

Minutes of the Old Marston Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th October 2021 at the Mortimer Hall from 7:00pm.

Present:

Parish Council:

Duncan Hatfield (DH) – Chairman	Pat Hall (PH) – Vice-Chairman
Louise Milford (LM)	Charlotte Vinnicombe (CV)
Mick Bates (MB)	Peter Cox (PC)
Peter Williams (PW)	Mick Cadd (MC)
Alan Spence (AS)	Alistair Morris (AM)
Tim Cann (Clerk)	

Members of Public: 13

21/10/01 Intention to record the proceedings of the meeting: NONE.

21/10/02 Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillor Mary James – family commitment, Parish Councillor Skye Denno – prior engagement, County Councillor Mark Lygo, City Councillor Mary Clarkson & Mick Haines – City Council meeting.

21/10/03 Website and social media: DH advised that any information can be found on the website along with approved minutes.

21/10/04 Public, County & City Councillors & Thames Valley Police participation (if any requests received)

a. Thames Valley Police:

“There isn’t a huge amount of new information to share with you, which is good! I have continued dealing with the neighbour ASB issue in Old Marston. There is a tent in a field between Marston Ferry Road and the Victoria Arms Pub that I am attempting to find the occupant of. There have been a recent spate of bike thefts in the area, we encourage everyone to use D-Locks on their bikes and to lock them away in a shed as well as register them on BikeRegister.com. We are still getting the occasional report of motorbikes causing ASB on Croft Road that I am looking into. ASB levels have gone down since schools have gone back even though they weren’t that high in the first place.

In terms of our team - our officer, PC Kirby, has left the team to start a new role elsewhere and we are expecting our new officer, PC Mollie Dugmore, to start in the next couple of weeks. We will also have an acting Sergeant for about a month whilst Sergeant Arnold is in a different role. A lot of shifting but should settle by December!

Signed by the Chairman.

As always, feel free to contact me if there are any concerns.”

b. County & City Councillor Reports:

Mary Clarkson sent a report which the Clerk read out:

- Changes to parking arrangements in Elms Drive to make it seven days a week. I have taken this up with the County Council and have been in touch with several residents. The reply from the County Council was not satisfactory. They seem to be saying that the changes were made to ensure that people weren't driving through Elms Drive to find a parking place when it's supposed to be 'Access only'. I made the point that the cutting through was primarily by drivers seeking to avoid the lights at Cherwell Drive, rather than to find somewhere to park and there are other better ways to address rat running than inconveniencing residents, for whom the previous arrangements were working. I'm still pursuing this one.
- I'm setting up a meeting with the head of the Swan School. One of the issues I plan to raise is parking for special events at the school. I shall report back after the meeting.
- I have registered to speak at next week's planning committee on the land to the west of Mill Lane. I'm keen to coordinate with any other speakers from the Village.
- The Oxford Half Marathon takes place on Sunday 17th October. I have reminded the organisers that they need to be in contact with both the Parish Council and St Nicholas Church. Please let me know if there is feedback for me to raise with them after the event.

c. Public:

Three members of the public spoke about the planning application for St Nicholas Caravan Park/Marston Paddock:

One member of the public asked what would happen with parking on the development as there would not be enough space for all the cars.

Another member of the public asked what is the assessed environmental impact and is anything being done to compensate for this? Are any surveys being done and will any results from bat, ground flora or wildlife surveys be made available for the public to see before work commences?

The final member of the public said that he was very much opposed to the development. He had collected views from residents of the park, and all were concerned about the access to the park. He had spent most of the weekend trying to log onto the City Council website to give his objections, but every time he had completed his comments it all just disappeared, and many others also had this problem!

Robert Avery, a resident in Bricklayers Court, emailed the Clerk and asked for his comments to be read out and recorded in the Minutes:

“Dear Tim,

Further to my telephone call to you earlier today I refer to the planning application on this month's agenda concerning The Paddock (Application Number 21/02580/FUL). Would you be so kind as to acknowledge receipt of this e-mail.

Signed by the Chairman.

May I respectfully request, that you minute my comments, and ask the Parish Council to object to this proposed development for the reasons listed below.

1. As most villagers would agree, our environment is special. We chose to live away from urbanization and sprawling suburbs. The destruction of this small parcel of land will impact heavily on this already over-developed wonderful medieval village.

