

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday
18th October, 1995 at the Town Hall, Deddington at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Councillors Clarke, Cosgrove, Clinch, Mrs Fisher, Flux, Miss Hill, Mrs Lee, Mrs Stevens and Mrs Swash. District Councillor P O'Sullivan in attendance.

65/95 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman Cr Todd, Mrs Brewer (on Council Business), Colley, Drake, Oddy and County Councillor Matthews.

66/95 Chairman.

In the absence of the Chairman the Vice-Chairman Cr Clinch took the Chair.

67/95 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 13th September, 1995.

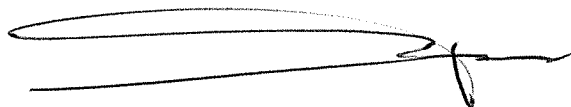
These minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

68/95 Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Parish Council on 2nd October, 1995.

Cr Miss Hill wished it to be minuted that she had objected to being ruled out of order in endeavouring to move an amendment following the vote on Min.63/95. Agreed nem con. A correction to Min 63/95, in that it was moved by the Chairman and not Cr Flux, was agreed. Subject to the above addition and correction the minutes were approved nem con and signed by the Chairman.

69/95 Letter from the Acting Editor of the Deddington News.

The letter was critical of the manner in which the debate on the Precept - a most important matter for parishioners - had been conducted in the absence of the Press and Public. This debate had taken place following the return to open session at the last meeting, though no intimation was given that further business was to be transacted in open session, when it was moved that the Council move into closed session. No infringement of Standing Orders had however occurred. Members, in retrospect, thought that their action had been poor public relations, and suggestion was made that in future, the Precept be treated completely separate from other agenda items and that the public be given ample opportunity to give notice that they wished to speak at the meeting. The Clerk advised that it was not possible to amend Minute 63/95(b) or any resolution within a period of 6 months unless a motion, in writing, bearing the names of 5 members of the Council is presented to the Clerk 7 days prior to a meeting of the Council. It was agreed nem con to apologise to the public and press for any unwitting discourtesy shown.



70/95 Minutes of the Closed Session of the meeting held on 2nd October, 1995.

These minutes were approved nem con.

71/95 Chairman's Allowance.

A valid late application for a Tertiary Education Grant from Christopher J Rose, studying for a B Eng (Hons) at Manchester had been received and it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman's Allowance be increased by £100.

72/95 Prioritisation of Capital Schemes.

The Clerk submitted an analysis of Member's returns in the above matter a copy of which is filed with these minutes. It was resolved to consider this matter at the next meeting of the Council when it was hoped a meeting would have taken place with Mr Carritt of the County Council relating among other matters to the Clifton Footpath.

73/95 Locations for 'Kill Your Speed Signs'.

It was resolved nem con that the following locations for 7 signs be transmitted to the County Council for approval.

Deddington

- Banbury Road - on School Sign
- Oxford Road - on Deddington Sign
- Clifton Road - opposite 'Little House' - pole required
- Hempton Road - adjacent to farm gate - pole required

Clifton

- Main Road - on bend approaching from west - pole required

Hempton

- B4031 from Deddington - on Tree on approach to village
- B4031 from Chipping Norton - on bend - pole required.

It was estimated that the cost would be £746, within the agreed estimate of £810, (Min 47/95(a)).

74/95 Layout of Persimmon Development Open Space.

A letter had been received from the District Council requesting a decision as to form of layout. It was unanimously agreed to accept the District Council's suggested layout subject to the pedestrian barrier being placed within the open space.

75/95 Environment Committee.

Cr Mrs Stevens reported as follows:-

(a) The planter on the hill entering the village from Oxford was unable to produce growth of plants due to the considerable overhang of trees. It was agreed nem con that a quotation be sought, for the next meeting, for the removal of this planter to a site on the island at the junction of St Thomas Street.

(b) Thanks were expressed to Cr Oddy for enabling the Steward's tools etc. to be stored on his premises, but these were now required for redevelopment. Members were asked to consider an alternative central site, the Holly Tree area being one suggestion.



3.

(c) Quotations had been received from Messrs Bus Shelters Ltd for further amendments to the Shelters as follows:-

Hempton Rd Deddington - £614.50 ex Vat to enclose each end and make two 5' openings at the front onto the footpath. Agreed nem con.

