

Minutes of Old Marston Parish Council Meeting 6th November 2007

Present:-

Charlie Haynes, Chairman (CH)
Wally Cox, Vice Chairman (WC)
Duncan Hatfield (DH)
Michael Cadd (MC)
Nils Bartleet (NB)
Hugh Deam (HD)
Angie Tiwari (AT)
Peter Cox (PC)
Graham Swift (GS)

Cllr Mary Clarkson
Cllr Caroline van-Zyl
Mr LeRoy Garner, Clerk (LG)
Mrs K Stratford, Minutes Secretary (KS)

1. Requests from Members of the Public to Speak

The Chairman had received one request, to be dealt with under Planning.

2. Apologies for Absence

Mr Roy Jones, Mr John McGinn, Mrs Gill Cox, Cllr Altaf Khan

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

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September 2007 were confirmed although minor amendments made were not circulated in time for the meeting and it is the correct version that needs to be signed in the minute book.

The Chairman was authorised to sign off the correct version of the minutes.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

Under 'Any Other Business' – Gill Cox calling a meeting of the sub committee re play equipment very soon. GC

5. Correspondence

Oxfordshire County Council Strategy and Performance Children and Young People – consultation looking at primary schools. Any observations from Councillors or the Council to be passed to the Clerk for submission by 12/12.

County Bus Service meeting on 20/11. ALL

Oxford Association of Local Councils meeting due 26/11. Members welcome to attend.

The Clerk had written to Thames Water to request a map of rivers in the parish. Thames Water have sent a very detailed map/survey to the Clerk.

6. Planning

Applications determined between meetings

Mortimer Drive, Garden of 112 Oxford Road erection of new dwelling

A similar application was submitted in March, the present application is very similar and should also be refused. Small open spaces between buildings are a feature of the estate that should be preserved in continuance of good planning.

New house, Boult's Lane, R/o 47 & 49 Oxford Road

The Oxford Road cottages will be largely obscured from Boult's Lane. That is regrettable from the viewpoint of the Conservation Area where the owner of a nearby cottage was required to demolish a dormer as it was considered too large, a smaller one was added. The general appearance of the area is an open village scene, now preserved but now under threat of being ruined by a new house shoehorned into inadequate space.

Parking for the proposed property will mean turning into an extremely narrow road with scant visibility, probably in reverse, on a narrow road that carries allotment and football traffic.

The proposed Oxford Road parking spaces are on a sharp bend where visibility will be inadequate for the speed and volume of vehicles in spite of the gains made by traffic calming. Traffic engineer's figures show a reduction to 27 MPH that is still too fast for that location. Strong objections to this proposal.

Di Shaw of 55 Oxford Road spoke to acknowledge the care taken by applicants, but noted the impact on the residents. Development oversized for plot. Important issue of access. Changes nature of a historic area, within a conservation area. It is also overcrowded and noted loss of light and view.

CH declared an interest.

69 Cherwell Drive – Use of property as Sikh Temple with a communal room

30 people are expected to attend worship on Sundays between 11.30 and 2.30 p.m. A proposed extension will provide a Centre that will be open Mondays to Saturdays inclusive from 7 p.m. having a direct connection to the Temple.

There is an unsubstantiated claim that access will be by shared transport or service buses yet the front garden "will accommodate 6 vehicles"

This proposal is totally alien to a residential area such as this. At present Old Marston is being assessed for the introduction of Resident's parking that will probably restrict parking on Cherwell Drive. Serious objections please refuse the conversion and extension.

Decisions

15 Mill Lane – Approved.

DH has investigated and found in a Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill for royal assent this autumn, giving the local authority power to create, devolve or abolish Parish Councils.

Complaint re "garden shed" erection at 2 Mortimer Drive. Have asked enforcement officer to check.

Meeting of Green Belt Network on 19/11. Members may attend.

Noted Oxford Times article on 26/10 regarding 3 sheltered blocks in Oxford facing demolition. Cumberledge Close proposed for closure. Noted it would be a shame to close that and keep Bradlands, as Cumerledge Close better set up. The Clerk has made representation to Councillor Murray to that effect. CvZ noted that Cumberledge Close needs more work to bring up to standard of better provision, and Bradlands a much bigger site which has potential to expand. Further noted Old Marston residents at top of the list to locate to Bradlands in order to keep residents in their village.

The Chairman expressed disappointment that the Parish Council had not be invited to the meeting. Councillors to pass on.

7. Recreation Grounds

The Clerk has chased White Horse Contractors.

The Chairman has got details of payments to make. Will meet with the Clerk next week to make payments and claims. LG/CH

Noted many compliments received, everybody so pleased with the work.
Ground drained well in recent rains.

The Clerk has written to Mr Leyland (tree officer) re poplar trees, but received an unsympathetic response.

