

## **Old Marston Parish Council Minutes: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

**Present:-** Chairman: Charlie Haynes  
Vice-Chairman: John Batey  
Nils Bartleet  
Michael Cadd  
Gill Cox  
Peter Cox  
Wally Cox  
Hughie Deam  
Duncan Hatfield  
John McGinn  
Dr Graham Swift  
Angie Tiwari  
Clerk: Roy Garner

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> July 2006 were read and passed as an accurate record of the meeting.

### **Old Marston Parish Council Newsletter**

The next newsletter will feature the longest serving member and a new member. Articles will include a summary of items discussed during the previous meetings, a report on the cemetery by Peter Cox and a report on the allotments by Dr Graham Swift. Gill Cox suggested that the newsletter be an agenda item. It will not be delivered with the Marston Times.

### **Maps**

The Clerk informed the Council that a licence is needed to use Ordnance Survey map. The Association of Parish Councils could be asked to help provide a general use licence. The Clerk will make enquiries.

### **Minutes Secretary**

An advert will be arranged. The Chairman suggested that the rate of pay should be £10.00 per hour for five hours per month. Duncan Hatfield will, until one has been appointed, take and produce the minutes to work out the approximate time needed. The post will also be advertised in the Marston Times next issue.

### **North East Area Planning Committee: June 2006**

- 1 Oxford Brookes University presented their plans for the Campus of the Future
- 2 Proposal to turn the Headington Delivery Office into Flats
- 3 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2006 is "Oxford without my car" day
- 4 £50,000 has been made available by the developers for transport infrastructure, with £45,000

proposed for a pelican crossing on Cherwell Drive and £5000 unallocated

### **Street Wardens**

- 1 The local street wardens introduced themselves to the Council. They will be patrolling Old Marston, Northway and New Marston as far as Croft Road from 08:00 to 22:00, Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings.
- 2 Their areas of responsibility will include litter, lampposts, fly-posting, low-level crime, anti-social behaviour, calling police to target areas, reporting any incidences and keeping a higher profile during the evenings
- 3 They can make a citizens arrest but **cannot take names and addresses**
- 4 There are no police community support officers in the area
- 5 The wardens will wear a uniform, with high visibility orange in the evenings and will carry identity cards
- 6 The City Council has passed a by-law that will allow the wardens to issue fixed penalties for dropping litter and allowing dogs to foul public areas.
- 7 The Clerk asked if they help them acquire dog litter bins. These will need to be provided by the City Council so that they will be responsible for emptying them.
- 8 The Vice-Chairman asked if they will deal with cars parked on the verges. The wardens said that they will place stickers on cars and request a police presence. The police will issue an £80.00 fine for the third offence.
- 9 **Syringes:** 80% of wardens are trained in the collection and disposal of syringes and will find out who is guilty for discarding the syringes: users or dealers. City Councillor Carolyn Van Zyl said that all relevant agencies should, with the help of local residents, collectively deal with the issue and not pass the problem around. Oxford City Council has a target of collecting syringes within thirty minutes of call.

### **Planning**

- 1 3 Cotswold Crescent extension: No Comment
- 2 Church Farm, Church Lane new entrance gate: No Comment
- 3 67 Cherwell Drive extension: No Comment
- 4 11 Salford Road conversion into 3 Flats: Loss of family home – has already been passed
- 5 109 Oxford Road: The developers sign measures 3.95m by 2m and is too large
- 6 32 Beechey Avenue extension: No Comment
- 7 1 Cavendish Drive: The City Council has refused planning permission. The planning request has now gone to appeal
- 8 29 Beechy Avenue: Approved
- 9 3 Cotswold Crescent: Approved
- 10 32 Beechey Avenue: Approved
- 11 46 and 48 Oxford Road Rear: Five flats refused on appeal
- 12 69 Cherwell Drive: an advert had appeared in the Oxford Mail suggesting it is being used for “Adult Entertainment”
- 13 It was agreed that serious objections should be sent direct to members of the North East Area Planning Committee

## **Pavilion**

The Parish Clerk will accompany the architect when visiting the Planning Officer.

## **Accounts**

List of payments reported. The Council approved section 2 of the external auditors report.

A software package that will assist with the accounts is being investigated.

## **Recreation Ground**

The play area in Boults Lane is overgrown with weeds. The Vice-Chairman informed the council that the grass had not been cut for two weeks. The recreation area needs a different grass cutter from the field. The moles are responsible for killing the grass and promoting the weeds.

## **Trees**

Three similar quotes have been received to fell or pollard trees deemed as stated in tree surgeon's report. The hedge by Mortimer Hall recreation ground belongs to the Red Lion Public House. The Horseman Close resident affected and the insurance company is very keen for the work to start as soon as possible. Angie Tiwari would like local residents to be told why the trees are being felled to avoid any negative reactions from residents. The Clerk will send a note to the Marston Times.

## **Burial Ground**

Peter Cox was authorised to purchase a hedge trimmer to assist with the upkeep.

## **Highways**

- 1 From 11 September, the footpaths of Oxford Road and Elsfield Road will be replaced as they currently do not have a foundation. Some bollards will be put in. The county council has a budget of £160,000 for this work.
- 2 Gill Cox was concerned about the state of the verges in Cavendish Drive. Many are overgrown with weeds and some need to be reinstated. There is cement on the tarmac, which is illegal.
- 3 A grass verge has been covered and a new driveway has been introduced from 26 Cavendish Drive. This constitutes a new entrance to a public highway and requires planning permission.
- 4 There are now bollards on the corner of Ashlong Drive
- 5 **Rylands** will be the new name of the road that is at the rear of 109 Oxford Road (currently referred to as The Orchard)

- 6 Proposed box junction at the junction of Oxford Road and Cherwell Drive – recommend rejecting proposal

### **Mortimer Hall**

Wally Cox reported that a licence was required for functions. Bookings to the hall using music bring in more than £4000 per year in revenue. There have been nine complaints (from the same person) about the noise from functions held at Mortimer Hall. Forty decibels is the legal limit permitted to be heard outside. Work will need to be done on the external windows and doors to provide air shifters to help minimise noise from inside the building being heard outside. The North East Area Committee will be asked to help with the funding. A noise abatement officer will be asked to advise. There should be no loud speakers outside.

### **North East Area Planning Committee**

Nils Bartleet attended the previous meeting of the committee. He was concerned that no highway officer was present when decisions were being made. A planning officer may make a wrong decision, but there is no right of reply. The Clerk informed the members that the City Council will lose financially if a decision goes to appeal and they lose. The Vice-Chairman expressed concern that decisions passed by the Parish Council do not go to the North East Area Committee where they are summarised into the Planning Officers' report.

### **Venue**

Concern has been raised by several members about meeting in the small room at Mortimer Hall. Primarily it is too small and limits the number of members of public who wish to attend meetings. St. Nicholas' school is free, but the Council would have to pay the cost of the caretaker. The Church Hall is available at £11.00 per hour. The range of options will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

**Time:** 19:30hrs

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2006

**Venue:** Mortimer Hall, Oxford Road, Old Marston