

Minutes Old Marston Parish Council Tuesday 7th November 2006

Present

Vice-Chairman: John Batey
Duncan Hatfield
Nils Bartleet
Dr Graham Swift
Peter Cox
Wally Cox
Gill Cox
Michael Cadd
Hughie Deam
Angie Tiwari
John McGinn
Oxford City Councillor Carolyn van Zyl
Clerk: LeRoy Garner

Apologies: Chairman: Charlie Haynes

Declaration of Interests

- The Vice-Chairman reminded councillors to declare any interests they might have that might have a bearing on any items being discussed.
- The Clerk advised caution when discussing issues outside a Council meeting that were subject to discussion at a later meeting
- Nils Bartleet pointed out that councillors may not always be aware of the implications of some agenda items, unlike at district or county council level, especially in relation to planning issues.
- The Vice-Chairman stressed the importance of declaring 'prejudicial' interests

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of 03rd October 2006 were read and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting with the following amendments:

Gill Cox enquired about the pavement along Cavendish Drive being completed.

Other Matters Arising

- The Clerk requested that the noticeboards outside Mortimer Hall and the Jack Russell be replaced to accommodate the larger minutes, agendas and public notices.
- The large hall in Mortimer Hall is leased to the Red Cross every Tuesday evening and would only be available to the Council for Annual Meetings.
- Building work has now started on the land between three and thirteen Cavendish Drive
- Peter Cox has done the strimming work in Boults Lane recreational ground
- Elsfield Road path needs surfacing. The Clerk will make further enquiries
- Other parish councils meet on the same night but it is hoped that they will discuss our proposal to work together to present a united front with regards to planning issues
- There has been no response from the Chief Planning Officer at Oxford City Council with regards to removing or pollarding trees that have been deemed to be a danger to members of the public. The Clerk has sent a letter requesting urgent action.
- Two trees have been removed from Elsfield Road by the Highways Agency
- There are strict rules on felling the trees that are in a Conservation area
- The Tree Officer, Mr Leyland, acknowledged that he has received the second letter sent by the Clerk
- The Chief Executive Officer has stated that she has not received correspondence sent by the Clerk
- City Councillor Carolyn Van Zyl has agreed to take the matter up with the Chief Planning Officer
- The Council agreed to pay the contractor for work that has already been done.

Minutes Secretary

- A local resident has expressed interest in the post of Minute Secretary.

- The Minutes Secretary will be self-employed. The applicant will be responsible for paying their own income tax and national insurance contributions. The applicant will need to provide suitable references.
- A job description previously circulated was approved. The Vice-Chair will proceed with the application process.
- It is hoped to appoint someone in time for the December meeting.

C.A.N.A.C.T.

- Steve Kilsby of the Crime and Nuisance Action Team attended the meeting to explain his role as chairman of the service responsible for tackling anti-social behaviour in the community
- There is a 24 hour helpline to report anti-social behaviour
- The outcome of an investigation does not always lead to an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (A.S.B.O.)
- Oxford has an above average level of ASBOs as they are rigorously applied.
- Families are given support prior to an eviction.
- Intervention is forcefully applied and is successful until it is withdrawn
- C.A.N.A.C.T. is an inter-agency team that includes a seconded policeman and a solicitor
- The work is backed up by a portfolio of closed circuit television images
- The local street wardens come under their jurisdiction. They will raise issues with the city council and will provide a link with the local community
- C.A.N.A.C.T. provides a mediation service and will support witnesses and persons affected by anti-social behaviour
- Injunctions are often obtained within hours and ASBOs applied for and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts are signed
- Various sports events are held in order to engage offenders and potential offenders
- C.A.N.A.C.T. is an agency of the city council and helps to fulfil it's legal requirement to consider ASBOs
- There are good working relationships with the police, social services and the Youth Offending Team. There is limited contact with secondary schools as many are semi-autonomous and self-governing and need to be approached individually in order to tackle truancy

Legislation

The government is in the process of passing legislation that will devolve more power and responsibilities to parish councils. This is more likely to affect town councils rather than the smaller parish councils

Planning

15 Oxford Road: City Council have stated that it will be known as New Grange Court. They did not consult the Parish Council over the naming of the development. The Clerk will write to the Planning Officer on behalf of the Council to complain. Councillor Carolyn Van Zyl will also speak to the Planning Officer in relation to this issue.

7 Fairfax Avenue: there is a proposal to build a two storey extension at the rear of the property. There is no information on current or future use of the property. Refusal recommended as it is out-of-character for the area and is too large for the site. It will limit the amount of natural light for the neighbouring properties.

3 Cotswold Crescent: the proposed extension appears extremely large and could be altered so that off-street parking can continue, as there is little off-street parking in this Crescent.

Court Place Farm, Marsh Lane: A new proposal has been presented. Now six netball courts in the same area, also changes to parking.

3 to 13 Cavendish Drive: Planning permission was granted to the developer five years ago. The builders fenced off the land and started to prepare the foundations of the development two days before the planning permission was due to expire. A letter from thirty-eight years ago when the estate was built showed that the land was designated as common land. According to the deeds held by the Land Registry, the occupants of twenty-seven houses have the right to park on the land. If the land has been in continual use by the same person for more than forty years then they can claim the right to continue. If the land has been fenced off for more than twelve years in another person's interest then they can claim Adverse Possession.

Boults Lane Development Project

The grant application for drainage work is expected to be completed by February 2007. Planning permission for the pavilion is still awaited.

Maintenance Work

Denis Ward of Hill View Farm has been asked complete a number of maintenance tasks in Old Marston. These include trimming hedges, cutting back weeds and clearing paths. (see report) Denis Ward has agreed to do the work for £3525.00. Councillors feel that this is a good price and agreed to ask him to do the work.

The gate to the small recreational area by St Nicholas school is broken and the Council decided that it should be removed as soon as possible. Nils Bartlett raised the possibility that it could be used by travellers. This is unlikely due to the bollards near the entrance.

Burial Ground

New deeds have been drawn up for the burial ground and will be produced by Parchment for £35.84. The new fees have been approved by the council and a summary will be published in the Marston Times and on the noticeboard.

Highways

Gill Cox had sent an email to Highways Dept. asking whether the pavement along Oxford Road, opposite Mortimer Hall will be widened. This is not happening with the traffic calming. This covers an eight metre section of the path. The original suggestion was to re-align the road and widen the footpath, but the reply stated that this would not be done.

North East Area Committee

Marston Saints Football Club have applied for and been granted a sum of £66,446.35 towards renovating the ground adjoining Marsh Lane and Horseman Close. The land itself is the property of Oxford City Council.

Bulletin

No further news

Grant Applications

Marston Saints Football Club will be asked to recognise Old Marston Parish Council on correspondence etc. in view of support/grants they receive from the Council.

The Allotment Association will cultivate plots for new members and the £100 grant applied for will go towards this. This was approved.

There has been no grant application received from Oxrad. Although they have informed the council that they have not received an application form.

Any Other Business

The Council agreed to allocate a sum of £50.00 to the Chairman each year to cover his out-of-pocket expenses, such as the numerous phone calls etc. he makes on behalf of the Council.

John McGinn was appointed as Council's representative on Oxrad's committee for one year. Their next meeting is 14th January 2007.

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday 5th December 2006

Time: 19:30