

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall, Deddington on

Wednesday 21 January 2009 at 7.30pm

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

001/09	Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs Spencer and Ward and District Councillor O'Sullivan and County Cllr Jelf
002/09	Minutes of the last meeting: 191/08 (2) Castle Grounds/Fitness Trail the last line should have read Cllr Spencer will try and confirm what happened to the artefacts that had been found. Cllr Flux then signed the minutes as a true record.
003/09	Declaration of Interests 007/09 (3) Allotment charges: Cllr Anderson personal interest. Cllrs Rudge, Squires, Watts and Westbury personal and prejudicial interest. 007/09 (4) Cricket Club: Cllrs Alton and Flux personal interest. 007/09 (7) All weather court (WMC) Cllr Flux personal interest. 007/09 (7) Grass cutting (Cricket Club) Cllrs Alton and Flux personal interest 010/09 08/02532/F (retrospective) – Ithaca, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington Cllr Todd personal interest.
004/09	Matters Arising not referred to later on the Agenda: 1. Cllr Flux has been to the CDC legal department and to a notary in Banbury following which all papers have been sent regarding Stonepits to the Land Registry along with all previous affidavits. CDC is not entirely optimistic about the Land Registry's response. 2. Cllr Flux mentioned that the tree on Mill Close open space, referred to in last month's minutes 191/08, has been resolved with the resident agreeing to cover all costs. 3. Cllr Anderson responded to Cllr Squires December query as to whether the Satin Lane allotment association would need to be bound by the Code of Conduct. The advice received from CDC is that this is not the case as the association is independent of the council - this accords with the view taken by the parish council.
005/09	10 Minute Open Forum: None
006/09	County and District Councillors update: Not present
007/09	Finance & General Purposes Working Group 1. Summary cash flow to end December 08. The main items were explained. 2. Building Societies. West Bromwich interest rate has reduced to 2.5%. So £200,000 has been transferred from West Bromwich to Anglo Irish on a two year bond at £3.25%. This comes with a guaranteed protection of the monies. 3. Allotment charges. The Clerk prepared a comparison of allotment fees from other councils. The working group takes up her final recommendations. The main points are as follows: a. Charge fees in advance - those taking up an allotment during the year charged pro rata. b. No refunds to people giving up their rents during the year. c. A one off registration fee for new allotment holders of £10. This is separate from the voluntary £5 a year to join the Satin Lane Allotment Society. d. Increase all rents this year by £5 per full plot and others pro rata. e. All plots to be either a full chain or half a chain. Live with the existing quarter plots at Stonepits but work to eliminate them in future. f. No concessionary rates and in future no rentals to new non-residents. g. Review annually. Cllr Wood proposed the above be adopted, Cllr Flux seconded and it was unanimously agreed. 4. Cricket Club. The club have applied for a grant or loan of £4,500 to add to £15,500 already raised to extend and improve facilities at the Windmill. Whilst the working group is very sympathetic, and congratulates the club on the effort already put in, in the present financial circumstances, a grant is not possible in accordance with usual PC policy but a loan may be considered subject to ability to repay. The Cricket Club have produced accounts for the last two years which shows a virtual breakeven and so the WG asks for evidence in the form of revised income projections that the additional equipment will produce sufficient additional funds to service the loan over (say) five years. Cllr Flux will continue to help look for grants available elsewhere. Cllr Ince asked if the existing grants had been given on the proviso that all monies be raised or could they scale back the improvements. Cllr Wood will clarify the position. Cllr Squires also stated that a formal application would need to be made to the PC for any improvement work to be carried out on PC land. Cllr Wood will also ensure that this information is passed back to the cricket club. 5. Town Hall. A letter has been received asking the PC to provide a timetable for the repainting of the outside of the Town Hall. A reply is to be sent stating that the external work, such as re-plastering needs to take place before painting work can begin. The PC has also been informed that under the lease rent will increase in line with the movement in the RPI (since 2006) for the next two years. The reply letter will forewarn that, in the present financial circumstances, the PC might not be