Hempton - £821.06 ex Vat to enclose the eastern end erect an angled end at the western side producing a 2'6" opening at the eastern rear and a 3' opening at the western front. Acceptance was proposed by Cr Mrs Stevens, seconded by Cr Cosgrove and agreed unanimously.

(d) It was agreed that the District Council be requested to place Tree Preservation Orders on many trees in the Parish following the unlawful removal of a verge tree.

(e) Letter from the District Council inviting members to a meeting of the Cherwell Countryside Forum on Wednesday, 1st November, 1995. Noone present could attend and the Clerk was asked to enquire of absent members.

(f) Letter from the LPA regarding parking outside the former St James Church at Clifton. The planning application for change of use had been recommended by the Council's officers for refusal on parking grounds but had been approved by Members. The letter stated that 'Regrettably in the circumstances there is little I can do about the situation other than write to the present occupiers of the building advising them of the concerns and recommending that they park their vehicles so as not to obstruct the footpath. I shall also copy this letter to the County Engineer for his information and ask him to investigate whether he has powers to prevent the obstruction of the footpath in this way'. The Clerk was asked to forward a copy of the letter to Cr Colley.

(g) The Clerk reported the receipt of a revised quotation from Mr L Burton re the construction of a trough at the Cemetery in lieu of a standpipe, in the sum of £199.23. Acceptance was proposed by Cr Mrs Swash, seconded by Cr Mrs Fisher and agreed unanimously.

76/95 Recreation Committee.

Cr Mrs Lee reported as follows:-

(a) Grants for coaching. A suggested scheme devised by Mr Cresswell was circulated to all Members and it was resolved that the matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

(b) Letter requesting a subscription from the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association. Agreed to pay the sum of £25.

(c) A letter had been received from the District Council offering 100% grant for the Deddington Circular Walk. It was agreed that the Council should proceed with the project. Cr Mrs Lee stated that her husband was no longer able to be involved and it was agreed that the papers be passed to the Clerk. Volunteers were needed to assist with the implementation of the project.



77/95 Planning Committee.

Cr Miss Hill reported as follows:-

Applications.

95/1579F&95/1580/LBD - The Hermitage, Market Place - Demolition of Conservatory and formation of cloakroom and storage area - No observations.

95/1356F - Wakehurst, Castle Street - Amended drawings - The drawings met the Council's original criticisms and there were no further observations.

95/974LBD - Kings Arms, Horsefair - Amended Plans - No observations.

Approvals

95/950F - The Hermitage, Market Place - First Floor Extension over kitchen.

Refusals

95/1385/ADV - Land north of Manor Farm, Banbury Rd. - Housing development sign.

OCC - Request for continued use of temporary building at Council Depot, Banbury Road - No objection.

Each of the above recommendations was approved.

78/95 Windmill Committee.

Cr Flux reported as follows:-

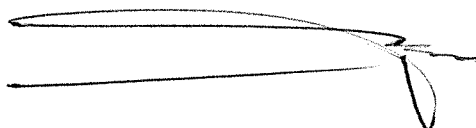
(a) Designgro, the Council's contractors for the maintenance of the Sports Field at the Windmill had suggested that it was necessary for an application of a specialised fertiliser to assist in the eradication of the worm infestation at an estimated cost of £650. Savings in the omission of the normal fertiliser and a reduction in the number of cuts of the outfield, due to the good summer weather, could compensate for the majority of this cost. Agreed that this work should proceed.

(b) Discussions were still taking place with the Beeches Bowls Club regarding the necessary remedial work and general maintenance works to the green but it was likely that additional costs of approximately £1,000 would be necessary. It was proposed by Cr Mrs Swash, seconded by Cr Mrs Stevens and agreed unanimously that the Chairman and Clerk continue their negotiations as to responsibility for such costs with a view to minimising any cost to this Council.

(c) A letter had been received from J P Charles and Sons Ltd, the appointed contractor for roof insulation, stating that in their opinion it would be advisable to use new roofing sheets due to the deterioration of the existing ones, at an additional cost of £683.00 plus VAT. The additional cost was agreed unanimously.

