

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Squires, Todd, Swash, Alton, Rollason, Wood, Watts, Putland, Co Cllr Jelf, District Cllr O'Sullivan, Graham Pitts (Clerk), Sue Gibbs (Minute Secretary).

37/05 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ellis, Mrs Cox, Westley, Haslam and Mrs Spencer.

38/05 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Cllr Rollason asked that paragraph 28/05 (f) be amended to read "at a previous meeting of the WMC". This was agreed. The Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 June 2005 were then approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

39/05 **Declaration of Interests**

- 43/05(a). Cllr Flux declared an interest
- 45/05(a). Cllr Putland declared an interest
- 45/05(c). Cllr Squires declared an interest
- 45/05(e). Cllr Todd declared an interest

40/05 **10 Minute Open Forum**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

41/05 **Highways Working Group**

Cllr Wood reported that a second meeting had been held with Ralph Grant. This had been more positive than the previous meeting, and Mr Grant had been much better informed on this occasion. The following had been agreed:

- (a). **Deddington Traffic Calming.** Ralph Grant would prepare a paper setting out recommended sites for white gates.
- (b). **Clifton Footpath.** This had become caught up with traffic calming measures and become confused with a crossing, rather than being a safety issue. It was confirmed that the Parish Council was prepared to contribute the £7,000 which had been previously allocated for this measure. Ralph Grant would come back to the Parish Council with a report on this to be discussed at the September meeting. It was noted that this was outside his immediate area of responsibility, and would have to be managed via Speedwell House at OCC.
- (c). **Hempton Road and Library Crossings.** These have both been approved by OCC, but no date had been given yet for their installation, nor had the exact location for the Hempton Road crossing been decided. Cllr Jelf emphasised the need to maintain pressure on officials at Speedwell House to ensure that the PC had input into this decision, and that the Library crossing was not delayed whilst this decision was made. **It was agreed that a letter should be sent to OCC, and Co Cllr Jelf promised to come back with the name of the person to whom it should be addressed; it was also agreed that it should be copied to David Robertson, the OCC cabinet member with responsibility in this area.** It was noted that the Hempton Road crossing had been approved at every level, and Co Cllr Jelf promised to

check whether this was also the case with the library crossing. It was noted that the OCC minutes stated that once the crossing on the Hempton Road had been installed, consideration would be given to constructing a build out. In the meantime **it was agreed that Cllr Haslam's suggestion to place parked cars on the Hempton Road to act as chicanes should not be pursued at the moment.**

(d). **Parking.** The alternative parking arrangements were going well so far. Cllr Haslam was preparing a paper for discussion at the September meeting setting out proposals for after the trial area at the NFU building expired. It was noted that the report from the judges of the Best Kept Village competition had stated that there were a lot of cars parked in the village, but that there seemed to be spaces and that the parking was being managed well. The Chairman also expressed concern that this report had also stated that there seemed to be a lack of cohesion in the village and that there was not much happening. **It was agreed that a letter should be sent responding to this, enclosing a copy of Deddington News and emphasizing the many things which were going on at any one time.**

42/05

Planning Working Group.

Cllr Swash reported as follows:

- (a). **05/01074/F Denbigh Place, Clifton.** Single Storey extension to side. **No objection**
- (b). **05/00571/Building adjacent to Ashley House, Clifton.** Change of use and conversion of workshop to a dwelling. **No objection.**
- (c). **05/01119/F Hazel Hedge Cottage, Tithe Lane, Clifton.** Two storey rear extension. **No objection.**
- (d). **05/01249/F Laurel House, Bull Ring, Deddington.** Minor improvements A1 retail premises, including re-roofing installing conservation roof lights and erecting a hanging sign. **No objection.** It was noted that this was retrospective as the work was already being undertaken and agreed that CDC should be informed.
- (e). **5036214/021/111/4336A Deddington Primary School.** Relocation of existing school car park within existing school grounds and replacement hard play area. **No objection.**
- (f). **05/01210/F Hempton House, Hempton.** Reclad existing garage. **No objection.**
- (g). **05/01203/F 11 The Beeches Deddington.** Two storey extension. **No objection.**
- (h). **05/01220/F Daeda Cottage, Market Place, Deddington.** Single storey rear extension. **No objection.**
- (i). **05/01257/LB Monks Court, Deddington.** Installation of satellite dish and restoration works to existing party wall in drawing room (ground floor). **No objection.**
- (j). **05/01248/FCA Deddington Manor, New Street, Deddington.** Fell one holly tree. **No objection.**
- (k). **05/01154/F 13 Mackley Close, Deddington.** Two storey rear extension with first floor roof space. **No objection.**
- (l). **05/01325/F 2 Philcote St, Deddington.** Raising of roof with second floor extension/loft conversion. It was noted that the plans were incorrect as the roof levels were shown wrongly. District Cllr O'Sullivan said that CDC was aware of this and the planning office had been informed. It was felt that the proposals to build a pitched roof on what was an existing flat roof could be intrusive to the neighbours and overshadow neighbouring bedrooms. It was noted that an objection had already been received from the neighbours. **It was agreed the PC should object on the grounds that the plans were wrong and because the proposals would overshadow the neighbours.**
- (m). **05/01363/F Stone Walls, Hempton.** Conversion of part attic including installation of one dormer window. **It was agreed that there should be no objection, unless any were**

received from the neighbours.