	<p>able to renew the lease after October 2010.</p> <p>6. Aplins Stonepits. Scott Andrews has supplied CDC with the file relating to the title at Stonepits.</p> <p>7. Revised forecast for 2008-9. The current forecast shows a deficit of in the region £9,500, mainly due to a reduction in interest received on deposits along with increased costs for the cemetery, environment and recreation, the town hall repainting and the church clock. Some items such as the CCTV and office safe may be treated as capital expenses. This will be investigated by Cllr Wood.</p> <p>All Weather Court. There was a discussion regarding the all weather court at the Windmill. It had been earlier agreed that 85% of takings for the hire would be returned to the PC to cover maintenance. However, this year due to substantial maintenance work the costs are not likely to be recovered out of takings in this financial year. Cllr Squires suggested that either the hire rates should be put up or the maintenance should be reduced. Cllr Flux explained that he had been advised, by Tech Services, that only general upkeep will be required during the next few years so it is likely that takings should cover running expenses. The sum of £1000 received in 2008 had been treated as a loan repayment but it related to the PC's share of takings. Cllr Wood said that it would be preferable for the income from the Windmill to be applied to cover running costs even though this means that repayment of the loan will need to be deferred.</p> <p>Grass Cutting. An agreement had been reached that the cricket club would pay for any extra cuts it requested and this means that a payment of £2,185 is due from the cricket club. The contractor has been asked to justify his charges. Cllr Wood has said that going forward this issue should not recur as steps have been taken to keep regular checks on cuts authorized by the PC and those requested by the club and to pass on costs to the club as they arise.</p> <p>8. Draft budget 2009-10. Due to interest rate cuts the income the PC receives from investments will be £10,000 less than last financial year. Cllr Todd noted that as the PC receives substantial interest on investments parishioners have been shielded from the full cost of the services received - broadly the PC would have to increase the Band D precept by 100% were it not for its investment income. It is assumed that interest rates will not reduce further - it will be reviewed again in June.</p> <p>Service Cuts: The shortfall of monies into the PC will affect the services available so areas for making economies were investigated. One of the largest annual expenses is grass cutting. Last year approximately 11 cuts were made and it is suggested that only five are made this year in line with payments received from OCC, although some amenity space may need to be cut more often. The Clerk has the OCC list of areas to be cut in the parish and will pass on the details to the RWG for their recommendations. Another area for review is weed killing - OCC has confirmed no money in their budget for this. In the past the PC has taken on this cost but may no longer do so. Other measures in place to reduce expenditure include trimming stewards hours and restricting overtime.</p> <p>9. Precept for 2009-10. The chairman emphasized that the precept had to be set at this meeting with detailed discussion of the budget carried over. Based on calculations made by Cllr Wood, the working group recommends a £3.32 increase to £36.48 for a band D dwelling. For 914 dwellings this would bring in £33,342. Cllr Flux proposed the increase with Cllr Alton seconding. Cllr Squires asked for an amendment to the proposition to limit the increase to 5% increase and this was seconded by Cllr Watts but on a show of hands the amendment failed by 10 votes for and 2 against. A vote was then taken for the originally proposed increased which was carried 10 votes for and 2 against. Cllr Ince asked if that the precept for similar villages be included in the minutes for comparison purposes (these are available in the office). It was then agreed that the budget needs to be confirmed during either the February or March meeting. Cllr Flux then passed on his thanks to Cllr Wood for all the work and time he has put in preparing for the budget and precept.</p>
008/09	<p>Recreation Working Group (RWG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas tree: There was some confusion about the responsibility for removal of the Christmas tree. Whilst the RWG had this within its allocated responsibilities it did not think that it was responsible for arrangements for the trees removal as previously this had not been the case. Cllr Ince said that he had arranged the removal of the tree the previous year and not the clerk as the RWG had suggested. Cllr Squires then stated that he had told the Chairman just before the tree was due for removal that the RWG would not be dealing with its removal. There followed a spirited exchange between the Chairman and Cllr Squires with the latter asking that the duty be removed from the remit of the working group but it was suggested by Cllr Flux that as members of the working groups may change during May it would be prudent to keep it in for the time being. • Castle Grounds: The moles have become a problem for the Colts using the playing ground. Cllr Flux mentioned that when he had spoken to English Heritage they had said that the mole activity in the main field could be attributed to overcrowding in the banks. The working group suggested that if the Colts no longer used the area either increased grass cutting would be required or a return to the meadow would need to happen, which was disliked by some residents. Cllr Todd suggested that the Colts make a written proposal to the PC to clarify what they would like to happen and what conditions would result in them continuing to use the area. Cllr Rudge asked that this be discussed again before any action is taken. This was agreed. • Clifton Play Area: The area has been steam cleaned and re-opened with warning signs in places where necessary.

