

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Council held on 13th April, 1994.

Present:- Councillors Clinch (Chairman), Bowen, Clarke, Canning, Mrs Lee, Mis Hill, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Swash and Todd. District Councillor Davis in attendance.

213/93 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Garvey, O'Brien, Oddy and Reed. County Councillor Matthews also apologised.

214/93 Village Appraisal.

Mr AFF Flux, the Chairman of the Village Appraisal Group addressed Council on the Appraisal working through the Summary of the findings, a copy of which had been circulated in advance to all Members. Many questions were asked and answered and it was pleasing to note that several suggestions made by parishioners had already been completed. Traffic speeding through the villages appeared to be one of the major worries. He reported that the costs of the appraisal to date were £686.38 towards which a grant of £150 had been received from the ORCC giving a net cost of £536.38 as compared to the original budget of an anticipated cost of £1,000. A copy of the Committee's conclusions and recommendations is appended and was approved for consideration by the new Council. The Chairman thanked Mr Flux and his Committee comprising of Messrs Marmion, Todd, Miss Hill, Mrs Dew and Mrs Waller and the instigator the late Bill Mace for the excellent manner in which the report had been put together and for all the work that it had entailed. Additionally the results of the Appraisal would be considered at an open meeting of parishioners following the Annual Parish Meeting.

215/93 Grants Sub-Committee.

The Clerk reported upon (a) the grant submission from Deddington Town Football Club regarding equipment for the youth football team. The team will be managed on behalf of the Club by PC Keats and the cost of the equipment already purchased and in use was £408 Of which £60 had already been raised. It was proposed by Cr Todd and resolved unanimously that a grant of £275 be made in respect of this application.

(b) the failure, following repeated communications from the Clerk, of the contractor Messrs REJ Fencing of Brackley to commence the contract for the fencing of the play group site. The agreement of Council to the contract was given to the contractor on 24th January, 1994 and following discussion with the contractor the Playgroup were informed that the work was likely to start on 31st January. Resolved that the REJ Fencing be informed that the contract is withdrawn and the Clerk presented an alternative quotation from J Spencer of Deddington in the sum of £2,530 excluding VAT. Resolved unanimously that the latter quotation be accepted and the hope



2.

that an early start could be made on the works.

216/93 Coat of Arms Sub-Committee.

It was proposed by Cr Bowen seconded by Cr Mrs Stevens and agreed nem con that a plaque be erected on the Town Hall in memory of the late Mr and Mrs Robins who initially proposed the obtaining of a Coat of Arms for the village.

It was also agreed nem con that a video of the presentation of the Coat of Arms be presented to Mr Brooke-Little, Norroy and Ulster, King of Arms, who unfortunately due to illness was unable to be present at the ceremony.

217/93 Norman Stone.

The Chairman stated that this meeting was the last to be attended by Mr Norman Stone as reporter for the Deddington News and thanked him for the support he had given the Council over the years in that capacity

218/93 Account for Payment.

An account in respect of grasscutting in March from J Boss in the sum of £540 was approved for payment.

219/93 Traffic Management Earls Lane, Deddington.

The Clerk reported that he had received a quotation from Cherwell Direct Services in the sum of £1,000 for undertaking all design work necessary to provide working drawings and a bill of materials for the traffic calming scheme on Earls Lane including all consultations with the County Council. It was proposed by Cr Miss Hill seconded by Cr Todd and resolved nem con that prior to expending monies on this project, each of the occupiers of property on Earls Lane be consulted on the proposal.

220/93 Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday, 27th April, 1994 at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Hill', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

Conclusions

The Parish Appraisal Project drew a positive response from over 66% of the households in the Parish of Deddington with Hempton and Clifton. In addition to the responses to the actual questions there were some 55 typed pages of comments. This level of response demonstrates a solid core of concern for the environment, status, and future of our community, and is more than adequate to counterbalance the apathy of a minority.. The questionnaire encouraged people to think more closely on current problems and to speculate on their needs for the future. In particular, through its confidentiality, it enabled the reticent majority to air their opinions and desires.

