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**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 October 2003
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mrs. C. Stone Vice-chairman
Mesdames Cox and Nurse
Messrs Batey, Cann, Holmes, McGinn and Swift
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
City Councillor Mr. Darke for the early and Mrs. Clarkson for the last part of the Meeting

Matter Arising

Concern remained about the distribution of £40,000 Section 106 money arising from the White Hart development. The Clerk was asked to write to obtain a copy of the appropriate part of the agreement, with a copy to Mr. Darke
Mr. Darke said he would investigate the signing of traffic to the JR11 from the Green Road Roundabout via Marsh Lane that seemed unreasonable.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Tiwari and Mr. Bartleet

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 September 2003 were confirmed and signed.

North East Area Committee

Mrs. Stone reported that there was no date for the Toucan crossing at Marsh Lane
Further highway maintenance was planned for Arlington Drive
Gave further details of the road works planned for the Green Road Roundabout and drew attention to the short notice given to the consultation meeting
Drew attention to the dangers to those using the Definitive Footpath where it crosses Marston Ferry Road and that "Pedestrians Crossing" notices should be put in place, this being a route to school. The Clerk said that he had had similar requests and it was agreed to request the signs. He also said that if the riverbank were returned to its former line, having been excavated to construct the bridge, it would be possible to walk under the bridge except in flood conditions. He would raise this with the County Engineer and with the County Council Walk 2 School Campaign.

Correspondence

Notice of the AGM of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council was received.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered:

17 Haynes Road – second floor to existing single storey side extension. There was no objection to the work proposed but the nature of the extension, having its own staircase and upstairs bathroom created accommodation easily converted into a separate dwelling. Such conversion should be strongly resisted and any planning consent granted should, in the light of the decision in respect of 40 Cavendish Drive, make it clear that the creation of a separate occupation would require a further planning application.

75 Cherwell Drive – extension to provide disabled facilities – no comment

Decision

The following was reported:

Marston Middle School (now The Harlow Centre) – retention of existing and erection of additional prefab. building – planners raised no objection

Other Matters

Notice that the Inquiry into objections to the Oxford Local Plan commencing on 2 March 2004 was received

Omburg

The Clerk would seek the assistance of Mr. Darke should the requested copy of the Inspectors Report refusing the conversion into flats of 34 Spencer Crescent be not forthcoming.

The Chairman reported on the Planning Meeting he had attended to discuss the next stage in the Parish Review. There were no matters affecting this Parish. The City Planning Manager, Mr. Crofton-Briggs, drew attention to the Governments policy to encourage the provision of smaller units of accommodation by conversion and construction. The Parish Councils represented voiced opposition to the conversions that had taken place and hoped for fewer in future. The City Council was, City wide, very short of housing, particularly "Affordable" housing and was encouraging development wherever possible.

There was still dissatisfaction over the disbursement of the S.106 monies arising from the White hart Development. The Clerk was asked to try again to obtain a copy of the relevant part of the Agreement.

The response, from the bus company, to the objections to the reduction in the bus service from Cherwell Drive was not encouraging only a promise to review the situation after the Abingdon Road road works were completed.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment

		£
MP Security	Repairs to pavilion alarm	32.90
Oxford City Council	Burial Ground Rates	27.72
D. L. Ward	Trench etc. for Burial Ground water supply	350.00
H. Weitz	Burial Ground plot repurchase - see later minute	350.00
Mortimer Hall Management Cte.	Use of Hall Apr. - Sept.	30.00

Requests for assistance next year were received and will be considered at the January meeting. It was decided to meet representatives of the Mortimer Hall Management Committee to discuss the financing of Hall improvements.

Marston Charities Trust

The Chairman, Mr. C. Haynes was reappointed a Trustee for a four-year term.

Recreation Ground

Mr. Holmes said that it was hoped that all the Marston Saints F.C.'s trainers and coaches would have obtained their Football Association Certificates by the end of the year and that the Club would then get its Charter. That would lead to greater likelihood of a grant from the Football Foundation that would be required before the new pavilion could be programmed. The progress was welcomed.

Parking chaos in Boult's Lane on match days, recently, was worse than usual when the Allotment gate was damaged. Apart from the Club's efforts to discourage home team parking no long-term solution was suggested.

The City Council stated that there was no real possibility of locking the Marsh Lane Recreation Ground gate because of the variety of users. Obstructions would be put in place to deter car driving.

Confirmation of the telephone quotation of £3948 plus ground works was received from RTC Safety Surfaces Ltd. for wet pour safety surfaces to the swings in Boult's Lane. Subject to a reference and assurances that the work will confirm to current EN Standards and arrangements for the ground works the Clerk can accept the offer on approval from the Chairman

A quotation of £3677.20 for the supply and erection of the dog fence in Boult's Lane was received from Steelway Fencesecure Ltd. That the Clerk was authorised to accept.

The railings for Mill Lane were scheduled for delivery subject to the correction of the details.

C Haynes

The Oxford Preservation Trust now asked for the agreement to be signed but concern was expressed to Clause 3 that required a sign disclaiming public liability. The Clerk would discuss this with the Trust's agents.

Highways

The County Council confirmed that it had accepted the Parish view that the Marsh Lane Toucan crossing should be placed near Horseman Close and that a supplementary pedestrian refuge should be provided between the tactile crossing from the Cherwell Drive footpath. That would help to regulate traffic from Cherwell Drive entering the service road. A meeting had been arranged between the Mortimer Hall Committee and the Old Marston Road Traffic Safety Group to determine whether the land required for the diversion of Oxford Road to permit the widening of the footpath, outside 71 Oxford Road, could be released by the Committee. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to ascertain whether, if the land could be released, the Highway Authority would carry out the work.

Burial Ground.

Mrs. Tiwari, in expressing her apologies for absence, expressed regret that Lewell Avenue road had not been resurfaced when the footpaths were done. The Clerk would ascertain whether it was programmed.

It was noted that foliage was obstructing street lighting in Oxford Road. The Clerk was asked to notify the Lighting Dept.

Burial Ground

In view of current Health and Safety requirements it was decided to require that future memorials should be erected in accordance with the recommendations of the National Association of Memorial Masons.

In view of plot sizes it was decided to amend the Burial Ground Conditions forbidding the use of vaults and caskets except for the Loveridge space that had been purchased, many years ago, adequate for a vault.

Mr. H. Weitz returned the Deed of Grant signed at the last meeting and requested that it should be cancelled and the fee refunded as he thought he was purchasing a plot in the Churchyard. That was agreed.

Other Matters

The Chairman, Mr. Cann, Dr, Swift and the Clerk would meet at Boult Lane at 2 p.m. on 12 October 2003 to inspect the Parish property to ascertain what maintenance work was required.

Date of Next Meeting

4 November 2003

4/11/03

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