009/09	<p>Environment & Special Projects</p> <p>1. Oxford Conservation Volunteers. On 10th January Cllrs Flux and Rudge met with Chris Skepper from the OCV to discuss a programme of tasks for 2009. The three areas visited were: the Windmill Copse, Castle Grounds and the Clifton play area. Chris is going to send the PC a programme for the following possible projects to be charged at only £80 per day:</p> <p>1) Spring 2009: Castle Grounds: Continue work on footpath to South to construct a dry walkway through the boggy area which is line with the fitness trail. Cllr Westbury asked about the overhanging dead braches and removal of dead trees. He agreed to investigate the use of a chipper which could be used during the same time as the proposed work taking place in May. Cllr Anderson mentioned that when English Heritage visited they were asked who has responsibility for the path. This needs to be followed up.</p> <p>2) July/August 2009 – Clifton play area: Tidy hedge which was laid last year and shows good signs of regeneration. Subject to PC approval: clear out, re-instate and securely fence off the pond in the corner of the area, which Chris believes would make a very valuable and appropriate wildlife habitat. Cllr Collins asked that he survey local residents to assess opinion before any work is undertaken, as he had previously met opposition for safety reasons.</p> <p>3) Autumn 2009: Windmill Copse and footpath adjoining leading up to Clifton Road. Coppice trees in the woodland; clear footpath to road and lay adjoining hedge. The PC thanked him for his commitment and enthusiasm in turning out on such a cold morning and for the high standard of work already carried out.</p> <p>2. Wildflower meadow. Cllr Rudge is awaiting contact from ecologist Rod D’Ayala to arrange meeting to discuss this matter. The working group are also expecting a map from OCC which will confirm areas of responsibility. Cllr Rudge has been in contact with Walter Meagher, who is returning to UK in May and will doubtless also give the benefit of his experience and advice.</p> <p>3. Collection of bottles for recycling. This has previously been discussed as a tie in with the good neighbour scheme. Cllr Rudge has contacted CDC for advice and was offered two boxes of bottle bags to facilitate collection. The matter awaits further discussion.</p> <p>4. Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum. The Council receives a weekly newsletter from this organisation, which details local activities and conservation opportunities. Cllr Rudge is looking into posting an edited version of this on the Deddington website.</p> <p>5. Sponsorship of planters. Nicholsons have offered sponsorship of the Deddington North and South planters. The offer was welcomed subject to issues re the scale of any sponsorship signage on the on the highway. Cllr Ince to speak to Nicholsons to confirm details and see if they would be interested in the other parish planters e.g. Hempton and Clifton. Thought will also put to sponsorship of the hanging basket as these are more expensive to maintain.</p>
010/09	<p>Planning Group</p> <p>Applications</p> <p>08/02525/F – Treholford, New Street, Deddington. Single storey rear extension - stone walled and tiled roof extension replacing a modified rendered and felted out buildings. It sympathetically provides two bedrooms, bathroom and a study linked back to a kitchen and the main house. A lantern style roof light will be a feature of the kitchen roof. In the original house the windows and doors will be of timber. The bedroom and bath room layouts will be rearranged. No objections.</p> <p>08/02526/LB – Treholford, New Street, Deddington. Single storey rear extension. Internal alterations, replacement windows and doors. New roof light to rear elevation. See above.</p> <p>08/02616/TCA – Treholford, New Street, Deddington. Fell 1 no. fir tree. No objection – laylandii type – reply already sent due to date constraint.</p> <p>08/02532/F (retrospective) – Ithaca, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington. Render Bradstone around ground floor window to right of front door and to the left a small wall. PC has been in touch with CDC concerning the colour of render used and the replacement of the front ground floor Bradstone wall. This application is to regularise work already done. The colour used on the permitted changes is too bright and a more sympathetic colour white is needed. CDC will be asked to approve any colour the applicant submits in connection with this application, which will include the non-compliance issue involved. A neighbour opposite has commented verbally on its obtrusiveness. The WG considers that the extra area now rendered (including the additional area which formerly formed front sliding door) to be overpowering and out of keeping with similar neighbouring properties. While the WG was content to agree to the rendering of the formerly tiled first floor front face it objects to the additional work already done which is also accentuated by the filling in of the area formerly housing the patio type sliding doors. Cllr Collins has spoken to the resident and said that the render work was done by mistake and it was this that the planning permission related to and not the colour. The WG thought that CDC had requested a submission of colour for approval so will check the planning consent to see what was agreed. If a colour sample was requested and not supplied then an objection will be made.</p> <p>Approvals</p> <p>08/02157/F – 5 St Johns Way, Hempton</p> <p>08/02188/F – Castle Barns, Castle Street, Deddington</p> <p>08/02189/LB – Castle Barns, Castle Street, Deddington</p>

