

## **Minutes of Old Marston Parish Council Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

### **Present:-**

Charlie Haynes, Chairman (CH)  
Wally Cox (WC)  
Gill Cox (GC)  
Michael Cadd (MC)  
Roy Jones (RJ)  
Duncan Hatfield (DH)  
Barrie Lewis (BL)  
Angie Tiwari (AT)  
Hugh Deam (HD)  
Nils Bartleet (NB)  
Councillor Mary Clarkson (MC)  
Councillor Beverley Hazell (BH)  
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), Mr P Cox.

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

### **3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Last month's figures contained two errors. The figure actually paid to Andy Taylor was £414.50, and not £414.40 as recorded, and the sum paid to Clare Finch was £53.10, not £53.11 as recorded. AT was not recorded as present, but was in attendance at the meeting (the Clerk apologises for the oversight). The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true and correct record with those corrections.

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

Report fly tipping in the brook at the back of Arlington Drive. Reported. The Environment Agency has said it will investigate, and has since been on site doing remedial work.

### **5. Correspondence (Letters/Emails)**

See Appendix A

- NB attended the Parish Transport Representatives Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2009 and would like to report back at in December after the meeting in November.
- KS to advise GS he may have a leave of absence until Christmas – done, and he has been in touch to thank us for the letter.

- Meeting between OCC and Parish Councils – CH reported he attended with WC, RJ. Agreed it was useful, but raised some issues pertinent to Old Marston, and it is to be held regularly every Feb/March. Noted only OM and Littlemore in attendance.
- Email from Linda Asberry – KS has responded to her copying in CH, RJ, DH.

Development Control User Group – meeting changed to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Sent apologies.

OCVA – workshop information.

ORCC – notice of AGM – 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7:30pm.

Local Works – campaigning to implement the sustainable communities act.

Gillian Wilson – wishing to erect a memorial to Ruth and Ted Busfield. Unanimously ratified by the Council. KS to reply saying that the parish council would be pleased to do this, and would look out a suitable location, and confirm this is acceptable to Ms Wilson. MRC to ask the city council if we can put a seat on the grassed area outside the Salford Road shops (Barrie has previously been refused permission at that location).

Library Health and Safety inspection. KS to forward to WC/GC.

County Council – offering use of the Road Safety Team’s Mobile Information Unit. (see under Highways, below).

OCC would like a parish councillor to service on the Standard’s Committee, and have sent through an agenda for the next meeting. NB to stand. KS to advise the 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 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 5:30pm. DH to attend. KS to RSVP on his behalf.

Sue Ryder Care – requesting PC makes a donation to Nettlebed Hospice. KS to respond saying no as it is outside of parish.

Oxford Green Belt Network gives notice of AGM to be held in Begbroke Village Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30pm.

## **6. Planning**

- 2 Mortimer Drive – sent objection
- 139 Oxford Road – sent objection
- 3 Cotswold Crescent – sent objection
- 7 Haynes Road – sent no objection.
- 44 Cherwell Drive – sent objection
- Court Place Farm – sent no objection
- Lower Flat 53 Rippington Drive – sent no objection
- Mallards, 4 Mill Lane – sent objection
- 2 Southcroft – sent no objection
- Clerk to contact County Council re the Red Lion blocking pavement – done, they are investigating.

Applications Considered Between Meetings:-

None

### Applications To Be Decided:-

Application to upgrade and widen existing bridleway/footpath to provide new shared cycle route linking Marsh Lane to Stockleys Road. No objection.

### Decisions

- 7 Haynes Road – approved in part.
- 129 Oxford Road – approved.
- 3 Cotswold Crescent – approved.
- 53 Rippington Drive (Lower Flat) – approved.

Planning has written to advise that 69 Cherwell Drive has been sent to the Secretary of State on appeal.

Planning have invited us to become part of a pilot consultation scheme. GC will do. KS to respond and confirm times etc with Gill.

Meeting with Steering Group and a representative from the Planning Dept re issues. WC noted there is a meeting to be held in Risinghurst in November, which parish councillors could attend. WC to confirm details.

NB noted in Raymund Road there are a lot of vans parking on the junction, connected to 14 Mortimer Drive.

Planning permission was granted for shed at the burial ground.

## **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.
- KS to confirm the terms of the lease. KS provided to meeting.
- Next steering group meeting – date to be arranged, and relevant people on the Steering Cttee will be advised of the date.

Held a meeting a couple of weeks ago together with a gentleman from Sports Solutions GB. It was suggested that grants could be achieved for up to 50% of cost, and other funding would have to be found for the rest. Mr Aldworth is investigating what the final costs are likely to be. Grant funding review has been carried out. Football Foundation Grant update, and getting estimates of prices. This will allow the fundraiser to make grant applications. Ask Clerk to contact OALC to see if there are ways the PC can raise money without using the precept.