43/05

Finance & General Purposes Working Group

Cllr Wood reported as follows:

(a). **Accounts to 31 March 2005.** Some queries from BDO Stoy Hayward had been received, most of which were quite straightforward. One, however, was more complicated and related to the Holly Tree and whether, as Custodian Trustee, the PC should claim this on its accounts as an asset. This technical point was being checked with the Charity Commission, and would be reported at the next meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk was authorized to update and submit a corrected return to BDO Stoy Hayward.

(b). The cashflow to the end of June including a number of “one off” items, including receipts of £3610 from OCC for grass cutting, and £2537 interest from Alliance and Leicester.

(c). **West Bromwich Building Society.** In order to ensure that the PC’s reserves were getting the best rate of interest, a 3 year bond had been identified with the West Bromwich BS, which would pay 5.15% interest. The money would be tied in for 3 years, at a time when it was anticipated that that interest were likely to fall. Transferring £250,000 to this would yield an additional £1125 per annum interest. However, it had subsequently transpired that the issue was fully subscribed. **In order to avoid the delays in taking this to a full PC meeting, it was agreed that Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chairman of the F&GP Working Group should be given authority to take advantage of such offers in the future, providing it were for no more than 3 years and that there would be at least £1,000 per annum benefit in income.**

(d). **Charter Community Housing.** A letter had been received from Charter Community Housing, who owned 38 houses in the village, stating that they had £500 per house to spend on general environmental improvements over 5 years - £19,000 in total. They had also contacted the Church and the local Council, looking for a list of projects to benefit the village. It was suggested that the Youth Club might benefit. It was also suggested that as many of the houses were around the Hempton Road, consideration should be given to installing a footpath from the back to Gaveston Gardens to the school. **It was agreed that all proposals should be forwarded to the Clerk who would then respond to Charter.** He would also ascertain what the timescale was and whether there was a closing date proposals to be submitted.

(e). **Telephone Line Rentals.** Following discussions earlier in the year on the budget, information had now been received from the Phone Co-operative and **it was agreed that this should be investigated to see whether money could be saved on improved line rentals/tariffs.**

(f). **Favourite Market Town.** An application for Deddington had now been submitted.

44/05

Parish Plan Working Group

Cllr Squires reported that the ORCC had responded to the draft questionnaire stating that a number of questions were more suitable to an appraisal than a parish plan. After discussion the Working Group had felt that some appraisal questions needed to remain as the existing information was 10 years out of date, but that some re-drafting was required. Cllr Alton was therefore reviewing this, but it had led to the schedule being delayed by a month.

Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Squires reported as follows:

(a). **November Fair.** The main issues of concern were discussed at some length:

(i). Re-routing of buses and road closures. The Clerk had been unable to make any progress on how buses would be re-routed and likely road closures as the official concerned had been on holiday. The school bus was of particular concern, especially if the children would have to cross the Oxford Road.

(ii). Parking of the Lorries. Mr Hatwell was not happy about leaving empty lorries parked in Earl Lane. It was also felt that this was a busy road, with a lot of traffic already. Co Cllr Jelf suggested that it might be possible to use the County Depot. The Clerk could look into this.

(iii). Disruption to the Market Square. There was still a degree of unease about the likely impact of the Fair on the village. It was noted that most of the customers to the Fair would come from areas other than those immediately affected and opinion was divided as to whether this would include a 'troublesome' element or whether the Fair would be sufficiently small to not attract these. The Clerk had spoken to the clerk at Kidlington Parish Council who had reported that they had used Hatwell for many years and had not experienced any problems. It was suggested that the Clerk should also contact Bletchingdon Parish Council who also had a fair each year to see whether they shared this view. Some Councillors felt that bringing in the fair would be to revive an old tradition, it would bring entertainment for 5-12 year olds from in the Parish and around and, by bringing people into the Square, would benefit to local businesses, as was the case with the Farmers Market. Others felt this would not be the case, there would be significant disruption and too great a strain on services and in particular it was noted that there were no toilet facilities in the village. **It was agreed that there were still a number of questions to be answered. Cllr Squires proposed that attempts to resolve these should continue. This was agreed by 5 votes to 2, with one abstention.**

(b). **Affordable Housing.** The ORCC had identified several areas suitable for affordable housing and wanted to know if the PC wished them to proceed with a housing needs survey. **It was agreed that a response should be sent saying that the PC would like to look at opportunities in this area, but that this should be delayed until after the parish plan had been completed.** It was noted that ORCC had identified the land at Satin Lane as suitable and it was emphasised that there was no intention of using this for land for affordable housing. The Clerk confirmed that nothing further had been received from the Land Registry regarding this land.

(c). **Satin Lane Allotments.** As all land which was cultivatable was being used, **it was agreed that the Clerk should contact those allotment holders who were not cultivating their plots at all and warn them that they might have to give up their plots if this persisted. It was also agreed that he should contact those who were only using half their plots requesting that the unused area be released for new allotment holders. It was also agreed that a grant application be made to cut and relay the boundary hedges at the site.** A landscape conservation grant from CDC should be sought first, but other possible sources were Charter Housing and Barclays.

- (d). **Hempton Phone Box.** No feedback had been received from the residents; **it was therefore agreed that BT's change to 'no cash' service be accepted.**
- (e). **Bowls Club.** The Bowls club had requested that the PC should undertake outstanding repairs of the pavilion before they took over responsibility for routine maintenance, and that the PC should also reimburse the costs of preservative that had been used this year. It was acknowledged that this was a difficult area and various alternative arrangements were suggested; however, after some discussion **it was agreed that the PC should meet this request.** Generally, however, the respective clubs were to be encouraged to meet the costs of day to day maintenance of the pavilions.
- (f). **Play Area.** The Inspection Report had been received and action taken as recommended.
- (g). **Castle Grounds.** Terry Clinch and Jane Plummer had both asked what action was to be taken regarding dead trees at Castle Grounds and requested a member of the PC to go round with them so they can point out areas of concern. **This was agreed.** Consideration would also be given to getting a specialist to look at the trees, although it was noted that the likely costs would be between £500 and £700. The Clerk reported that he had written to English Heritage asking what they proposed to do in their areas, but it was noted that the main area of concern was outside the English Heritage land.
- (h). **Local Open Spaces/Recreation Needs.** CDC was compiling a questionnaire on local open spaces/recreation needs. **It was agreed that the Clerk should request a copy of the survey and ensure that interested parties, eg Deddington Colts, were informed.**
- (i). **Dogs/Public Access Areas.** Following the recent article in the Banbury Guardian, it was noted the letter from DEFA stating that from 2006 PC's will be allowed to issue fixed penalty notices and dog control orders to replace the current byelaw system. The proposal that a member of the PC be trained to become an issuing officer was discussed but it was felt it was very difficult to catch those allowing their dogs to foul the public areas. It was felt that given that this was such a difficult area to police, that the PC provided dog bins, had erected many notices warning that these were public areas and was in regular contact with the dog warden, it had done all in its power to try and contain this problem. **It was agreed that the problem should be raised at Cherwell's meeting with Parish Councils, and at the next OALC meeting to find out what measures other Parish Council's were taking.**
- (j). **Castle Grounds.** It was noted that further complaints had been received about the grass cutting.
- (k). **Deddington Circular Walk.** It was noted that the bull was still in the field on Fullers Farm on the Deddington Circular Walk and also that the footpath had been illegally diverted onto someone else's land. **It was agreed that the Clerk should look into this.**
- (l). It was noted that the concrete pillar blocking vehicle access to the WMC field needed to be replaced.

46/05

Invoices for Payment

A schedule of invoices totaling £5530.96 was tabled, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, and was approved for payment. The Clerk confirmed that the payment to Derek Parker related to equipment purchased by the allotment holders for the installation of the water supply.

47/05 **Investment of Councils Funds**

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

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
70708526	966.71	.1%	Imprest
70708542	6092.12	.1%	Current
W. Bromwich Building Soc.	301221.39	4.7%	Overnight
Alliance & Leicester	252537.67	4.6%	30 Day Notice
TOTAL	560817.89		

48/05 **Correspondence**

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

- (a) 18th July – letter from DMMG. It was noted that the DMMG had now completely repaid the loan from the PC. The loan was scheduled to be repaid over 5 years, but in fact had been repaid within 2. The Market Group was congratulated on this success.
- (b) 18th July – letter from BBC re Any Questions. Thanks were expressed to all who had made this a successful evening.

49/05 **OALC**

The Chairman reported that at the last meeting of the OALC a number of items had been discussed:

- (i). **Youth Clubs.** People were looking at ways of engaging with young people and the OALC was looking at what it could do in this area
- (ii). **Radio masts.** These were more of a problem in rural areas than urban areas and there was concern over safety
- (iii). A new Councillors pack has been drawn up and it was agreed that the Clerk should obtain a copy.
- (iv). **Local Area Agreements.** The Government was pushing forward another initiative for agreement between Statutory and Service Providers.
- (v) A survey, called the OVID project, is underway across the country on the voluntary and community sector infrastructure.

50/05 **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 21st September 2005 at the Town Hall commencing at 7.45pm. There is no meeting scheduled for August. It was agreed that if any specific planning issues arose Councillors would be contacted by email or telephone.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm