

Minutes of Old Marston Parish Council Meeting 3rd November 2009

Present:-

Charlie Haynes, Chairman (CH)
Wally Cox (WC)
Gill Cox (GC)
Peter Cox (PC)
Michael Cadd (MC)
Roy Jones (RJ)
Duncan Hatfield (DH)
Barrie Lewis (BL)
Councillor Mary Clarkson (MRC)
Councillor Altaf-Khan (A-K)
Kate Stratford, Clerk (KS)

1. Requests from Members of the Public to Speak

Any member of the public wishing to speak must fill in a form and pass to the Clerk.

2. Apologies for Absence

Mr G Swift (sick leave), Angie Tiwari, Hugh Deam, Nils Bartleet

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

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true and correct record.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes Omitting Those For Which an Agenda Heading Follows:

None

5. Correspondence (Letters/Emails)

See Appendix A

- NB attended the Parish Transport Representatives Meeting on 19th August 2009 and would like to report back at in December after the meeting in November.
- Gillian Wilson – wishing to erect a memorial to Ruth and Ted Busfield. KS has written to advise Ms Wilson that the PC is looking at suitable locations and will contact her again once we have suggestions for her. Proposed by DH that the PC buy and erect a clock at Mortimer Hall, perhaps with a plaque underneath, Seconded RJ, all agreed. To ask Ms Wilson if she would like to go ahead and look out for an appropriate clock.
- Library Health and Safety inspection. KS to forward to WC/GC – done.
- OCC would like a parish councillor to serve on the Standard's Committee, and have sent through an agenda for the next meeting – KS has advised city council.
- Reading Quest would like to invite the parish council (or a representative) to a celebration at St John's College on Friday November 6th from 4:00 – 5:30pm. DH to attend. KS to RSVP on his behalf – done.
- Sue Ryder Care – requesting PC makes a donation to Nettlebed Hospice. KS to respond saying no as it is outside of parish – done.

Fusion Lifestyle has invited us to contribute to consultation on Barton pool and Ferry Sports Centre.

Oxford Playing Fields Association – Newsletter Autumn 2009

OCVA – invitation to county forum.

Altaf has provided information regarding the proposed school expansion. The surrounding infrastructure was questioned as part of the process.

County Council have sent a further consultation letter re bus service consultation.

City Council has sent leaflets and flyers for targeting litter campaign.

Lord Mayor – invitation to tea as thanks for managing noticeboards. DH and RJ to attend. KS to RSVP on their behalf.

County Council have written inviting contribution to Speed Limits Formal Consultation.

OALC – do we want to meet with OALC and other PCs in the city? CH in agreement – to be arranged.

6. Planning

- Marsh Lane to Stockleys Road – upgrade and widen existing bridleway/footpath – sent no objection.
- GC to attend consultation scheme workshop on 4th November.
- Meeting in Risinghurst in November – WC to confirm details.

Applications Considered Between Meetings:-

- 2 Southcroft – application to erect porch and single storey kitchen extension and raise garage roof and utilise space. Convened meeting and sent no objection.

Applications to Be Decided:-

- 10a Cromwell Close – erection of conservatory on rear elevation – no objection
- 18 Ashlong Road – erection of two-storey rear extension and provision of one off street car parking space – no objection.
- 3 Horseshoes – demolition of single storey extension and parts of outbuilding, two storey rear and side extensions, change of use of public house to form two dwelling units with detached car port, landscaping and new boundary fences – no objection.
- MC declared an interest in the Three Horseshoes Public House application.

Decisions

- 2 Southcroft – approved.
- 44 Cherwell Drive – refused.
- 2 Mortimer Drive – approved.
- Court Place Farm – approved.

Tyco Electronics – proposed Vodafone and O2 development at the existing Vodafone base station on Marsh Lane. No objection

14 Mortimer Drive – appealed to the Secretary of State on refusal of planning permission for erection of first floor side extension.

“Mallards” application, which MRC had called this in. MRC reported that the conservation officer has had an objection, so the officer is minded to refuse it, so MRC could withdraw the call in. All agreed. KS to write to Huw Jones, Director at the County and ask why the Transport Officer had no objection to the application.

7. Boults Lane Development Project

- Meeting with the parish – date to be scheduled.
- Marston Saints have agreed to get building regulations – steering group to report back.
- The Parish Council will need to carry out a survey on the trees in the parish. CH will progress.
- Next steering group meeting – date to be arranged, and relevant people on the Steering Cttee will be advised of the date.
- KS asked OALC if the PC can raise money without using precept – responded yes, under certain circumstances. See attached. An application form is being completed.