## **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.

- Youth shelters – GC reported that the police will not support as there is too much ASB in the park. KS to ask John Shaw when the next meeting is so CH can attend.
- Amend FoOMPA constitution – to be done at FoOMPA AGM.
- Continue to monitor who uses the recreation grounds at Mortimer Hall and Boults Lane.
- KS to confirm when last tree survey was carried out.
- Actions following inspections of play areas – to be done, equipment ordered. Done. Many thanks to MC. KS to chase Playground Services for one thing that was not done.
- Letter of thanks to FoOMPA volunteers – written and sent.

Moles again at Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground – Total Pest Control alerted.

Grant claim form was sent to us by Wren, we completed and returned it, and Wren have since sent us the grant money, see finance.

There is evidence of rough sleeping at the recreation ground, the council are dealing.

Please note the minutes from the recent FoOMPA meeting – can the PC approve?

- They would like to hold more community events - CH proposed WC seconded, all in favour agreed and ratified.
- KS to provide more details of the external group Paula had mentioned for the PC to consider.
- Graffiti wall – The wall in question does not belong to the parish council, so they have no say.
- Continue to raise funds – ratified.
- Steering group will advise when work needs to be done at Boults Lane – likely to be next year sometime (at earliest).
- FoOMPA AGM Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009 – all parish councillors invited.

AT: Last month Neighbourhood Watch had a garden party in Raymond Road, lots of people were in attendance (including the mayor). Suggest the parish council hold an open day. GC noted there was already an AGM, but this is a more informal, social gathering. AT/RJ to investigate further, and perhaps organise. Report back to next meeting with a proposal for ratification. NB noted that the PC would have to fund this. CH commented it was a nice idea.

## 9. Finance

- Accounts sent to BDO.
- TOE grant sent.

The following accounts incl VAT to be paid:

- Eamon Kelly - Architect, submission of planning fees - £601.00
- SMP - Swing seats and chains - £531.30
- Wicksteed Leisure - Swing seat - £120.18
- Total Pest Control - Quarterly charge - £500.25
- Peter Cox - Fuel May – August - £28.24
- Playground Services - Mortimer Hall Rec Ground Play Area - £64,460.95
- Mr E. Aldworth - Copying drawings - £46.40
- Aston Structural Designs - Ground work drawings - £2,020.32
- Steve Wooster - Petrol expenses - £5.00

- Steve Wooster - 2 hours work - £16.00
- Thames Ceilings Ltd - Refurbishment of Ladies WCs. - £9,993.50
- HMRC - Tax and National Insurance August 2009 - £34.02
- Oxfordshire County Council - Pension for Clerk June 2009 - £86.19
- Kate Stratford - Salary for August 2009 - £548.81

The following cheques incl VAT have been received:

- OCC Finance - Parish Precept - £28,875.00
- Wren – Grant - £48,157.00
- Co-op Funeral Service - Internment for baby Bone. - £300.00
- Co-op Funeral Service - Internment for Brown - £600.00
- OMMLAA – Rent - £5.00

The Clerk has ordered some stationery – no bill yet received.

LG sent the council a copy of the covering letter he sent to BDO with the accounts that the PC had approved at the previous meeting. BDO then went back (to LG) requesting some more information, which the PC provided to LG. However, as the accounts were not signed off on time, unaudited accounts have had to be displayed.

The Chairman, Vice-chairman and Clerk and due to meet with City Council finance officer to discuss the precept in November. 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Letters to those groups which received grants last year have been sent out, inviting applications for this year.

Richard James has written to confirm acceptance of the position of Independent Examiner. CH proposed. Unanimously agreed. KS to arrange a meeting with him. WC to be invited if he is available.

GC: The pre-school are going to need a storage shed/hide for children to observe birds. Proposed cost is around £7,000.00. Hope to get a grant for £5,000 from County Council, but wanted to request a loan from the PC for the shortfall. CH proposed we give the pre-school an interest free loan for the full amount, so the pre-school can pay this back as they get the money in grants and fundraising. MC seconded. Unanimously agreed and ratified.

WC gave thanks for the money for the toilets. Also got grants from TOE, County Council, Library Service, ORCC, St Michaels and All Saints Charities, Doris Field Trust and Grassroots funds.

## **10. Burial Ground**

Terms and conditions have been amended and sent to all local undertakers. A letter of objection was received from S&R Childs and from Reeves Memorials. Clarification being sought from OALC.

There have been two funerals this month: Professor Brown of Southcroft and, sadly a baby (Bone) from Rippington Drive. A new row has been started for the young, to the rear of the ashes row. Mrs Brown has informally requested to reserve the plot next to her husband, which was ratified.

