

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 20 April 2005
commencing at 7.45pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Squires, Todd, Haslam, Swash, Mrs Cox, Alton, Spencer, Watts, Putland, Graham Pitts (Clerk), Sue Gibbs (Minute Secretary).

- 147/04 **Apologies**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Wood, Rollason, Westley, District Cllr O'Sullivan, and Co Cllr Jelf.
- 148/04 **New Councillor**
The Chairman welcomed Brian Putland who had volunteered to become a Parish Councillor following the resignation of Kate Harvey. Interest had also been expressed by another individual and it was likely that he would step forward should another vacancy arise once Cllr Ellis had clarified his position. The Chairman was following this up.
- 149/04 **Presentation to Dennis Freeman**
The Chairman reported that following the review of expenditure recently carried out, a decision had been made to manage with only one steward and that Dennis Freeman had been asked to retire. The Chairman emphasized that Mr Freeman was not doing this of his own accord as had been suggested in The Deddington News report but the Parish Council had felt that he should no longer be expected to do such hard physical work. Mr Freeman was thanked for all the work he had done in the village and for his dedication to his job. A presentation was made to express the Parish's gratitude and appreciation for this.
- 150/04 **Presentation by James Alcock, Rural Housing Enabler, ORCC on Affordable Housing**
James Alcock made a short presentation about affordable housing, outlining what constituted affordable housing, why such housing might be needed in Deddington, and how they could be built. It was agreed that some of the questions raised by this should be included in the Village Plan and depending on the response this might be something which could be pursued in the future.
- 151/04 **Minutes of Last Meeting**
The Minutes of the last meeting held on 16 March 2005 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.
- 152/04 **Declaration of Interests**
There were no declaration of interests.
- 153/04 **10 Minute Open Forum**
There were no members of the public wishing to speak.
- 154/04 **Environment and Recreation Working Group**

Cllr Squires reported as follows:

- (a) **Stonepit Allotments.** A revised estimate of £746 plus VAT had been received from

Thames Water for the connection charges. This was a third of the original estimated and **it was agreed that the Parish Council should now press forward and get the water installed.**

- (b) **Funfair.** A letter had been sent to Perry Hatwell Funfairs expressing interest in having a fair along the lines discussed at the previous meeting. No response had yet been received and **it was agreed that the Clerk should chase this up if nothing had been heard by the following week.** Concern was raised over a suggestion that buses might be diverted from Hudson Street. This was noted and would be looked into further if the fair was to go ahead.
- (c) **War Memorial.** The Royal British Legion had expressed their support for moving the war memorial. However it was felt that the wishes of the families of those being remembered should take precedence. **It was agreed that the Clerk should look at the minutes of the Parish Council meetings to see what was discussed when this had last been raised.** It was suggested that the responses to the Millennium Questionnaire should also be checked. **It was felt that this was not appropriate to include in the Parish Plan.**
- (d) **Grass Cutting.** A number of letters of complaint had been received and these were noted. The cut areas had been relocated in front of the goal posts at Castle Grounds. It had been suggested that the cut area should be moved each time but it was felt that this would result in a much larger area not being kept short. **It was agreed that it should be made clear to the Parish that this only for a trial period of 12 months,** and the Clerk said that the Contractor had confirmed that it would be possible to revert Castle Grounds to pitch standards quite quickly if it were required. It was also emphasized that it was necessary to ensure that the footpaths were kept up to standard.
- (e) **Dog Fouling.** This was becoming more of a problem, particularly along the Hempton Road and at the Windmill playing fields. Banning dogs from this area was discussed but it was felt that this could not be enforced, and it was essentially only a small minority of dog owners, often from outside the village, which were causing the problem. **It was agreed that the Environment Working Group would look into the possibility of having large banners like the speeding signs which were put up from time to time throughout the village. It was also agreed that the Clerk would talk to the Dog Warden Service and see whether they could help at all.**
- (f) **Tree Preservation Orders.** Trees within the conversation area were already protected; the only ones which were therefore vulnerable were those not on public land which were outside the conservation area. **It was agreed that CDC should be asked for a list of trees with a TPO.**
- (g) **Public Sewer Discharge** Following the flood in the Antique shop in Horse Fair, the owner had asked for help and both the Chairman and the Clerk had visited the site, and subsequently been in touch with both Thames Water and Cherwell lobbying for their assistance. **It was agreed that reference to sewerage should be made in the Village Plan questionnaire.**
- (h) **Village Spring Clean** There had been very little response. The Clerk reported that the Boys Brigade had offered to help and the scouts/guides had indicated that they would be able to do something in a couple of weeks time.
- (i) **Cricket Club.** A letter had been received from the Cricket Club regarding maintenance of the pavilion. **It was agreed that the Clerk should write to all the clubs at the WMC and clarify the position with regard to maintenance.**

155/04

Parish Plan

Cllr Squires reported that the draft Questionnaire had been circulated to councillors and comments were requested by 2nd May. The full grant from ORCC had been offered and the Clerk was following this up. Printing quotes were being obtained. It was anticipated that the data collation would be tendered out at an estimated cost of £800. Concern was expressed at the length of the questionnaire, and it was noted that prizes were to be offered for completion.