2. It is a matter of record that a Government Traffic Survey which took place in 1974 concluded that Old Marston was over congested with traffic! This was almost 45 years ago, and it is seemingly obvious that congestion is now double that.

3. Butts Lane (not a road) is exceptionally narrow making it impossible for two cars to pass each other side by side safely. This surely constitutes an infringement of the Highways Act given that this access cannot be widened. Access and entry to Butts Lane cannot possibly sustain the extra traffic this proposed development will create.

4. The proposed parking facilities for this development are completely inadequate, which will add to even more displaced parking in other areas of the village already congested.

5. There has been no residents consultation to date, and the short time being allowed for comments will make it difficult for this to take place.

6. This proposed site also brings into question, the toxicity of the soil, as this was a rubbish tip for many years. There are also many mature trees surrounding the Paddock which lay host to a myriad of wildlife, and should be protected, including the roots. There are many culverts and ditches adjacent to the perimeter of the Village, including the Paddock, and they are all there for a specific reason. This should not be ignored.

7. To conclude, there are many other reasons to object to this proposed development, and I have outlined but a few of them. I am sure the Parish Council are aware that this scheme is not welcomed. The so-called Local Plan has not been thought out properly at all. If this development is allowed to proceed, it will have very little impact on improving the housing shortage, what it will most certainly do is have a massive impact on the wellbeing of residents, who are almost powerless to stop the destruction of this wonderful village.

I therefore respectfully submit these comments and object to this proposed development and ask that the Parish Council give their full support in objecting to this Proposed Development.

Bob Avery, 4 Bricklayers Court Butts Lane Old Marston Village.”

Signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman thanked people for their comments and decided, so members of the public were not kept waiting until getting to Planning, the Council would deal with the St Nicholas Caravan Park/Marston Paddock application now.

21/02580/FUL – St Nicholas Caravan Park/Marston Paddock – Full planning permission for residents (Class C3), access arrangements and public open space, landscaping, associated infrastructure and works including pedestrian and cycle routes. – **CONCERN WITH ACCESS, OVERDEVELOPMENT AND MATURE TREES. ASKED IF THIS COULD BE CALLED IN.**

21/10/05 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th September 2021. It was **RESOLVED** these are a true record.

21/10/06 Matters Arising (omitting those for which an Agenda heading follows):
No matters arising.

21/10/07 Operational Checks:

- The Clerk reported that the weekly checks on the defibrillator had been carried out with no faults found.
- The Clerk reported that the weekly checks on the play equipment had been carried out with no faults found.

21/10/08 Queen's Platinum Jubilee:

It was **RESOLVED** the Parish Council should do something to mark the occasion. Whether this was lighting beacon(s) or planting trees could be decided at a future meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to be on the agenda for November.

21/10/09 Neighbourhood Plan:

The Clerk advised that Martin Lipson, Chairman of the ONPA (Oxford Neighbourhood Plan Alliance) has offered to come to a Council meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to invite Martin Lipson to the November Council meeting and to invite the "five" people expressing an interest in helping.

21/10/10 Planning:

Decisions: NONE.

Awaiting Decisions:

20/02457/DEL – Willow Barn, Oxford Road

20/03034/FUL – Hill View Farm

21/01217/FUL – Land West of Mill Lane

21/02192/FUL – 20 Raymund Road

Signed by the Chairman.

21/02296/FUL – 66 Oxford Road

21/02103/FUL – 38 Beechey Avenue

Applications to be decided:

- **21/02401/FUL – 69 Arlington Drive** – Erection of single storey front extension and first floor extension to north elevation. Formation of dormer to south in association with loft conversion. – **NO OBJECTION.**
- **Update on former Jack Russell Development:** Work is progressing.
- **Update on Back Lane:** PW stated that he had drafted a response to Bill Cotton of the County Council reply to the petition. It was **RESOLVED** that PW had the Parish Council's backing to communicate with the media regarding this.
- **Wider Traffic Issues:** The Clerk advised he had only received one response to a site visit, that being from City Councillor Alex Hollingsworth who said it was more important to get County people attending so would fit in with whatever came back from them. The Clerk spoke to County Councillor Mark Lygo who also sent round the Clerk's original email asking for people to respond, but to date no replies have been received.
- **HMO's:** From discussions at the last Council meeting the Clerk had compiled a list of HMOs in the Parish which had been circulated with the agenda.

