<p>Tree in Salford Road looks hollow – Clerk to report to Parks.</p>	KS
	<p>NB commented that county is currently being very slow to respond and react, with unacceptable delays, which are not explained or apologised for. CH suggested we invite them to a meeting and raise these issues. NB should attend this meeting.</p>	KS
12	North East Area Committee	
	<p>NEAC was cancelled for February.</p>	
	<p>OCC has issued a consultation form. Copies provided to PCllrs WC and NB – Clerk to contact them in a few days for their view of how this should be completed. CH will also comment.</p>	WC/NB/ CH/KS
13	Parish Council Bulletin	
	<p>Next issue is pending, but PCllr DH needs help. Any PCllr who can help, please contact DH in order that this can be completed and distributed.</p>	ALL
14	Allotments	
	<p>Letter sent to Mr Manson. No reply received as yet.</p>	
15	Website	
	<p>PCllr DH noted that the website is currently receiving more hits than it has ever had. He believes this is due to people looking at information regarding the library. He has been sent pictures of the event at the library on 11th February, which will be uploaded.</p>	
	<p>Many thanks to DH for running the website.</p>	

16 Proposed Closure of Old Marston Library

ACTION

- People continuing to come forward and be added to the database.
- CC has been asked to give a full breakdown of expenses.
- Letter sent to Keith Mitchell – awaiting response.

SOML group held meeting with portfolio holder on 8th February. PCllr NB attended.

Event held on 11th February – local author, Korky Paul in attendance. Reported in the Oxford Mail.

Dexter Drown spoke at the budget meeting.

County have contacted us regarding Big Society Funding – email in correspondence file.

Geoff Hale is organising a Marston Book Festival on 5th March.

See notes from SOML group meeting on 22nd February – in correspondence file.

SOML group is looking for volunteers to carry out a survey of the library w/c 7th March, if any PCllrs would like to help – details in correspondence file.

Would any PCllrs know of or want to assist with a Good Neighbour Scheme for a resident who is unable to visit the library? Details in correspondence file. PCllr RJ suggested they try the church, as they may be able to help. Clerk to advise. Also to find out where the resident lives, as that may make a difference. **KS**

PCllr AT noted that the budget meeting was a waste of time. She provided copy of the agenda and budget details.

17 Any Other Business

- Risk Assessment of Clerk's office – carried out but awaiting report. Report has been lost, so a further RA will need to be done. PCllr DH to arrange and complete. **DH**

Clerk advised she was no longer a parent governor at St Nicholas School (her term came to an end). CH requested she become a community governor when there is next a vacancy. Clerk has already made this request of the school. There are currently no vacancies, but as soon as one becomes available it is the school's intention to offer it to the Clerk.

Discussed Mortimer Hall (discussed at last meeting). PC has had correspondence with CC, and he confirmed that Mortimer Hall are not able to offer the PC the facilities currently needed. CH proposed the PC needs a bigger hall on an occasional basis and to be able to have a space which can be used for evening meetings, when required. CH has spoken to the church hall, and they are able to offer the PC a large room on the last Tuesday of every month (requires meetings to change from first to last Tuesday each month), and can offer space during the day or evening. CH proposed the meeting is moved to the church hall. RJ seconded. Those in favour – 8, those against – 3 and 1 abstention. Resolved to move to the last Tuesday of each month, starting on 29th March. PCllr NB asked about costs. CH confirmed similar to what paying now. Clerk to write to CC. PCllr WC noted that there is less parking at the church hall. **KS**

PCllr RJ advised that the footpath in Rippington Drive had been being used by youths carrying out anti-social behaviour. He had reported to the NAG and Sergeant Wynn had agreed to monitor with the PCSOs.

There had been complaints about youths in Rippington Drive. These had been caught and the police had had words with them and their parents.

PClIr DH reminded PClIrs of the Oxclean event on Saturday 5th March at 10.00am at Mortimer Hall. This was the fourth year this had been run. All welcome to attend.

ACTION
ALL

Clerk to write to RD on behalf of the PC wishing him a speedy recovery.

KS

18 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 29th March 2011 at Church Hall at 7:30pm