

Minutes of Old Marston Parish Council Meeting 3rd October 2016 at 7:30pm.

Present:

Parish Council

John Batey (JB) – Chairman

Patricia Hall (PH)

Peter Cox (PC)

Angie Tiwari (AT)

Peter Williams (PW)

Tim Cann (Clerk)

Duncan Hatfield (DH) – Vice-Chairman

Michael Cadd (MC)

Barrie Lewis (BL)

Nils Bartleet (NB)

Tony Greenfield (TG)

City Council

Clr Mick Haines (MH)

Members of the Public : 10

Before the business of the meeting started JB said a few words about the recent event of the girl being abducted whilst going to school along the Marston Ferry Link Road, sexually abused then found in Cavendish Drive. He said how tragic it was, how few could imagine what must be going through not only the girl's mind but her friends and especially her parents.

16/10/01 No Councillors declared any prejudicial interests and no one intended to record the proceedings of the meeting.

16/10/02 Apologies for Absence:

Charlie Haynes

Michael O'Keefe

County Councillor Mark Lygo

ACTION

City Councillor Mary Clarkson

16/10/03 Public Participation:

Malcolm Everton spoke about the lack of public transport at Bradlands in Mill Lane. The City Council are introducing a parking permit system at Bradlands making things even more difficult for the residents. He thanked the Parish Council for the work they had done so far.

16/10/04 Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2016. It was RESOLVED these are a true record.

16/10/05 Matters Arising (omitting those for which an agenda heading follows): None.

16/10/06 Planning Applications to be decided:

16/02301/FUL – Colthorn Farm, Oxford Road – Erection of a detached single storey garage – NO OBJECTION

16/02221/FUL – 1 Oxford Road – Replacement boundary fence adjacent Elsfield Road (Retrospective) – NO OBJECTION

16/02359/FUL – 3 Rippington Drive – Erection of a single storey rear extension. Installation of external insulation with render system. Alteration and replacement of windows and doors. Alteration to roof to form hip to gable to front and side elevation, formation of 1No. dormer window to front and side elevation in association with loft conversion. Erection of rear outbuilding for use as summer house/store – NO OBJECTION

16/02350/FUL – 8 Oxford Road – Erection of garden room for use as garden store/home office – NO OBJECTION

Signed by the Chairman.

16/02380/FUL – 139 Oxford Road – Erection of outbuilding for use as ancillary accommodation to dwellinghouse – NO OBJECTION

16/02428/FUL – 12 Elsfield Road – Partial demolition of front boundary wall and reconstruction – NO OBJECTION

Applications considered between meetings: NONE

Decisions:

16/01829/FUL – 17A Oxford Road – APPROVED

16/01980/FUL – 56 Arlington Drive – APPROVED

16/01549/CT3 – Recreation Ground Court Place Farm, Marsh Lane – Phase 2 of Northway & Marston Flood Alleviation Scheme - APPROVED

Awaiting Decisions:

16/01831/FUL – 7 Elsfield Road

16/01782/FUL – Recreation Ground at Boults Lane

16/01905/FUL – Land adjacent 56 Marsh Lane

16/02048/FUL – 5 Boults Lane

16/02074/FUL – 19A Oxford Road

16/02119/FUL – 120 Oxford Road

16/01934/RES – The former Jack Russell Public House, 21 Salford Road

16/02155/FUL – 48 Oxford Road

16/02268/FUL – 5 Beechey Avenue

16/10/07 Future Planning Applications:

JB reminded the Council that there was already a Planning Committee with the delegated powers to make decisions on applications. That there seems to be an increasing number of applications, 8 last month 6 this, with each application taking from 5 to 10 minutes it soon mounts up, so suggested the Planning Committee met on a regular basis to review all applications.

NB stated that if this was a proposal he would second it.

PW had concerns with this in that something may get approved which the full Council would not, with more applications coming up the need for greater scrutiny so if applications did go to Committee he would like to see the full Council still looking at larger applications.

MC asked if the committee meeting would be open to the public?

The Clerk advised that Standing Orders states that committee meetings, unless discussing sensitive issues such as staff, are treated exactly the same as full council meetings in that 3 clear days' notice has to be given and agendas posted on the website and noticeboard.