21/10/11 Finance: Bank balance as at 03/09/2021 –

Current A/c £52,529.41 (including CIL £38,920.76) Business Reserve A/c £3,760.40

Unity Trust A/c. £12,741.60

Petty Cash £179.74

Skipton Building Society A/c £5,036.09 Newbury Building Society A/c £86,475.82

The following accounts to be paid:	£ Incl. VAT
Clerk's Pay Including Expenses, Pension, etc. – September 2021	
Total Pest Control (Quarterly Charge)	390.00
Playsafety Ltd (Annual ROSPA Report)	198.00
Mr D. Hook (Install Seat in paddock rear of cemetery)	500.00
Mr I. Ward (Install Seat in BL Play Area)	480.00
Moore (External Auditor Fee)	480.00
TOTAL	£3,751.70
Petty Cash Expenditure:	(No Expenditure)

Signed by the Chairman.

INCOME:	(No Income)
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It was **RESOLVED** to accept these accounts.

- **Grant Request:** The Vicar has asked if the Parish Council could give a donation to the Church of £500 towards the Autumn Fun Day to be held on the 23rd October. This would be used to buy pumpkins, hire a face painter, electric tealights and hire some games. – It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500.

21/10/12 Pavilion, Recreation Grounds & Cemetery:

To review the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th September 2021 where the following resolutions were made:

- **Cemetery Extension:** The company tendering for the surveys stated best case cost, just the two surveys, would cost £17,760.00 plus VAT. However, if further surveys were needed, such as a Bat Survey, the total fee could be £33,060.00 plus VAT. It was **RESOLVED** to defer extending the cemetery.
- **Remembrance Day:** It was **RESOLVED** to purchase two further wreaths and to donate £150.00 to the Royal British Legion.
- **Cycle Racks:** It was **RESOLVED** MB and AM liaise with the Clerk for further tenders.
- **Request to give up a burial plot and receive a refund.** It was **RESOLVED** to issue the individual a refund.

Table Tennis table: Apparently this is no longer available with a blue playing surface, only grey. There is also a question as to whether it should be secured permanently in one place? Anchoring kit costs an additional £199 and needs holes pre-dug for delivery. The problem with a permanent site is that the playing area at each end of the table will become bare of grass and eroded. It was **RESOLVED** to have the table permanently fixed.

21/10/13 Environment Committee:

To review the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th September 2021 where the following resolutions were made:

- **Back Lane/Alternative Route:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute from the CiL money towards upgrading the alternative route across Oxford Preservation Trust land.
- **Hedge on Boult's Lane/Allotment Boundary:** It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk get more details concerning work needed.
- **Sending a delegation of Parish Councillors to the next Fully Charged Read Show in April/May 2022 in Farnborough:** It was **RESOLVED** to defer this until the November meeting.
- **Biodiversity Action Plan:** It was **RESOLVED** to defer this until the November meeting.

21/10/14 Orchard Triangle:

Signed by the Chairman.

It was **RESOLVED** to allow the Marston Community Gardening Group to plant three more fruit trees.

21/10/15 Open meeting on Climate Change for end of November? To tie in with UK hosting COP26:

- After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to hold the meeting next year.

21/10/16 Governance & Administration:

- All the criteria are now in place to apply for the Foundation level of the Local Council Awards Scheme. It was **RESOLVED** to allow free advertising in the Newsletter to start with.

21/10/17 Items of an urgent nature which have come to the Clerk's attention since the agenda was set:

- The Clerk informed the meeting an email had been received from the Oxfordshire County Council that they are holding two virtual workshops to introduce Oxfordshire County Council's new priorities. It was **RESOLVED** that DH will attend on the 18th October and AM on the 21st October.

21/10/18 Information sharing (including correspondence):

Rural Services Network Digest etc,

- OALC Newsletter
- AM advised that the Marston Community Garden Group had won two awards in Britain in Bloom. The Council congratulated the Group.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 1st November 2021 at 7pm in the Mortimer Hall.

MEETING CLOSED: 9:02pm

Signed by the Chairman.