The Oxford Mail would like to run a story on the pavilion – Mr Aldworth liaising with Ox Mail. See attached press cutting. GC commented there should have been consultation with the Parish Council before the article was written.

Clerk has asked MS for a breakdown of who uses the land this season (inside or outside parish).

8. Recreation Grounds

- Contact probation service and suggest they paint the play equipment at Boults Lane – KS has contacted the probation service and is awaiting a response.
- Amend FoOMPA constitution – to be done at FoOMPA AGM.
- Continue to monitor who uses the recreation grounds at Mortimer Hall and Boults Lane – have asked MS about this season's breakdown.
- KS to confirm when last tree survey was carried out.
- KS to chase Playground Services for one thing that was not done - done.
- KS has passed details from last meeting to FoOMPA.
- AT/RJ to report back on proposed open day. RJ reported no progress.

Kamalara Ltd proposed to carry out their verti-draining of the recreation ground – £635.00 + VAT. All agreed. KS to speak to Marston Saints and Kamalara to approve the work.

9. Finance

- Accounts sent to BDO – awaiting confirmation these are correct.
- The Chairman, Vice-chairman and Clerk and due to meet with City Council finance officer to discuss the precept on November 11th.
- Letters to those groups which received grants last year have been sent out, inviting applications for this year – it was a challenge to contact the Baby and Toddler Group.
- Richard James – met with CH/KS. Letters of engagement exchanged, signed and returned, appointment confirmed.
- Pre-school interest free loan for £7,000.00 – waiting to hear from Mortimer Hall.

The following accounts to be paid incl VAT:

- Sports Solutions GB - Completion of detailed funding review -£1,150.00
- Eamon Kelly -Works in cemetery -£5,000.00
- Kate Stratford -Postage to BDO -£4.95
- Kate Stratford -Fine for received letter unpaid (from the City Council) -£1.30
- Kate Stratford -stamps -£14.31
- Lyreco -Stationery -£29.06
- HMRC -Tax and National Insurance October 2009 -£34.02
- Oxfordshire County Council -Pension for Clerk October 2009 -£86.19
- Kate Stratford -Salary for October 2009 -£548.81
- Mr Hook -Install new bin and move noticeboards -£190.00
- Sports Solutions GB -Completion of Football Development Plan -£1380.00

- Steve Wooster -Work in Cemetery August, September and October -£480.00
- Kate Stratford -Expenses from January 2009, including phone, hourly rate Jan – March and sundry expenses -£1,013.78

The following income has been received incl VAT:

Mr and Mrs Cole - Contribution towards the grave of Mr Osbourne - £150.00

- Grant applications received from Over 50s Club, St Nicholas Bellringers, Marston Wives, OMMLAA, St Nicholas Gardening Club, OXSRAD Ltd, St John's Ambulance, FoOMPA and FOSNS. See attached sheet. Marston Times have written to say they are NOT applying for a grant, the Clerk wrote to urge them to change their mind.
- GC declared an interest in Mortimer Hall, FoOMPA and Oxsrads, RJ declared an interest in Bell Ringers and FoOMPA and DH declared an interest in FoOMPA.
- Honoraria – Mrs Cox £100.00, Mr Holden no longer carries out works for the PC, so will not receive; Mr Harper and CH to receive an honorarium of £50 each. All grants and honoraria approved by resolution WC proposed, MC seconded, all agreed.
- KS to raise cheques.
- It was agreed that if any late applications are received, grants may be awarded at the December meeting.

10. Burial Ground

- Letters of objection received from S&R Childs and from Reeves Memorials – responded on receipt of advice.
- Clerk has written to Mrs Brown to confirm that she may reserve the plot next to her husband, but she has not yet come back to us.
- Dennis Ward has quoted for clearing and seeding site beyond the burial ground (£950.00) – quotes also received from White Horse Contractors (£4,209.60 + VAT) and Kamalara (£6,900.00 + VAT). CH to meet Dennis Ward on site, and confirm details, and then to write and confirm he has been awarded the job. KS to write and advise the other contractors once the Chairman has agreed with Dennis Ward.
- Work is moving ahead on the shed.

Planting has been taking place on two of the buried plots – the clerk has written reminding the families of our conditions which state these may be removed without notice.

KS has written to the grave digger requesting he come back to level off the graves – the work has now been done.