	<p>08/02230/F – 5 The Paddocks, Deddington 08/02269/LB – The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Deddington 08/02298/TCA – Orchard House, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington 08/02300/TCA – Deddington Health Centre, Earls Lane, Deddington 08/0240/F – The Willery, Clifton Road, Deddington Variation of condition 3 of 08/01831/F 08/02454/F - Cornerways, Chapel Square, Deddington</p> <p>Other matters Hempton Lodge, B4031 Hempton. The owners have been asked by OCC to confirm their intentions regarding the fence erected on highway property by mid-February. Upper Heyford Base Planning Forum. The meeting planned for today has been cancelled as the Planning Inquiry has yet to conclude. Cherwell DC – Scrutiny Review into Affordable Housing and Exception Sites. PC has been asked to comment by 6 February. In hand. ORCC – Rural Housing Enabler Nicola Ball has been appointed to the post. Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Core Strategy Submission. NCC has advised it has sent its submission to the Secretary of State. West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Consultation and Update. Due to changes in Government regulations the Joint Planning Unit has advised us that we can make representations up to 5th March, 2009. Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework. The locations for waste development and minerals development within the county have been notified for comment. None appear to impact upon North Oxfordshire.</p>																												
011/09	<p>Highways Working Group (HWG)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Satin Lane Keep Clear markings: have now been painted. Earls Lane: HWG to chase Louise Harrison for latest speed data for Earls Lane. Parking: will be discussed at next meeting and Cllr Wood's paper will be circulated after discussion amongst the Group High Street Traffic Lights: response will be prepared to OCC Hempton Pinch Point: situation to be chased New St Crossing: OCC have responded and the HWG will review the diagram regarding possible crossing points on New Street and report to council. 																												
012/09	<p>Report upon the Play Areas Clifton Play Area has been cleaned and checked over by Cllr Collins.</p>																												
013/09	<p>Invoices for Payment A schedule of invoices totalling £203,172.03 (£200,000 transfer to Anglo Irish Account) were tabled and approved for payment for period 18 December 2008 – 21 January 2009.</p>																												
014/09	<p>Investment of Council Funds At the close of business on 21 January 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>1,196.01</td> <td>0.1%</td> <td>Imprest</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barclays Current Acct</td> <td>7,145.38</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 bond</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anglo Irish Bank</td> <td>200,000.00</td> <td>3.25%</td> <td>2 year fixed deposit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>532,611.87</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Cllr Todd asked that in future the date of the end of the fix be noted. The Clerk will action.</p>	ACCOUNT	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE	Barclays Imprest Acct	1,196.01	0.1%	Imprest	Barclays Current Acct	7,145.38	0.1%	Current	W. Bromwich Building Soc.	124,270.48	2.5%	Overnight	Birmingham Midshires	200,000.00	6.12%	1 year fixed bond	Anglo Irish Bank	200,000.00	3.25%	2 year fixed deposit	TOTAL	532,611.87		
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015/09	<p>Correspondence</p>																												
016/09	<p>AOB Cllr Rudge brought it to the council's attention that a milk/dairy thief is at work in the village and that the Deddington News should highlight this issue. The Deddington News is to move from the School to the Windmill Centre in March 2009.</p>																												
017/09	<p>Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 18 February 2009 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Deddington.</p>																												