PC stated that he would support keeping things as they are now with the full Council looking at all planning applications.

JB suggested leaving things as they are but for councillors to think about how they might like to see things changed.

16/10/08 Recreation Grounds & Cemetery: JB thanked TG for the work he does in and around the Recreation Ground.

Signed by the Chairman.

- a. TG confirmed that the weekly safety checks had been done and that no problems had been found, and provided the Clerk with a printed list of dates checked. However, he felt that the grass had not been cut for some time. The Clerk advised that he had spoken to the contractor who said that when they last came to cut there were youths around the play area and didn't want to disturb them and did feel a bit apprehensive so left the cutting. They did mean to go back but unfortunately forgot.
- b. The Clerk advised the Council that it had been brought to his attention that a willow tree behind the pavilion was cracking and branches coming down in a garden in Boult's Close. The Clerk spoke to the Chairman and, after getting a quotation of £850, it was agreed to action this as a matter of urgency to prevent any possible serious damage to neighbouring property
- c. The Oxford City Council have advised that if the Council would like them to maintain Councillor Roy Jones's willow tree in the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground they could add it to their watering schedule at a cost of £10 per watering. JB felt that as we were entering into Autumn any decision was not needed straight away so suggested deferring until next Spring. PC stated that to save the Council money it was something which could be handled internally within the Council. All agreed.

16/10/09 Boult's Lane Development

- a. The Clerk advised that the Planning Officer had asked, via the Architect, for confirmation that the new pavilion would be far enough away from the existing tree canopy. As this would delay the planning application the Clerk instructed the architect to do a tree survey, at a cost of £250, pinpointing the exact location of the trees in relation to the building. The Planning Officer has now stated that this is acceptable, however he would need an extension to the consultation time to review this with their tree officer. The extension is now the 6th October 2016. The Clerk asked for confirmation that his decision to spend £250 was correct. MC proposed. PH seconded. All agreed.
- b. Structural Engineer: JB advised the Council that a structural engineer had been found and her fee would be £450 plus VAT. MC stated that one was needed as they advise the builder where the pillars are to go and to what depth etc. DH proposed. MC seconded. All agreed. It was RESOLVED to engage the Structural Engineer.

16/10/10 Finance

- a. Bank balance as at 22/09/2016 –
 Current Account £20,232.84 (including £2,307.73 CIL money) Petty Cash £180.01
 Business Reserve Account £3,745.05 Newbury Building Society Account £224,045.21

The following accounts to be paid:	£ Incl. VAT
Came & Co (Annual Insurance)	2697.28
Clerk's Pay Including Expenses, Pension, etc. – September 2016	
Oxford City Council (Pavilion Planning Application)	700.00

Signed by the Chairman.

David Hook (Repair Roundabout in MH Recreation Ground)	150.00
Total Pest Control (Quarterly Charge for Cemetery)	390.00
OALC (CiLCA Mentoring for Clerk)	240.00
SLCC (CiLCA Registration for Clerk)	250.00
Mr D Ward (Emergency pollarding of Willow Tree)	850.00
Amazon (Lockable Key Cupboard)	21.31
BDO (External Auditor fee)	360.00
TOTAL	£4,501.28
Petty Cash Expenditure:-	
MRH Retail Cherwell (Petrol for Cemetery)	21.78
TOTAL	£2178
INCOME :-	
TOTAL	£0.00

NB proposed these accounts were paid. PC seconded. All agreed.

- b. Confirmation that the Newbury Building Society account interest has dropped from 1.25% to 1% and the NATWEST Business Reserve account interest has dropped from 0.05% to 0.01%
PW asked whether we needed a Business Reserve account with the interest so low. It was agreed the Clerk to investigate if any implications on closing it.

16/10/11 Hedge Cutting: The Clerk advised the meeting that two tenders had been received to cut the Mortimer Hall, Cemetery, Boults Lane, Mill Lane, A40, School Lane hedges. One for £1,800 the other for £700. However while the first tenderer had met the Clerk on site and viewed all that needed doing the latter had not. So the Clerk was uncertain they knew exactly what was wanted. JB proposed that the Clerk go back to the second tender and point out all that is expected and see if their quotation increases; the Clerk is then authorised to make a decision accordingly. DH seconded. All agreed.