156/04

Highways Working Committee

Cllr Haslam reported:

- (a). **Clifton Footpath.** A letter had been received from Ralph Grant, OCC stating that the costs would be £22,000. The increase from the £14,000 previously estimated was because of the extension to the length of the footpath, the bus shelter and the build out to slow down the traffic. OCC would contribute £7,000; the PC had already set aside £7,000, so a further £8,000 would be needed. Cllr Haslam confirmed that the original scheme would be effective, but would not include the build out. Cllr Todd reported that he had already spoken to Ralph Grant because of a planning application which he felt should lead to a section 106 agreement which would achieve some of this. **It was agreed that Cllr Jelf should be asked to renew his efforts in this area and apply pressure. In the meantime, it was agreed that a response should be sent expressing the working group's disappointment at the costs, emphasizing that it was not due to any fault on the part of the Parish Council that this had taken so long and requesting that the figures be looked at again.**
- (b). **Pelican Crossing by Library.** OCC were seeking confirmation that the Parish Council wanted them to go ahead with this. **This was confirmed**
- (c). **Street Name Survey.** OCC had said they did not have a budget for this, but had requested information as to what was required to improve this. Cllr Haslam would look at Deddington, Cllr Watts at Hempton and it was hoped that a volunteer could be found for Clifton.
- (d) **Draft Transport plans for Local Transport.** This had been received and a response was required by 18th May.
- (e). **Changes to Bus Service.** The bus between Banbury and Oxford was to be known as the 59, rather than the X59, but it was noted that there was no change to the actual route.
- (e). **Parking Task Force.** A very useful meeting had been held with local businesses and it had been agreed to run a trial for 3 months whereby long stay vehicles would park elsewhere. This would begin in mid-May. Two surveys would be carried out prior to this and 6 more during the trial period itself. A further meeting was being held to finalise these plans and it was agreed that it was important to push this as hard as possible. The Chairman thanked Cllr Haslam and his colleagues for all their work on this, as well as local businesses for their co-operation and willingness to help with finding a solution to this problem.
- (f). **Hempton Road Re-Surfacing.** Concern was expressed about access for emergency services when it was proposed that the Hempton Road would be closed for re-surfacing. **It was agreed that the Clerk would follow this up.**

157/04

Planning Working Group

Cllr Swash reported as follows:

- (a). **05/0044F – Greystones, Banbury Road, Deddington.** Two storey extension to front of house. **No objection**
- (b). **05/00560/F Stone Lea, Hempton.** Two storey extension and rear single storey porch/hall. **No objection**
- (c). **05/00498/LB-05/00497/F. Monks Court, Deddington.** Internal and external alterations including 4 new door openings. 1 new internal door, block up existing staircase and creation of new staircase. **No objection.**
- (d). **05/00593/F. Land adjoining and east of The Barnstead, Hempton.** Resubmission of 04/0266/F erection of 1 dwelling with access. It was noted that all the Parish Council’s previous objections had now been met. **No objection**
- (e). **05f/00571/F Building adjacent to Ashley House, Clifton.** Change of use and conversion of workshop to dwelling. It was confirmed that there were no parking issues relating to this. **No objection**
- (f). **05/00197/LB-05/00196/F The Holcombe Hotel, Deddington.** Demolition of part single storey lean to and erection of single storey pavilion for staff use. Removal of 1 Elder and 1 Holly tree. **No objection to the plans, but concern was expressed regarding felling another healthy tree and it was agreed that the Clerk should speak to CDC’s Tree Officer regarding this.**
- (g). A schedule of applications approved and withdrawn since the last meeting was circulated.

158/04

Finance and General Purposes Working Group

Cllr Todd reported that the Working Group had not met since the last Parish Council meeting. He reported that the OALC had asked the Parish Council to rejoin. The annual subscription would be £351.48 and **this was approved**

159/04

Invoices for Payment

A schedule of invoices totaling £6558.97 was tabled, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, and was approved for payment.

160/04

Investment of Councils Funds

At the close of business on 20 April 2005 the balances were as follows:

BANK BALANCES AS AT 20th April 2005

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
70708526	1311.18	.1%	Imprest
70708542	13642.98	.1%	Current
W. Bromwich Building Soc.	307221.39	4.7%	Overnight
Alliance & Leicester	250000.00	4.55%	30 Day Notice
TOTAL	572175.55		

161/04

Correspondence

A list of correspondence since the last meeting was circulated. The following point was raised:

- (a) 4.04.05: Report of damage to bowls pavilion. The Clerk reported that damage had been to the gate and some tiles had come off the roof; a sign had also been broken.

162/04

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 18th May at the Town Hall commencing at 7.45pm. This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting.

163/04

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 4th May at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm