

## DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall, Deddington on  
Wednesday 18 February 2009 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Flux (Chair), Alton, Anderson, Collins, Ince, Privett, Squires, Todd, Ward, Watts, Westbury and Wood. The Parish Clerk was also in attendance.

**In attendance:** District Councillor O'Sullivan

018/09	<b>Apologies:</b> Apologies were received from Cllrs Rudge and Spencer and County Cllr Jelf
019/09	<b>Minutes of the last meeting:</b> 007/09 (9) <b>Precept for 2009-10</b> A vote was then taken for the originally proposed increased which was carried 10 for and 2 against. Cllr Flux then signed the minutes as a true record.
020/09	<b>Declaration of Interests</b> <b>022/09 Windmill objections</b> – Cllrs Flux personal interest and Todd personal & prejudicial interest. <b>024/09 7 – Windmill Playing Fields</b> Cllrs Flux and Todd personal interests <b>026/09 08/02583/F – Windmill Community Centre</b> Cllrs Todd & Flux personal & prejudicial interest <b>026/09 09/00128/F – 9 The Daedings, Deddington</b> Cllr Flux personal interest
021/09	<b>Matters Arising not referred to later on the Agenda:</b> None
022/09	<b>10 Minute Open Forum:</b> John Day from Mill Close addressed the council to state his objection to the wind turbine. He enquired how one could make changes to the Windmill Committee (WMC) as he has lost confidence. Cllr Flux said that the WMC was an independent charity and a company limited by guarantee. Cllr Flux stated that although treasurer of the WMC he was unable to comment on the Wind Turbine due to a conflict of interest and if discussed, as an agenda item, it would be necessary for him to leave the room. As the planning permission had been withdrawn it was not on the agenda for discussion. Cllr Anderson confirmed that this advice had been provided by Cherwell District Council (CDC). Mike Higgins also wished to log his objection to the proposed Wind Turbine. Mike Gooding addressed the council to state his objections to the Wind Turbine and also express his dissatisfaction regarding the siting of the Windmill Centre security lighting and their beams. He questioned whether this encouraged vandalism and asked if heat sensitive lighting would be more appropriate and also provide a cost saving. He also asked when the newly sited dog-waste bin was going to be emptied and suggested that it would be better situated nearer to the cemetery - the ESP group will look into this. Cllr Flux said that the Police had stated that they considered security lighting to be a deterrent to vandalism. However, he would report back to the WMC regarding the lighting beams facing in the wrong direction and look at turning the lights off earlier. Mr Rennison also stated his objection to the Wind Turbine and commented that he didn't understand how the WMC worked. Cllr Flux said that anyone within the Parish can get involved in the 40+ clubs and societies and encouraged people to help with them if they are interested. Cllr Collins suggested that any further comments regarding the proposed Windmill Wind Turbine be emailed to him enabling him to collect and explore the level of opposition and also to ensure that the residents are kept informed. His details had been posted to residents of Mill Close after the initial proposal was made in May 2008. Cllr Flux reiterated that while the views expressed would be recorded there would be no discussion as the Wind Turbine planning application had been withdrawn and was therefore not on the agenda. Hugh Blythe expressed his disappointment at being unable to view the proposed site on the CDC website. It was suggested that pop up blockers might be the reason for this. He was advised that the Clerk had a copy for viewing and arrangements should be made to view at the Parish Office if unable to remove the pop up blocker.
023/09	<b>County and District Councillors update:</b> None
024/09	<b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Working Group</b> <b>1. Summary cash flow to end January 2009.</b> The only significant payment is £344 for a further power sweep of the All weather Court. <b>2. Building Societies.</b> The £200,000 at Birmingham Midshires will get 6.12% until 15 June 2009. There is £200,000 invested with the Anglo Irish Bank and this will receive 3.25% for two years from January 2009. Interest from West Brom has reduced to 2%. <b>3. Budget 2009.</b> This will be prepared for the March 2009 meeting based on the assumptions agreed at this meeting. It was proposed that the weekend steward hours are reduced to 2 hours, to be taken when needed. Cllr Privett objected saying that as most people in the parish work the benefit of the stewards work was the clearing up after a Friday and Saturday night. Cllr Wood stated that the work would be undertaken when dictated and convenient for the steward. Cllr Watts suggested that other "back room" costs should be considered for cutting such as the Parish Clerk and the Minute Clerks hours. The Clerk and Minute Secretary left the room whilst the PC went into closed session to discuss this. The Council agreed that no changes should be made to the hours of either member of staff. Cllr Wood asked that any other specific points regarding the budget be made before the next meeting to ensure that it reflects these issues.

Cllr Wood then asked that the original proposal be considered for cutting the Weekend Village Stewards hours by 50% either working Saturday or Sunday with flexibility and direction from the PC. This was seconded by Cllr Ince and voted with 6 for, 4 against and 2 abstentions. It was then agreed that this would be adopted with the caveat that it would be reviewed over time.

i) Grass cutting. The monies received from OCC (nominally 5 cuts) might actually cover 7 or 8 cuts based on current prices. The F&GP recommend that the budget be prepared on this basis. Cllr Westbury proposed that the grass be cut to the value of what is received by OCC. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Todd. This proposal was agreed for both the verges and the amenity areas. It was suggested that the cuts be made at the PC's choice i.e. when overgrown. For the sake of clarification verges relates to those within the village boundaries i.e. within the speed limit signs. It was agreed that tenders will be sought.

ii) A quotation from Complete Weed Control to do one treatment (in May) rather than two as last year. Footpaths would be treated only if necessary when the time comes. Cllr Todd stated that this should be OCC responsibility. However, Cllr Wood stated as they have nothing in their budget for weed control it would be prudent to cover the cost in the PC's budget. This was agreed.

iii) Fair. Perry Hatwell has requested permission to return with the funfair 12-14 November 2009. It was discussed whether he should take on full responsibility of the administration and organisation of the fair. However, Cllr Squires suggested that it was better for the PC to maintain control by organising the road closure but pass on responsibility of moving cars and the clear up to Perry (although offering the village steward services for hire). The Clerk will arrange a meeting to clarify responsibilities.

**4. Town Hall.** The PC has written to DCE to say that the electrical certificate is their responsibility as landlords but that the PC will carry out re-decoration when the necessary structural work has been done. Cllr Flux stated that a full electrical certificate had been received by DCE. It was also mentioned that the PC might not necessarily renew the lease in 2010. The rent has been adjusted in line with the Cost of Living index as allowed for in the lease. Cllr Flux stated that a builder is doing a survey of the structural work necessary and also undertaking a quote for the redecoration work required.

**5. Cemetery.** Allianz has confirmed that it has settled the old cemetery insurance claim. Cllr Ince ran through an analysis of income and expenditure of the Cemetery. This looks likely to run at a loss of £1,000 at the end of the last 6 years. This is partly due to the re-siting of several headstones. The funeral directors have been spoken to and hopefully the use of a more robust plinth will ensure that these costs are kept to a minimum in the future. Cllr Ince proposed increases to the costs of resident's burial (to £235) and cremation (£160) to be bought in 1 March 2009. These are lower than the Parochial Church Council's average costs for 2009. Children 12 and under will be free of charge. Non-residents costs would be confirmed upon application (taking into account previous residency) but will still typically be double that of a resident. Cllr Collins seconded the proposal, which was unanimously agreed.

Much of the associated costs of the upkeep of the cemetery relate to grass cutting. Cllr Ince proposed that whilst the weekend steward's hours are being cut he has offered his services to cut the grass twice (during the growing season) in the Cemetery and the War Memorial grave yard using his own equipment (with petrol and maintenance costs covered by the PC) and cut hedges in the non-growing season. It is hoped that this would result in an annual saving. It was unanimously agreed that a budget of £1,000.00 be set for grass cutting and maintenance. It was also agreed that these areas should be taken out of the cutting tenders. Cllr Privett congratulated Cllr Ince on his analysis.

#### **6. Allotments**

i) Stonepits. The Land Registry is arranging to inspect the site.

ii) Satin Lane. Lynda Lake Stewart has confirmed that she would like the hut to contain allotment holders' own equipment – spades and forks, strimmers, black plastic sheets, and supplies of seed and fertilizer, as well as acting as a notice board. The intention is to pay for the hut and the watering system as a capital item, and defer the ground clearance, which would have to be written off against Revenue Reserves. Cllr Wood will ensure that the Allotment Association are aware that they will have to organise the insurance for the contents whilst the PC will insure the hut itself.

**7. Windmill Playing Fields.** F&GP considered the suggestion from the Recreation WG. The ground is PC property. The arrangement with the Windmill to collect the takings and make 85% over to the PC (in the case of the AWC) which did not work well last year, but has now been re-organised and appears to be working properly. A further payment of £1,818.60 has been received making £2,818.60 this year. This is 85% of the takings of £3,316 1st February 2008 to 31st January 2009. Current discussions with the Cricket Club suggest they have negotiated a settlement with DesignGro and will be able to pay the PC what is owed by the end of March. The Cricket Club are unlikely to ask the PC for a contribution to the new nets etc.

The WMC pass on 50% of fees collected for the use of the Windmill Centre (building and pitches/greens etc). Cllr Squires asked that as the PC could not influence the monies coming into the WMC was it relevant for the PC to meet the £5,000 shortfall for grass cutting. Cllr Flux stated that he did

	<p>not think it fair to expect someone else to maintain someone else's property and pay the extra VAT for doing so. Cllr Anderson stated that the PC had no input on what was charged to the four clubs using the areas regularly (Cricket, Football, Colts and Bowls). Cllr Squires asked why these clubs were being subsidised for a small proportion of the population involved in these clubs. Cllr Ince asked that the anticipated expenditure levels for 2009/10 be provided for transparency. Cllr Todd stated the fields were a general amenity and there for the interest of the village. He also pointed out that the bowls and tennis club had no need for the grass cutting. Cllr Collins stated that the fields were not just there for the sole use of the people belonging to the clubs. Cllr Flux reminded Cllrs that the Windmill Centre had originally been set up as a sports facility. Cllr Watts suggested that the charges made to the Cricket and Football clubs be looked at in comparison with hiring other local grounds with similar facilities. It was suggested that the discussion be deferred until this information had been made available. Cllr Anderson said that what was being highlighted was a desire for more detailed information on the relationship with the Windmill Management Committee and a need to ensure a reasonable return on Council assets. Cllr Flux suggested that Cherwell be asked for their charges for the sake of comparison. Cllr Wood proposed for the time being that £5,000 for pitch grass cutting be included in the budget. This was agreed. The Chairman suggested that he and the Vice Chairman prepare a paper explaining the responsibilities and charging. Cllr Alton also mentioned that the Cricket Club was seeking further quotes for additional cuts. He was reminded that adequate insurance would be required for doing so.</p> <p><b>8. Castle Grounds.</b> F&amp;GP recommended that the Colts deal with the moles, at their expenses. This was agreed. Cllr Squires will ensure that the Clerk receives a copy of the report about moles that was carried out on behalf of the Colts.</p> <p><b>9. Play areas.</b></p> <p>i) Three quotes received for annual inspection: John Hicks - £178, Wickstead £213, Roger Davies £209 (his fee is donated to charity – Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association OPFA). Discussions ensued and whilst there was a feeling that John Hicks should be chosen as cheapest it was finally proposed that as Roger Davies be used as the PC subscribe to OPFA and he is used by CDC for advise and guidance. Cllr Squires proposed this with Cllr Privett seconding and 5 in favour, 1 against and 6 abstentions.</p> <p>ii) Springer. The WG recommended that the offer to remove and dispose of the old springer base for £120 be accepted – this equipment has suffered metal fatigue. Attempts to find a replacement spring have investigated. The Clerk was advised that unless specific springs made for use with this equipment are used it would not meet insurance or H &amp; S requirements – no such springs could cost effectively be sourced.</p>
025/09	<p><b>Environment &amp; Special Projects</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Wildflower Meadow:</b> Rod d' Ayala visited on 4 February and was very enthusiastic about the cemetery and provided lots of ideas. He will produce a report and it is hoped work will start in Autumn. He also looked at verges and suggested minimal cutting where possible. The working group plan to request £500 some of which may be recoverable. Cllr Rudge also been in touch with Walter Meagher will ask his advice on his return in May.</li> <li>2. <b>Bio-diversity Conference:</b> a request to attend a conference on 28 February regarding ecordig and maintaining biodiversity. The cost is £10.</li> <li>3. <b>Deddington on line:</b> The working group would like to include a summarised weekly bulletin from ONCF and include other environmental news.</li> <li>4. <b>Planters:</b> Nicholson's Nurseries of North Aston have confirmed that they will plant six planters (4 Deddington and 2 Hempton) with colourful summer herbaceous plants on the understanding the PC takes responsibility for watering and weeding. Jennifer Saunders has agreed to continue caring for the Clifton planter. Cllr Todd enquired about the Windmill planter. Cllr Ince confirmed that the Scouts will continue to look after it.</li> <li>5. <b>Hanging Baskets:</b> Still looking for sponsors but as a worst case the working group propose recycling this years baskets with new plants costing in the region of £100. This was agreed.</li> </ol>
026/09	<p><b>Planning Group</b></p> <p><b>Applications</b></p> <p><b>08/02583/F – Windmill Community Centre</b> Installation of single 11kw horizontal axis wind turbine on 18m tower. Application withdrawn.</p> <p><b>09/00122/F – 27 Gaveston Gardens, Deddington</b> Garage conversion and side/part rear extension. Current garage is mostly situated in the back garden and not integral. The proposal extends the garage towards the front and at the side of the house. This area is then divided between a day room at the rear and garage at the front. A small lobby at the rear links the garage and day room to the house. The roof area above the garage provides more space for the day room at first floor level with light from 3 roof lights in the front facing pitched roof. There is still adequate on site parking. No objection.</p> <p><b>09/00128/F – 9 The Daedings, Deddington.</b> Alterations and additions, rear extension, first floor extension, pitched roof over existing garage with 2 no. dormer windows and alterations to porch and new front door. There is a small increase in the footprint of the building at the rear. An earlier</p>

	<p>single storey extension is now being built over to extend the main bedroom. There are various internal changes and the garage roof is being changed into a pitched one to provide a playroom with internal access from the garage. No objection.</p> <p><b>Approvals</b>  <b>08/02173/F – 14 High Street, Deddington</b></p> <p><b>Other matters</b>  <b>Cherwell DC – Cherwell Rural Strategy 2009 – 2014</b> There is a copy in the PC office, it sets out what CDC hopes to achieve with its partners over the next five years.</p>																												
027/09	<p><b>Highways Working Group (HWG)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Earls Lane:</b> Steve Wood from OCC has provided the latest speed data for Earls Lane. He and Louise Harrison conducted a site visit around Deddington and Earls Lane and noted an ineffective street light on the corner of Earls Lane and Castle Street. OCC are concerned about speed and the fact there is no footpath so will investigate the installation (subject to budget) of a new lighting column for the edge of the road, in consultation with the PC.</li> <li><b>Speed Indicator Display (SID):</b> Steve Wood also advised a new SID is being delivered to Deddington Police for use in the area. Data sheets from Earls Lane will be copied to PC Morris and hopefully they will make some visits there. Cllr Privett to contact PC Morris to discuss.</li> <li><b>Parking:</b> to be discussed at the March meeting with Cllr Woods paper being circulated after discussion amongst the working group.</li> <li><b>High Street Traffic Lights:</b> A response is being prepared to OCC.</li> <li><b>Hempton Pinch Point:</b> to be chased up.</li> <li><b>RTA:</b> Cllr Rudge advised that an RTA occurred last Friday (13 February) on the area south of Deddington that had recently been re-surfaced. The working group to ascertain if due to build up of ice. There was also an accident in Clifton due to the bad road conditions.</li> </ol>																												
028/09	<p><b>Recreation Working Group (RWG)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Castle Mound (but not Castle Grounds):</b> Current cutting costs are fully covered by money provided by English Heritage. WG recommends that the number of cuts here to continue to match the funding provided. This was agreed.</li> <li><b>Other business.</b> Cherwell Recreation Strategy Meeting – Wednesday 4 March 10am. Volunteer sought as RWG members are unable to attend.</li> <li><b>Allotment Association – new shed/water/site clearance:</b> Discussed.</li> </ol>																												
029/09	<p><b>Councillors expenses</b></p> <p>Cllr Flux recommended that the scheme be adopted but all expenses bar mileage allowance be waived. Unanimously agreed.</p>																												
030//09	<p><b>Report upon the Play Areas</b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that she will organise to get the damaged springer removed.</p>																												
031/09	<p><b>Invoices for Payment</b></p> <p>A schedule of invoices totalling £3,045.08 were tabled and approved for payment for period 22 January - 18 February 2009. (Including two replacement cheques for £30 and £395.89 which have failed to arrive to date)</p>																												
032/09	<p><b>Investment of Council Funds</b></p> <p>At the close of business on 18 February 2009 the balances were as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>ACCOUNT</th> <th>BALANCE</th> <th>INTEREST</th> <th>NOTICE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Barclays Imprest Acct</td> <td>1,240.94</td> <td>0.1%</td> <td>Imprest</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barclays Current Acct</td> <td>7,608.63</td> <td>0.1%</td> <td>Current</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W. Bromwich Building Soc.</td> <td>124,270.48</td> <td>2.5%</td> <td>Overnight</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birmingham Midshires</td> <td>200,000.00</td> <td>6.12%</td> <td>1 year fixed (June 09)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anglo Irish Bank</td> <td>200,000.00</td> <td>3.25%</td> <td>2 year fixed (Jan 11)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>533,120.05</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ACCOUNT	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE	Barclays Imprest Acct	1,240.94	0.1%	Imprest	Barclays Current Acct	7,608.63	0.1%	Current	W. Bromwich Building Soc.	124,270.48	2.5%	Overnight	Birmingham Midshires	200,000.00	6.12%	1 year fixed (June 09)	Anglo Irish Bank	200,000.00	3.25%	2 year fixed (Jan 11)	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>533,120.05</b>		
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033/09	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>CDC has asked to bring the Health Bus to Deddington on Thursday 16 April. This was agreed.</p>																												
034/09	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><b>New dog bin</b> – Cllr Ince said as far as he knew they had all been emptied. He will look into the matter.</p> <p><b>Precept-</b> has been set.</p> <p><b>Cricket Club nets.</b> PC approval has been sought for the installation of practice nets at the Windmill Centre. This was agreed in principle but the Clerk will seek confirmation of the exact siting of the proposed nets.</p> <p><b>Cricket Club Car Boot.</b> A request has been made to hold one at the Windmill Centre it was agreed provided care was taken with the condition of the ground.</p> <p><b>Parish Meeting</b> to be held at the Windmill Centre on Wednesday 6 May.</p>																												
035/09	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 18 March 2009 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Deddington.</p>																												