Received a request from Marylin Cole to erect a headstone for William Osbourne, who was buried in 1963. The parents of Marylin Cole have been to the burial ground with the clerk, and were shown the location of Mr Osbourne's grave. Mr and Mrs Cole have made a donation of £150 to the parish council. Agreed, on condition the PC approves the memorial.

Request from Mr and Mrs Manuell to purchase plots – see letter. All agreed. Considered application and on this occasion it will be permitted. KS to write and advise.

Carter Jonas has confirmed the work on the ditch will be carried out this autumn/winter.

PC to talk to Steve Wooster in order to confirm that he will not do more work now until March 2009, when grass begins to grow again.

PC – the second strimmer has been repaired and we should be the bill in due course.

11. Highways

- Monitoring parking on junctions –BL to report to the PCSOs. KS to write to Ned Quereshi and invite him to a meeting and inform him of what the problems are – done but no response received.
- Parking in Mortimer Drive – CH to speak to Stan Hesmer re issues in Horseman Close.
- Graffiti in bus shelter – new pane of glass installed – graffiti free!
- Progress the boards at the Red Lion – spoke to County Council.
- Write to city council asking about the handwritten sign on Elsfield Road. Written, no response yet received. This has been chased and now replaced.
- Write to city council advising bollard is not secure. Done, no response yet received. Chased.
- Tree outside Walnut Tree House – contacted the council, no response yet received. Chased. Received confirmation that this has now been done.
- Oxfordshire County Council has written to advise they are undertaking a review of bus service provision and inviting comments. CH requested NB comment on behalf of the PC, to say certainly no less provision than is currently provided. KS included in Marston Times report. DH to put on website.
- The Clerk has spoken to Dennis Ward to invite him to quote for clearing the land behind the burial ground. There are also two damaged fences (one in the village, one on the Carter Estate) and we have requested he mend these. He has also confirmed the hedges will be cut by the end of October. This has not yet been done, but Mr Ward confirms it will be carried out shortly.
- CH to attend next NAG on 19th October – CH to report back.
- Damaged Street name plate (Salford Road) – KS has reported but this has not yet been rectified.
- Request chicane bases are made reflective – KS has written with the request, which the city council has agreed to do, with the warning they will not repaint if they get dirty.
- Ask the mobile unit to come to OM to discuss the chicane issue, and ask if there is evidence the speed limits are being adhered to – done. County have responded that the mobile unit isn't suitable for this, and have sent an email regarding the speed limits – see correspondence.
- Write to 33/35 re overgrown hedge – actually, the offenders were 34a and b Oxford Road – letters written. Residents objected and we responded to that objection.
- Report none-working street lighting in Salford Road – done and repaired.

Received Oxfordshire Road Casualty Report 2008 from the County.

There is to be a walkabout on the 9th November, should any parish councillors wish to attend. 11:30am. The Clerk and RJ will be in attendance.

Since September 2009 there has been a lollipop man in attendance to help children get to and from school. He has just resigned, and not been asked to work his notice because he felt the job was too dangerous. Many parents at the school are now lobbying for a replacement or alternative crossing. The parish council has written to the County, and received a standard reply. A-K has spoken to the cabinet member who has confirmed that the Oxford Mail was not correct, and he is going to arrange a meeting on site.

BL: Reported problems on the Oxford Road, people are parking on the bus stops, and this is stopping the buses stopping. BL has spoken to BH regarding the issue. MRC reported Matthew Bromley from the County Council is going to make that stretch of that road a clearway, but there is no timescale for this currently. MRC to forward correspondence to Clerk.

BL: Reported people are getting tickets for parking illegally.

RJ: There had been a request at the bottom of Butts Lane saying "No Through Road". KS to chase as big lorries keep trying to get through that way.

12. North East Area Committee

WC attended on behalf of the parish, and drew the meeting's attention to attempts to subvert planning laws.

Thanks to WC for attending.

13. Parish Council Bulletin

- Map of the parish for the bulletin. DH to report. No action at this time.
- Councillors to provide DH with information for the bulletin.

14. Allotments

Leak at the allotment – awaiting quote.

Noted there was a possible issue with the management committee. KS/CH to clarify and ensure any problems resolved. CH/KS to attend the AGM – CH sent apology.

15. Website

- DH is currently overhauling.

16. Any Other Business

- Noticeboard at Mortimer Hall – Mr Hook has moved the notice boards around, making them MUCH easier to operate, and also installed the extra bin at the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground.
- File burial record of burials with archive – done.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 1st December 2009 at Mortimer Hall at 7:30pm.