79/95 Accounts for Payment.

Accounts totalling £6,172.23 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting were approved for payment. (Schedule filed in the Minute Book).



5.

80/95 Investment of the Council's Funds.

The Clerk reported that at close of business on 17th October, 1995 the balances were as follows:-

£	
450,000.00	Privilege Bod with the Bradford & Bingley Building Society for a 2 year period expiring on 10th May, 1997
	with a break for full repayment on 10th May, 1996, variable at 7.3%.
120,000.00	Treasury Deposit at 6.25% fixed to 7th November, 1995
12,969.57	subject to 14 days notice at 4.75%
20,699.99	overnight at 3.375%
<u>603,669.56</u>	

81/95 Correspondence.

(a) Letter of thanks for his Tertiary Education Grant from Jamie Robinson.

(b) Notification of the Annual Parishes and District Council Meeting at Bodicote House on Monday, 6th November, 1995. 3 representatives are invited.

(c) Letter from Wright Hassall & Co requesting permission to carry out works to the Kings Arms, Horsefair. Agreed that permission be granted.

(d) Notice of the commencement of the audit of accounts for the year 1994/95 on 27th November, 1995.

(e) Letter from Mr & Mrs Smith of Tays Cottage requesting that (i) the street light on their gable be included in the Market Place Scheme. Agreed that the scheme has now been finalised but that the Environment Committee should bear this request in mind for any future schemes.

(ii) 2 street name plates be erected on Tays Gateway. A request for such provision has already been made to the District Council.

(f) Letter from the Parochial Church Council thanking this Council for agreeing to provide a loan for the new heating system in the Parish Church. However the generous response from the people of Deddington has reduced the need for funding and interest free loans for the reduced deficit have been obtained.

(g) Letter from the County Council stating that the Wednesday, Bloxham to Oxford bus service has been withdrawn with effect from 25th October, 1995.

(h) Request from the Chipping Norton Theatre for a contribution towards its running costs. Agreed that a contribution of £50 be made this year.

(i) Notification that the Footway Reconstruction Scheme in High/New Street will commence during October/November 1995.

82/95 Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Council will be held at the Town Hall, Deddington on Wednesday 15th November, 1995 commencing at 7.30 pm.



DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

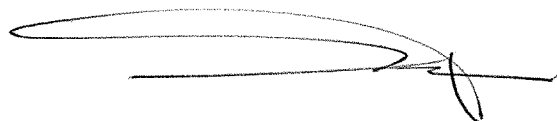
Results of Capital Scheme Prioritisation Survey

11 Replies were received

	Priority								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<u>Environment</u>									
Street Lighting Improvements	-	-	2	2	1	1	1	1	-
Further Traffic Management Works	-	2	1	-	-	2	2	1	-
Cleaning & Repainting Church Clock Face	1	1	-	4	-	-	1	-	-
Works to Clifton Footpath	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
<u>Recreation</u>									
Clifton Play Area Levelling Works	5	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
<u>Planning & Property</u>									
Acquisition of Town Hall	3	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	-
Acquisition of Land for Car Park	-	1	-	1	2	2	-	1	1
Public Toilets	-	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Other Schemes</u>									
Grants & Bursaries for Coaching	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Millenium Project	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

Notes made.

- (a) The Clifton Footpath is a County Council Matter.
- (b) OCC must help with finance etc re Clifton Footpath.
- (c) Would put Clifton Footpath higher but feel we should try OCC first - we do not want to end up funding every footpath in the Parish.
- (d) As far as the future is concerned I would prefer not to envisage any 'capital' projects. I feel very strongly that capital should be invested long term for the future and other Parish Councils in years to come.
- (e) The Town Hall is already on a fully repair lease so it is not necessary to spend extra money.



DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Schedule of Accounts Payable - October, 1995

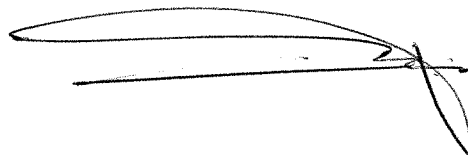
Creditor	Detail	£
Inland Revenue	Tax and National Insurance	1,199.44
J Spencer	Maintenance Works	211.50
J Boss	Grasscutting & Hedging	750.00
Centrepont	Photocopying - Final	6.20
Sigma Coatings Ltd	Stain etc	30.22
Beaufort Electrical	Illumination of Parish Church	2,238.38
Insignia	Supply of Sign	104.00
Lane Fox	½ years rent of Allotments	75.00
Cherwell District Council	500 Black Plastic Sacks	29.38
Viking Direct Ltd	Stationery	165.49
D P C Imprest Account	Reimbursement	1,112.22
D H Blakey	Salary and Expenses October	250.40

6,172.23

Make-up of Imprest Account Reimbursement

D Freeman	Wages W/e 16,23,30/9,7,14/10	792.03
Chairman's Account	Allowance	100.00
B & Q Ltd	Tools for Steward	54.90
Windmill Stores	Postage	9.60
Brit.Telecom	Office Telephone	71.22
R Canning	Plants and Fertiliser	43.99
O A L C	Model Standing Orders	3.50
O R C C	Annual Subscription	15.00
B Hill	Bulbs	21.98

1,112.22



David - for information,

M. H. H. 10/95

THE DEDDINGTON NEWS

The Stone House
Market Place
Deddington
Oxon
OX15 0SD

Tel: 01869 338019

17 October 1995

Mr Geoff Todd
Chairman
Deddington Parish Council

Dear Geoff

Item 5 on the Agenda of the Special Meeting on 2 October 1995 was 'To reappraise the Use of Capital Receipts and Interest and the Precept for 1996/7'. Several concerns were expressed, including whether or not there should be a Precept for next year and, if so, how much. No substantive conclusions were reached on financial strategy. A survey of members' views was to be undertaken and the results presented at the next meeting, on 18 October.

You then announced that the Council would go into closed session to transact confidential business. On request, and in accordance with the rules, members of the public and press left the meeting. District Councillor O'Sullivan left with us.

I have since learned that the meeting was subsequently declared open again. No attempt was made to inform public, press or District Councillor and, in our absence, the Council voted (8 in favour, 4 against) to levy a 1996/7 Precept equivalent to an average of £12 from every Council Tax Payer in the Parish.

How could this have happened? Deliberate discourtesy? Incompetence? Arrogance? Manipulation? Something more sinister? Whatever the reason, the effect is that a decision which affects financially the majority of parishioners, and which need not have been made until 1996, was taken in what amounted to secret session. Why?

I think the readers of *The Deddington News* are entitled to an explanation, and I would be grateful to receive it before Tuesday 24 October, copy date for the November issue.

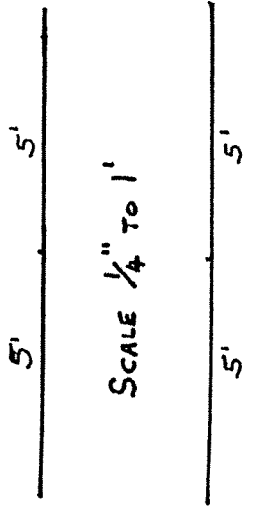
Yours sincerely

Norman Stone

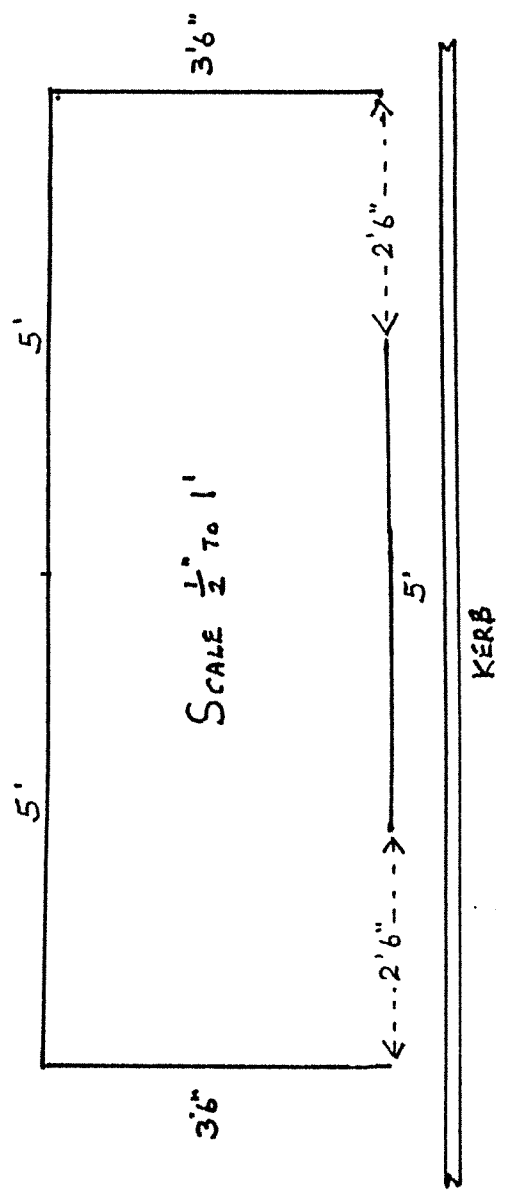
Norman Stone
Managing Editor (Acting)

HEMPTON VILLAGE BUS SHELTER

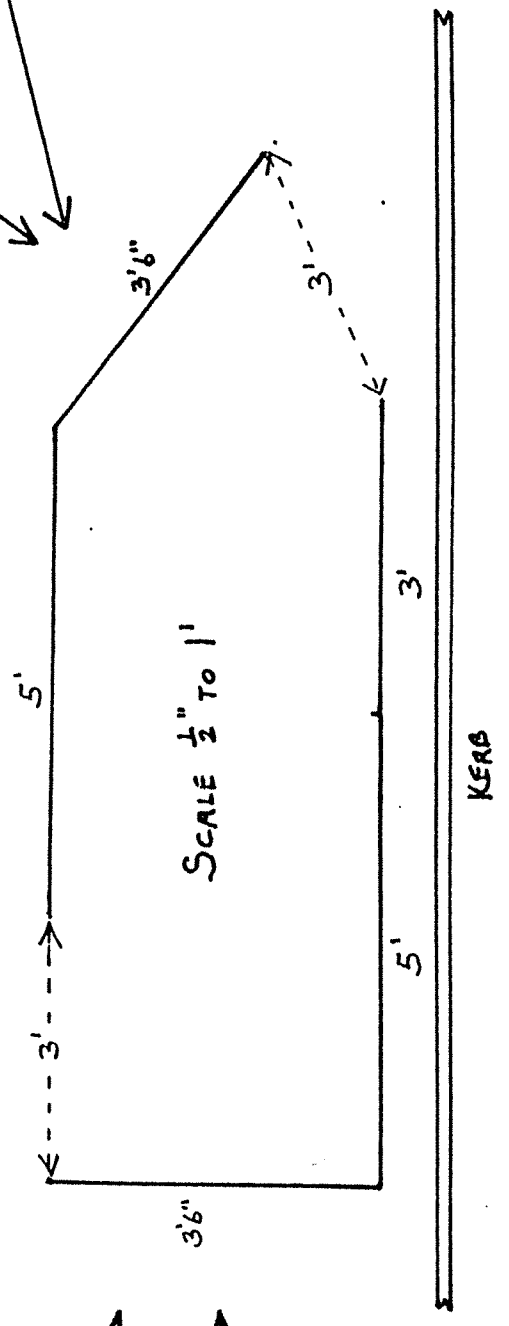
1. PRESENT



2. SUGGESTED



3. ALTERNATIVE



COMMENTS

1. PRESENT - WIND AND RAIN FROM WESTERLY QUARTER FUNNEL STRAIGHT THROUGH

2. SUGGESTED - GOOD PROTECTION FROM WEATHER
BUT
 - ENTRY REQUIRES STEPPING INTO ROAD
 - CHILDREN PLAYING COULD BE PUSHED OUT INTO THE ROAD FROM ENTRY & EXIT
 - ENTRY/EXIT AT 2'6" TOO SMALL FOR A WHEEL CHAIR?

3. ALTERNATIVE - REASONABLE WEATHER PROTECTION
 - SAFER ENTRY
 - SAFER EXIT WITH DISTANCE FROM KERB INCREASED WHERE CHILDREN AT PLAY ARE INVOLVED
 - ENTRY/EXIT AT 3' BETTER FOR WHEEL CHAIR?

BUT

 - ENTRY COULD BE SUBJECT TO A LIMITED ACCESS OF SOUTH AND S. WESTERLY WIND AND RAIN

Parish Council Grants and Bursaries for Coaching or Tuition

At their meeting of 17 July 1995 the Parish Council accepted in principle a proposal that grants or bursaries should be made available from the Parish Fund for the coaching or tuition of village children in sport or other suitable activities where this was likely to encourage standards of excellence which might not otherwise be developed.

It is not proposed that such grants/bursaries be made to beginners but to supplement existing tuition to those who already display particular talents, thus providing a timely stimulus to quicker progress.

The following notes attempt to suggest how the Council's decision might be applied in practice.

- 1). Source of Grants/Bursaries . A modest budget be created each year from the interest on the Capital of the Parish Fund. ...

Grants to Sports Clubs or Village Societies would be direct from the this budget; individual bursaries would be debited to the Chairman's Allowance . (See later Note on Individual Bursaries, under Financial Aspects.)

- 2). Applications . Applications will be considered from the following:

- i) Village Sports or Societies;
ii) The Village School;
iii) Parents of the child or from the child himself/herself.

- 3). General Qualifications.

Girls or boys aged between nine and sixteen at the time of Application;

Village residents of one year or more;

Already having received tuition and showing further promise;
supported by professional opinion;

Financial sponsorship of the type requested not readily available
from other resources;

How the sum requested is proposed to be spent.

- 4). Specific Criteria.

- i) Sports Clubs and Village Societies may apply for grants for the coaching of promising junior members; the general qualifications will apply. Evidence must be given that the Club or Society itself financing some forms of coaching of its members;
- ii) The School may consider making application for talented children to receive specialist tuition beyond what is already available from their own budget or Local Education Authority services. (A bursary to provide additional music teaching might be an example.)
- iii) Individual Applications from parents or even from the children themselves may be considered as long as they are supported by appropriate professional opinion as to purpose and expected progress.

- 5). Financial Aspects.

- i) As an arbitrary figure a budget of say, £2000.00 might be created for the fund;

(cont.)

for the first year, subject to review in the light of experience; this would provide for grants of say £2/300.00 for up to five/six Clubs or Societies with the balance available for individual bursaries for music, the arts, or scientific pursuits;

Clubs or Societies should be prepared to reveal their accounts on request;

Evidence must be submitted as to how the grant or bursary is to be spent and, after the event, of the fact that it was spent in the manner proposed;

Individual Grants/Bursaries. It has been stated that the District Auditor has given a ruling that on legal grounds Parish Councils are not permitted to make grants or bursaries to individuals, though the basis for this restriction is not clear.

For grants made to Clubs and Societies this need not be a problem since it can be left to their discretion as to the degree to which grants are used for group or individual coaching.

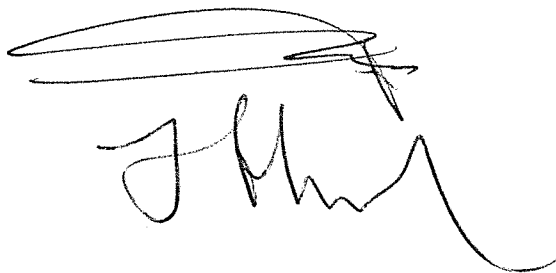
In the case of grants or bursaries made direct to individuals the present students grants are made from 'The Chairman's Allowance'; consideration will need to be given as to whether that Allowance is large enough to meet the extra demand envisaged, whether it needs to be increased, or - if that is not possible - to alternative means of meeting these requirements.

6). Publicity etc. When the scheme has been finalised and approved by the Parish Council a suitable proforma will need to be drafted to provide a standard method of application as is already the case for other types of grants.

Details of the scheme could be made known to all Clubs and Societies and the Deddington News could be the vehicle for the information of the public at large.

The Parish Council could justifiably use the publicity to demonstrate still further its commitment to encouraging the youngsters of the village in the pursuit of excellence in sport or other suitable activities.

EJC 3 October 1995

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John', with a large, sweeping horizontal stroke above it.