Carter Jonas – quote from Haynes and Sons for the ditch. Carter Jonas has confirmed the allotment association is willing to proceed on a 50 : 50 basis. (£550 each). Noted it was nice to see this work going ahead.

White Horse Contractors – estimate to clear site beyond burial ground and re-seed: £4,209.60 + VAT. This will be a clear area that can be mowed. CH noted PC was keen this should be done. We have also asked Denis Ward to quote: to be considered at next meeting when we have the quotes in.

Planning permission was granted for the shed.

## 11. Highways

- Monitoring parking on junctions – BL reported yellow lines will be put down and MRC has asked the PCSOs to monitor. GC reported that the County have plans for double yellow lines to be installed at the end of Arlington Drive, Rippington Drive, Mortimer Drive and the end of the Cycle track. The police are conducting a survey of the residents in the lower half of Raymund Road to put restriction on from 08:00 – 9:30 Monday to Friday and 14:00 – 16:00 Monday to Friday. The police have also spoken to Tony Price re parking issues around the church, and have suggested putting a two-hour waiting limit Monday to Friday outside the church to combat commuters parking. NB noted inconsiderate parking on the Raymund Road junction. Hopefully the double yellow lines will sort this out. CH asked 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.
- Parking in Mortimer Drive – GC to report. See above. CH to speak to Stan Hesmer re issues in Horseman Close.
- Graffiti in bus shelter – chased again.
- A copy of the county council's safety audit to be sent to the parish council. Received.
- Progress the boards at the Red Lion – spoke to County Council.
- KS to write to Jenny Beardmore confirming we are the owners of Back Lane – letter written.
- Write to the council asking for a footpath on Elsfield Road, beyond Southcroft. Written, county have responded saying there is no budget available and it is not priority as there have been no pedestrian speed related injury accidents recorded.
- Write to city council asking about the handwritten sign on Elsfield Road. Written, no response yet received. To be chased
- Write to city council advising bollard is not secure. Done, no response yet received.
- Tree outside Walnut Tree House – contacted the council, no response yet received.
- Write to the residents of Raymund Road re overhanging branches – done.

Flyposting which had appeared around the parish has been removed (with thanks to Mr Cadd).

Offensive graffiti has appeared, been reported and removed by the city council

The graffiti tag on the bus shelter outside Mortimer Hall has vanished, because that pane of glass has been smashed – reported for replacement.

Jenny Beardmore, who attended the last meeting, has asked for a letter of confirmation that the PC are happy for them to proceed with the Back Lane improvements - done.

Oxfordshire County Council have 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 to circulate to next meeting and put in Marston Times report. DH to put on website.

The Clerk has spoken to Denis 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.

Next NAG is 5:30 on 19<sup>th</sup> October. CH to attend.

AT: Street Name Plate at Salford Road – the “L” is missing. KS to report.

RJ: Was visited in order to be thanked about clearing the loose chippings on the slip road. Requested white paint on the chicane bases. KS to request again.

NB: Chicanes – not successful in reducing traffic removed through the village. KS to ask if the mobile unit will come to Old Marston so we can raise the chicane issue. Also asked if there was any evidence that the new speed limits are being adhered to. MC commented that the County Council are monitoring. KS to ask.

MC: KS to write to 33a and 35a Oxford Road – hedge over on path (2 houses up on hill).

## **12. North East Area Committee**

WC attended re Cotswold Crescent. The neighbour spoke very coherently, but the application was passed with very few changes.

There was a person present who spoke about the proposed new expansion at Barton. WC noted there could be a tremendous impact on the village – PC to monitor.

Thanks to WC for attending.

## **13. Parish Council Bulletin**

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

Would hope to get out before Christmas. DH needs support – needs Councillors to provide him with information.

## **14. Allotments**

Letter received from Mr Manson from Southcroft, the OMMLAA has received a very high bill from Thames Water, and appears to have a massive leak, because the bill was very high (£570.18). (Also sending payment of £5 for rent due). There is going to need to be a new supply as current pipes are corroded, currently pipes go to four positions. 3 options: Replace all new standpipes, replace half of them, or replace just one pipe with a new one, and put in a central trough. Option 3 was ratified unanimously by the council. CH proposed we get this done. Prices estimated to be around £700 - £1,000. GC proposed if cost is less than £600, to go ahead and get order the work. If more than £600 needs to come back to next meeting. MC seconded. Ratified. PC keen to support as an act of goodwill.

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.

## **15. Website**

DH is currently overhauling. Thanks to Duncan for his work on this.

## **16. Any Other Business**

- Noticeboard at Mortimer Hall – still difficult to use. CH reported it was a challenge to find someone to carry out this work. Ks to speak to Mr Hook to ask if he will do this job, and also install the extra bin at the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground.

HD found a record of burials from the 20s to the 60s. The Clerk to file with archive.

## **17. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 at Mortimer Hall at 7:30pm.