Photos of recent tree falls to be put into the website, copied to the tree officer. DH

8. Burial Ground

S&R Childs have stated an objection to paying to make good the grounds after burials. Write to them and say if not prepared to pay, they will not be able to use burial ground. LG

Notice the burial ground is looking nice.

9. Highways

Noted that Directory Signs for Church being considered by the County Council. Perhaps to be amalgamated with the Old Marston sign.

Received an email from resident of Horseman Close, wants single yellow lines. Advised accordingly.

Salford Road street lights out of order. Has been raised with the County Council, but the fault is actually with an electrical cable and needs to be fixed by the contractor (Southern Electric). LG/DH

Meeting held by the Parish Council on parking went well. Good attendance (particularly because the weather that night was horrendous) with a good cross-section from the estates. Will be a further meeting at a later stage. Details already on the website, LG to provide further information to DH for inclusion. LG

10. North East Area Committee

Nothing applicable at October meeting or the next (due 20/11).

The Clerk noted item 7.1 at last meeting – football pitches. Marston not mentioned. The Clerk to write to Angel Christofoli. **HD/GC/DH**

11. Parish Council Bulletin

Discussed the frequency. Agreed that DH and GC will help HD to produce 3 times a year (proposed – WC, Seconded HD/MC, all agreed). All previous copies of bulletin on website.

12. Finance

Accounts

Paid between meetings		
C.W. Haynes	Laptop computer reimbursement	1337.15
The following accounts were paid		£
Total Pest Control	Moles	511.13
Darbys Solicitors	Legal fees re.Mortimer Hall Lease`	633.50
Acremans Aboriculture	Fallen Tree	329.00
Allianz	Computer insurance	25.98
Mrs. J. Haynes	Reimbursement for computer cartridges	49.00

The payments to members of the parish council and spouses because Dell only accept payments via credit card.

Brian Carrington to come down and go through accounts.

13. Grants

Mortimer Hall Pre-School, FOSNs, Allotment Association, Oxsrade all to be given reminders to put in grants and given until 20/11.

Therefore, decisions to be deferred to December meeting.

Oxfordshire Association for the Blind has applied for a grant, but as they can not show that money will be spent in the parish, the application will be refused.

14. Allotments

Acknowledge £5 from association and statement of accounts.

GS noted theft of some equipment from the site (not held under lock and key, but had

been tucked away).

AGM to take place 29/11.

Membership, cultivation not necessarily of highest quality, but good enthusiasm.

15. Nominations to Other Bodies

See Appendix 1. Agreed these will be reviewed at January meeting and annually thereafter.

16. Any Other Business

GS – Woodland Burial enquiry – need to location a space within parish if this is to be possible. GS to undertake some enquiries and report back Jan/Feb '08. Noted had investigated before and always had issues with drainage.

DH reported website usage up – nearly 15,000 hits last month. Keen to undertake some interviews with residents eg an older person's perspective and perhaps some younger residents too.

Many thanks go to Duncan for his excellent work.

Noted tenants had been evicted from 6 Cavendish Drive.

Noted rats causing a problem in the area. Council have been informed. Noted HMOs not being thoroughly cleaned which encourages the rats. Hopeful that more extensive licensing to be rolled out by Oxford City Council. LG

DH reported Clerk will be going live after 12/11. Print quality of these minutes should immediately improve. Email address will be clerk@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk .

Greenbarnes has provided a quote for noticeboards at a 5% discount. 3 x 8'boards to be ordered.

17. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 4th December 2007 at 7:30pm. Agenda to be agreed.

Old Marston Parish Council

Nominations to other bodies

Oxford City Council

Development Control User Group

Northeast Area Committee, Mr N Bartleet, reserve Mr W Cox, second reserve Mrs A Tiwari

St Nicholas' Primary School

A local Governor appointed by the School Governors. Mr C Haynes currently serves

Nomination Rights

Old Marston Charities Trust

Two Trustees serving for four years.

Mr C Haynes currently serves. Appointment due October 2011

Mrs G Cox currently serves. Appointment due 2008

Mortimer Hall Management Committee

Annual appointment

Mr J McGinn currently serves

Courtesy Appointments

Oxsrad Committee

Annual appointment

Mr C Haynes currently serves

Sub-committees

Marston Saints Pavilion

Joint Committee three members each

Mr C Haynes, Mrs G Cox, one vacancy plus the Clerk as required

The Chairman is ex-officio a member of all sub-committees, the Clerk will attend as requested by the Chairman.

Chairman's Domestic Items (to be omitted from public notices)

Clerk's salary being displayed. Decision from N.A.L.C. – this must be recorded on the minutes, but recommend is not displayed on the web site or on noticeboards.

Fire proof cabinet for Parish Council documents – need to obtain urgently. Clerk to obtain quotes and also investigate archiving. Information goes back to 1894.

Risk Assessment of Clerk's study or entire house? To confirm.

Job description and contracts of employment for Clerk – WC/CH to progress.

Councillors invited to adjourn to the pub after next meeting.