

Minutes of the Old Marston Parish Council Meeting held on the 2nd October 2023 at Mortimer Hall from 7:00pm.

CONFIRMED

Present:

Parish Council:

Duncan Hatfield (DH) – Chairman	Pat Hall (PH) (Vice-Chair)
Charlotte Vinnicombe (CV)	Mary James (MJ)
Skye Denno (SD)	Peter Williams (PW)
Mick Bates (MB)	

In attendance:

Tim Cann (Clerk)	Members of the Public: 2
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23/10/01 Intention to record the proceedings of the meeting: NONE.

23/10/02 Apologies for absence: Parish Councillors Louise Upton & Alistair Morris, City Councillor Mary Clarkson & County Councillor Mark Lygo – City Council commitments, Louise Milford - Unwell.

23/10/03 Website and social media: DH advised there is always new information being posted on website. Facebook followers have increased to approximately 350 and Twitter to around 850.

23/10/04 Public, County & City Councillors & Thames Valley Police participation (if any requests received)

a. Thames Valley Police: No Report received.

b. County & City Councillor Reports:

- **Report from City Councillor Alistair Morris:** One current piece of news is the ongoing protracted negotiations between the City Council and ODFAA. The city allotment leases were due to be renewed in 2021 on a 21-year lease. However, ODFAA are unhappy about certain aspects of the new lease especially the 25% increase in rent and the insistence of the city council that allotment associations take on full responsibility, maintenance and upkeep of all perimeter fences, something that ODFAA feel is not viable for most allotment associations. So presently there is an impasse and the recommendation from ODFAA is not to sign the new lease as it currently stands as it simply is not sustainable. There is hope that further negotiations will resolve these areas of difficulty.
Questions will be asked on the matter at full council. I believe the city should show more flexibility and be more supportive of this essential facility within the city for growing local food.

c. Public:

No members of the public wished to speak.

23/10/05 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th September 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** these are a true record.

23/09/06 Matters Arising (omitting those for which an Agenda heading follows):

- **Resignation of Peter Cox:** It was **RESOLVED** the clerk will send a card thanking Peter for his long and valued service and a £100 hamper bought from Marks & Spencers, to come from the chairman's expenses.
- **Right of Way:** It was **RESOLVED** the clerk contact Charlotte Richie, who has agreed to take this project on, to see where this currently sits.
- **Marston Community Garden Group:** The clerk informed the Council that SD had contacted him regarding the Marston Community Garden Group's involvement in the management of this area. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk write to the Marston Community Garden Group acknowledging and thanking them for all the work done, and to give assurance the council will do everything it can to ensure recent events are not repeated. It was also **RESOLVED** the council look at getting a commercial gardening company to reinstate the wildflower area in Boult's Lane Recreation Ground up to a value of £400.
- **Complaint from a resident re September meeting:** After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** the clerk write to the resident concerned with the outcome and ensure they are now happy. It was also **RESOLVED** the clerk write to parish councillor Charlie Haynes giving him the right to respond.
- **Parish Councillor Louise Milford:** The clerk informed the council that Louise Milford is unwell and has asked for dispensation from council meetings during her illness. It was **RESOLVED** to allow six months leave and the clerk to write thanking Louise for her contribution and wishing her well in her recovery.

23/10/07 Operational Checks:

- The clerk reported that the weekly checks on the defibrillator had been carried out. All working correctly.
- The clerk reported that the weekly checks on the play equipment had been carried out.
 - **Seesaw in Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground:** The clerk informed the council that the seesaw had been vandalised with one of the handles being completely removed. A replacement part would cost £1,287.73 plus VAT. However, a completely new unit will cost £2,973.95 (including installation) plus VAT. It was **RESOLVED** to obtain a new unit but retain the old piece of equipment for possible future use.

23/10/08 Planning:

Applications considered between meetings: NONE.

Decisions: (Click to see reasons for refusal)

22/02983/FUL – 4 Haynes Road – **APPROVED**

23/01076/FUL – 71 Cherwell Drive – **APPROVED**

23/01216/FUL – 1 Harlow Way – **APPROVED**

23/01218/FUL – 3 Rimmer Close – **APPROVED**

23/01439/FUL – 60 Cherwell Drive – **REFUSED**

23/01551/FUL – 33 Ashlong Road – **APPROVED**

23/01428/FUL – 32B Oxford Road - **WITHDRAWN**

Awaiting Decisions:

20/02457/DEL – Willow Barn, Oxford Road

21/03294/FUL – 56 Marsh Lane

22/03049/FUL – Land North of Bayswater Brook

23/01314/FUL – 2 Broughton Close

Applications to be decided:

- **23/01990/FUL – 82 Arlington Drive** – Change of use of dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) to a House in Multiple Occupation (Use Class C4). Conversion of garage to habitable space. Installation of 14no. solar panels to front roof slope. Removal of 1no. garage door and insertion of 1no. window to front elevation. Alterations to rear fenestration. Provision of bin and bicycle storage. (Amended description). – **NO OBJECTIONS.**
- **23/02017/FUL – 21 Haynes Road** – Change of use from House in Multiple Occupation (Use Class C4) to a large House in Multiple Occupation (Sui Generis). Alterations to 1no. door and 3no. windows to front. Replacement of 1no. door with 1no. window to front. Alterations to 3no. windows to side. Alterations to 6no. windows to rear. Alterations to boundary treatments to create new access. Provision of car parking, bin and cycle stores. (Retrospective) – **CONCERN OVER UPPER FLOOR EMERGENCY ESCAPE(S), ADEQUATE PARKING, NUMBER OF ROOMS. ASKED IF THIS COULD BE CALLED IN.**
- **23/02155/FUL- 2 Mortimer Drive** – Demolition of existing rear shed. Erection of a single storey rear outbuilding, incorporating an outdoor seating area. – **NO OBJECTIONS.**
- **22/03049/FUL – Land North of Bayswater Brook** – Erection of new A40 cycle and pedestrian bridge and associated pedestrian/cycle route connection works, formation of new vehicular access onto Elsfield Road and associated Elsfield Road/Woodeaton Road/Marston Interchange access and highway improvement works, formation of 2 no. new vehicular accesses onto Bayswater Road and associated highway improvement works on Bayswater Road, formation of 2 no. new Public Transport crossing bridges over the Bayswater Brook with associated bus route connection works, including a Public Transport-only access onto the A40, formation of 5 no. pedestrian/cycle bridges over the Bayswater Brook and associated pedestrian/cycle route connection works, flood alleviation measures along sections of the Bayswater Brook and landscape and infrastructure works (associated with the proposed residential and commercial development at Land North of Bayswater Brook solely within South Oxfordshire District Council). (Amended Application - received 19th September 2023) – **CONCERN THAT OLD MARSTON IS NOT MENTIONED IN ANY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT. THERE WOULD, NO DOUBT, BE A GREAT DEAL OF IMPACT ON OLD MARSTON AS A WHOLE. IT WAS RESOLVED THE CLERK WRITE TO THE DEVELOPERS,**

**CHRISTCHURCH & SODC REGARDING THIS AND ANY CIL
REMINECATION.**

23/10/09 Request from parishioner re: signs on Oxford Road and Elsfeld Road to discourage through traffic:

- A parishioner formally requested as an agenda item the matter of the signs on Oxford Road and Elsfeld Road to discourage through traffic.
1. I suggested at the recent parish meeting the sign at the bypass end of Elsfeld Road would be more effective if it read OLD MARSTON ONLY.
 2. Coming from the south-east from Cherwell Drive to Oxford Road the sign saying ACCESS ONLY for motor vehicles is too small and dilapidated, so that it is easily missed.
 3. Coming from the north-west there is no such sign at all visible to discourage through traffic from turning left into Oxford Road.

I would like the Parish Council, please, to petition the county council to action these three points.

After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** the clerk will:

- investigate the cost and possibility of responsive speed signs (ones that flash 20),
- how much brown information signs cost.

23/10/10 Finance: Bank balance as at 25/09/2023 –

Unity Trust Account £12,971.14 (incl. CIL Money) £27,272.56
 Newbury Building Society A/c £82,636.07, Petty Cash £70.84
 Skipton Building Society A/c £10,585.37.

The following accounts to be paid:	£ Incl. VAT
Clerk's Pay Including Expenses, Pension, etc. – September 2023	
Playdale Playground Ltd (Repair damage to BL equipment)	689.32 (50%)
Total Pest Control (Quarterly Charge)	390.00
BGG (August)	384.00
GDT Fire Extinguishers Ltd (Annual Service)	82.26
Staples (Stationery)	76.98
PlaySafety Ltd (RoSPA Reports)	217.80
Mr D. Hatfield (Market Expenses)	200.00
BT (Office Telephone)	158.85
Oxford City Council (Brown Bin)	150.00
TOTAL	£4,422.78
Petty Cash Expenditure:	
Mid-Counties Coop (Refuse Sacks)	2.95
INCOME:	
Mr & Mrs Galley (Burial Plot Purchase)	1,454.00

- a. It was **RESOLVED** to accept these accounts.
- b. **Grant request from St Nicholas Church for £400 to assist with funding community events throughout the year; eco days, harvest/autumn day, spring day, summer activity.** – SD declared an interest – It was **RESOLVED** to award the funding.
- c. **Grant request from Old Marston Charities Trust for £500 towards continuing the Community Larder:** - SD & DH declared an interest – It was **RESOLVED** to award this funding.

23/10/11 Cycle Rack Usage:

- Most of the cycle racks outside the Mortimer Hall have been taken up by several bikes which have been there for some weeks. – The clerk informed the council that the city council use a ‘tagging’ system where bikes are labelled that if left will be removed. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt a similar system as the Oxford City Council.

23/10/12 Remembrance Sunday Wreaths:

- The clerk advised the council that another wreath was needed. However, instead of getting another plastic wreath he suggested looking at getting the cost for a real flower wreath to go on the memorial, leaving the other plastic wreath for the additional individual grave. It was **RESOLVED** to get costing for a real flower wreath.

23/10/13 Firework Display:

- It was **RESOLVED** to increase the budget for fireworks to £2,000 plus VAT subject to the usual arrangements of the parish council appearing on the promotional material and paying direct for fireworks.

23/10/14 Pavilion, Recreation Grounds & Cemetery:

- **Parish Council hedge cutting:** It was **RESOLVED** to accept the tender of £1,600.
- **Boults Lane Play Equipment Repair:** It was **RESOLVED** to accept Playdale’s tender of £1,378.63 to make the necessary repairs.
- **Burial Plot:** It was **RESOLVED** to allow Mrs Morton of Croft Road to pre-purchase a burial plot at double the fee as she is not living in the parish.

23/10/15 Clerk’s Report

- The clerk pointed out that the advertisement application for the noticeboard in the Elsfield Road bus stop was taking longer than expected due to so many questions.
- The clerk also advised that he was meeting a representative from MP Ryder, who maintains the intruder alarm system in the pavilion, regarding getting costings and advice about CCTV in Boults Lane Recreation Ground.

23/10/16 Report from Members:

- DH reported on the Old Marston Charities Trust meeting. How it was involved in providing vouchers to those in need in the parish, funding the community larder and annual meal in the Victoria Arms.

23/10/17 Plus anything of an urgent nature which has come to the clerk's attention since the agenda was set:

- Grass Verges: CV stated that the cutting of the grass verges had finally been done but in a very unsatisfactory manner. Grass cutting have been left to block drains. The cuttings will also create a thatch and put nutrients into the soil both will have hinder wildflowers from growing. It was **RESOLVED** the clerk write to the city and county council expressing the parish council's displeasure.

23/10/18 Information Sharing:

- OALC Newsletter: Already sent.
- SD reported that a window in the church hall had been broken. The police have been informed.
- Community Market Saturday 7th October .

23/10/19 Date of next meeting:

- Monday 6th November 2023 at 7pm in the Mortimer Hall.

MEETING CLOSED: 8:50pm

Signed: Chairman

Date:

Please note: Minutes become CONFIRMED following resolution at the following full council meeting.