16/10/12 Oxford Greenbelt Network AGM: PW advised the Council he and the Clerk attended the AGM where they spoke mainly about the possible development at Grenoble Road. He pointed out that it was not just Grenoble Road but the development at Lower Elsfield as well as that at Hill View Farm. He felt that there was a great danger of concentrating on just one development when there are incursions on many areas of the greenbelt. Developers did not seem to worry themselves too much about the impact on traffic or sewage. At the meeting regarding Lower Elsfield they had given no thought to access roads etc! He believed the

Signed by the Chairman.

Council needed to keep alert and build good relations with the surrounding Parish Councils, the City and County Councils and organisations such as the Greenbelt Network. JB proposed the Clerk write a letter expressing the Council's concerns to the Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and Cherwell District Council. PW seconded. All agreed. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and Cherwell District Council expressing the Council's concerns of the possible developments.

16/10/13 Subsidies for Bus routes serving the Bradlands area:

JB advised the Council that he had been talking to MH before the meeting and asked him to say something.

MH advised that there was a service called Aspire Oxford, a charity, which for £5 membership per year people can use its bus service, bus passes can be used.

JB said we needed to know how many people are interested in using the service and where they would be going. MH agreed to help.

16/10/14 Possible development of the Harlow Centre and surrounding area:

JB advised the Council that no formal plans had been received yet. He had written to Ian Hudspeth, the leader of the Oxfordshire County Council, expressing the Council's concerns and asking him to investigate. He had replied saying that he would, so hopefully a reply will be received.

16/10/15 Consultation on Precept:

The Clerk advised the Council that at the moment Parish Council could increase their precept by 2% or more whilst District Authorities could be forced to have a referendum. The Government has a consultation going where larger Parish Councils could either be made to hold a referendum if they increase their precept by 2% or more or ALL Parish Councils would have to hold a referendum if they increased their precept by 2% or more. JB proposed the Council responded expressing their objection to either of these suggestions. PW seconded. It was RESOLVED the Clerk to respond to the Consultation with the Council's objections.

16/10/16 Parish Firework Display: After some discussion it was agreed that this year's firework display would be at the Red Lion and the grant kept at £1,750 for this year. PC proposed that any collection on the night would be for OXSRAD. PH seconded. All agreed.

16/10/17 Parish Council Calendar: TG advised that he needed more pictures and DH offered to help. Uncertain about quantity, as this affects cost, but will bring to next meeting.

16/10/18 Website, Facebook, Twitter & Streetlife

DH informed the meeting that there are over 800 followers on Twitter but would like to see more on Facebook. He suggested a list of contacts for local people so as to know who to contact regarding particular matters. For any news, events, etc. please let DH know.

16/10/19 Information Sharing (including correspondence)

Signed by the Chairman.

Clerk's Updates

- The OALC are running a half day course on Planning on the 3rd November in Witney. PH, NB and PC said they were interested in attending.

Rural Services Network Digest etc,

OALC Newsletter August 2016,

Unitary Council,

Email from Mr Baker concerning activity at the Jack Russell Public House – I reported this to the Enforcement Officer of the City Council just in case,

Email from Roger Crisp regarding rat-running through the village.

AT advised that people were dumping domestic waste in the area behind the Salford Road shops where the garages used to be,

AT felt there should be security cameras along the cycle track of the Marston Ferry Link Road,

PW believes that after the recent events the Council did need to express their concerns about safety to the Highways Authority,

PH asked if there was any news on the Headington Access project – Clerk confirmed nothing new received yet.

JB advised the Council that the Red Lion Public House had been accepted by the City Council as an ACV,

JB advised that he would like the Chairman's Christmas buffet to be in the Hall with sandwiches etc.

Meeting ended: 21:39

Date of Next Meeting: Parish Council meeting Monday 7th November 2016 in the main hall of the Mortimer Hall at 7:30pm.