In general terms' people said they saw no need for further large scale housing developments but would welcome low cost/rental properties on an "in fill" basis. There is a desire to develop employment opportunities within the Parish providing that it does not destroy the "village" concept. The 1991 census and responses confirm that the Parish is NOT a retirement home or a dormitory and there is a strong feeling against it becoming either. We should make greater use of the school, Hollytree, and Windmill for adult education and the pursuit of hobbies. On local countryside and the environment there was a consensus that whilst we all carried individual responsibility for it we needed more council assistance to maintain and enforce it. Responses on health and Social Services indicate some lack of knowledge on what facilities are available. Perhaps services offered by the Health Centre should feature in the Deddington News, and they might consider expanding the range of services. There is a loud call for a chemist, a healthy support for shops, and an emphasis on their value to the community.

The area of sport and leisure showed limited participation but plenty of opportunity for existing and new clubs. Evidently clubs rely on outsiders for support. Information on the Windmill changes was not widely known or understood. Buses are vital to a small but significant number of people, and bus tokens are a must. Parking control is resisted but drivers need to be encouraged to be more considerate ..., however speeding is seen as a MAJOR problem throughout the village, especially on the B4031 especially the Hempton road. Facilities for cyclists are seen as poor by around half the people, whereas footpaths are seen in better light especially now the path to Hempton is completed. Now we need to reinstate the one to Clifton and ensure that better maintenance on existing ones is a priority.

The library service is appreciated, and well used. A lack of "communication" was evident particularly on the work and decisions of the Parish Council and of information for new arrivals. These comments emphasised the value of the Deddington News

A majority regards the Churches as important for worship, the sacraments or as a heritage and expressed a willingness to support them in time of financial crisis. The Parish Council members are not widely known and The Parish Council itself needs better PR. There is a high degree of concern over the planning process and a need to explain further the uses that the village fund can cover, which is seen to concentrate on clubs and sport, with little for the elderly and children.

Very disparate reasons brought people to live in the Parish with more than half saying they considered the "Community" to be the most important aspect of life.

Costs

The total costs so far for this project are £686.38. A grant of £150 was received from the ORCC giving a net cost of £536.38. This compares favourably with the original budget of £1 per person in the Parish, and the expected cost of £1000.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Copies of the report with the conclusions and recommendations should be sent to Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, and The Countryside and Community Research Unit..
2. Housing PC to campaign for Parish opinion to be recognised.
3. Employment Encourage development of local small size employment opportunities
4. Education i) Improve Community Education opportunities
ii) Co-ordinate with Village School Governors to ensure the school it can accommodate growing numbers
5. Environment Reassess location and availability of recycling facilities
6. Health Develop closer liaison with the Health Centre. Encourage an expansion of the range of services, and ensure wide publicity in the Parish
7. Emergency Services Pass input and comments to the relevant authorities for information and action
8. Services i) Encourage the opening of general Chemist service
ii) Install public toilets in the Market Square
9. Leisure i) Encourage/help the Windmill improve its 'publicity'
ii) Help/encourage formation of new clubs
10. Transport/
Highways i) Work with Bus Companies to maintain services
ii) Explore ways of rationalising/maximising parking
iii) Explore ways of traffic calming **throughout the Parish**
iv) Clear/install the Clifton/Deddington footpath
11. Information Review methods of providing timely "communication" particularly on Council Activities. Make full use of the Deddington News.
12. Local Government i) Explore ways of improving PR on activities and decisions
ii) Lobby CDC on the parish concerns re planning etc.
iii) Review the programme of activities resulting from the use of the Parish fund to ensure that as wide a range of people as possible benefit
13. General i) Present the findings of the "Appraisal" at a Public Meeting
ii) Prepare a document with photographs and graphs etc., for general sale
iii) Parish Council to keep Master copies (containing full data)

