

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 September 2004
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mrs. M.C. Stone Vice-chairman
Mesdames ~~Cox~~, Nurse, and Tiwari
Messrs Bartleet, Cox, McGinn and Swift
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
City Councillors Mrs. M. Clarkson and Mrs. C. vanZyl

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Batey and Holmes *Mu Cox*

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 June 2004 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

Dr. Swift referred to the comment made by PC Jackson at the last meeting that there were few reported crimes in the area and that he was keeping an eye on antisocial behaviour. Dr. Swift said that there continued to be, often two or three weekly, small crimes against property, thefts from allotments and gardens etc. and that the area certainly was not as free from these events as was stated. In discussion it was said that the police based its information on observations and particularly events reported to it. It was on the basis of that information police deployments were made. It was decided to suggest, via the Marston Times that it is important these incidents should be reported to St. Aldates Police Station and a crime report (URN) number demanded. Oxford 266000.

The report from ROSPA on the condition of the play equipment was received. There were relatively minor items to be dealt with.

Discussion then centred on the way to organise the work required to Council property. It was accepted that every task could not be processed at Council level and it was decided that a sub-committee of the Chairman, Mr. P. Cox, Mr. J. McGinn with the Clerk should prioritise the jobs already agreed and proceed, by stages, to put the work in hand by tendering the local contractors in accordance with their responses to the questionnaire. The sub-committee was given authority to accept the lowest suitable tenders for jobs up to £500; over that sum subject to Council approval.

North East Area Committee

The Vice-chairman said that consent had been granted for the redevelopment of the Oxford Road shop site.

Correspondence

Consultation papers for the proposed Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees were noted.

A charity, called Planning Aid was offering free planning advice to individuals. Details to be given in Marston Times.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered between meetings and no comment made

- 69 Horseman Close – extension
- 11 Fane Road – minor amendment to original plans
- 32 Mill Lane – minor adjustment to roof height
- 25 Mortimer Drive – extension to conservatory

Adj. Marston Ferry Road – extension to height of the radio mast – the Clerk had written to draw attention to the general unease of the effect of transmissions and to the obtrusiveness of the existing mast before the proposed 2.5m extension

The following were considered:

Marsh Lane Recreation Ground – large underground tank to cope with varying flows of sewage intended to stop New Marston suffering sewage overflows – no comment

Rear garden of 2 Mortimer Drive – erection of 2BR house – serious objections were raised to the proposed backland nature of the site resulting in serious overlooking of so many other dwellings. The Planning Officer to be requested to notify the occupiers of all these dwellings

26 Mortimer Drive – porch and rear extension – no comment

2 Oxford Road repairs to south elevation above the ground floor – no comment

Decisions

The following approvals were reported:

111 Oxford Road – extension

13 & 15 Oxford Road – redevelopment

The following had been refused:

R/o 109 Oxford Road – ten new dwellings

49 Oxford Road – new dormer to rear elevation (retrospective)

School Lane – two houses

The following appeals had been lodged

R/o 109 Oxford Road – ten houses - no further comment

4 Mill Lane - 10 new dwellings – the Clerk had written to reinforce the objections and to draw the Inspector’s attention to the deficiencies at the consultation stage

5 Nicholas Avenue – conversion into flats – the Clerk had written to reinforce the previous objections with comments about problems with the lack of sound insulation between bedrooms and adjoining living accommodation. Also parking problems.

In the above matters, not decided at the meeting, the Clerk had acted after consultation with the Chairman.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment

		£
M.C. Baldwin	Cutting hedge (paid between meetings)	270.00
D.S. Manson	Audit fee re. 2003/4	240.00
Oxford City Council	Burial Ground Rates	29.28
R.D.J. Cooper	Burial Ground Maintenance	668.01
ROSPA	Recreation equipment inspections	138.65
Mortimer Hall Management Cttee	Use of hall June to September	12.00
L.M. Garner	Salary adjustment re. 2003/4	218.19
L.M. Garner	Salary quarter to 30 September plus expenses half year to 30 September	1757.12

Remuneration

The meeting went into committee to consider the following:

Clerk’s salary, it was decided that the National Association of Local Council’s recommendations in respect of 2004/5 and 2005/6 should be implemented.

Auditor’s fee, in view of the period since his remuneration was agreed and the increasing range of items now covered, it was agreed that the amount be increased by £40 per annum.

On returning to the Council meeting the above were confirmed.

Onlayes

Confidential to Chairman and Vice-chairman

Clerk's Salary

Local Government salaries are determined by the financial year and notified by the OALC, usually in July each year. This year the salaries for two years have been determined and recommended to Parish Councils.

Based on the procedures previously adopted the recommendations are presented as follows:

Period		Base LC 1 £	Percent Increase	Salary becomes £
1 October 2002	31 March 2003	13,395	1	5,384.09
1 April 2003	31 March 2004	13,863	3.4	5,573.59
1 April 2004	31 March 2005	14,244	2.74	5,730.60
1 April 2005	31 March 2006	14,664	2.94	5,904.18

*When case from
re attached
and salary
statement.*

ND

27/8/04

Approved by Cmt 7/9/04

Salary

Audit

The Auditor attended the meeting at which final approval to the accounts for 2003/4 for submission to the formal auditors was given.

Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that the Land Registry refusal to accept the plan of the Scout site for the proposed lease disclosed that a strip of land under the Council's control since the recreation ground land was conveyed to the Council in 1973 was not on the Council's title. The Clerk was requested to register the land in its possession.

The Clerk would try to have the Mortimer Site mown for the Scout Fete should it be required.

Scout Fete at Mortimer Site on 12 September 2004

Highways

A change of lighting in Rippington Drive, as an experiment, was considered and approved whereupon it would be extended to the whole estate.

The Clerk to enquire what markings were proposed for the Pelican Crossing at Cherwell Drive

It was regretted that the City Council had seen fit to tarmac the paved areas on the corners of the Horseman Close estate.

The County Footpaths Officer has confirmed that the bridge on the allotment boundary with the Council's land in Elsfield Road will be replaced and the steps on the bank improved.

Burial Ground

John Cooper's son wrote to say that his father, who worked maintaining the Burial Ground, with him, was in Sobell House and was unlikely to be discharged. The result being that, with immediate effect, no further work could be undertaken. Mr. R. Cooper, the son, wrote enclosing the closing account that was paid, and requested that the Council should pay the cost of and subsequent maintenance costs of the ride on mower his father bought. It proved unsuitable for the task. Whilst sympathising with the situation, as there was never any approach to the Council for authority for the expenditure or indication given that Council funds would be committed no such payment would be made. Mr. R. Cooper would be informed and requested to return the key and the strimmer to the Clerk. Arrangements for ongoing maintenance would be needed.

Other Items

It was reported that the tenant of the spare allotment site in Mill Lane had entered the site via the Allotment Association land. The Clerk to inform the tenant that the Mill Lane gate must be used in future.

The proposal by Mrs. Nurse and seconded by the Vice-Chairman that Mrs. G. Cox be appointed to the Old Marston Charities Trust for a four year term was agreed

The retirement from Ministerial Office of Andrew Smith M.P. was noted. The Clerk to write to thank him for his support

Date of Next Meeting

5 October 2004

5 October 2004

Amber...