

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 19 March 2003
commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Mrs Harvey (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Spencer, Mrs Swash, Mrs Cox, Todd, Alton, Squires, Wood, Ellis, Watts, Rollason, Westley, Haslam, District Cllr O'Sullivan, Graham Pitts (Clerk), Sue Gibbs (Minute Secretary).

370/02 **Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence

371/02 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

372/02 **10 Minute Open Forum**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

373/02 **Environment and Recreation Working Group**

Cllr Swash reported as follows:

- a. **Grass cutting and Ground maintenance Tenders 2003/2004.** Cllr Swash proposed that the tender from Design Gro for the Windmill Site, and that from T Fox for the Castle Grounds, all verges in Hempton, Clifton and Deddington, plus all other areas previously cut by J&K Boss, be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Spencer. **The proposal was agreed. It was also agreed that the Clerk should notify all concerned.**
- b. **It was agreed that the Clerk should work with the Environment Working Group to examine the feasibility of the Council either purchasing or leasing its own equipment and cutting some of the areas themselves in the future.**
- c. **Deddington Parish Naturalists.** Letters had been received from Walter Meagher asking for support for sponsoring a Nature Day. The Environment Group was concerned that this might have financial implications for the Council and proposed that a letter be sent suggesting Mr Meagher contact the Head Teacher of the Primary School. It was felt, however, that "support" might not be only financial and that the Council should back such an initiative. **It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should meet Mr Meagher to discuss this further.**
- d. **Deddington Boys/Girls Brigade.** The Deddington Boys/Girls Brigade were looking for a community project, although it was not clear exactly what sort of project they wanted to do. **It was agreed that the Clerk should contact them and discuss this further.**
- e. **Thames & Chilterns County in Bloom 2003.** It was agreed that the village would

not enter this competition this year because of the amount of work involved

- f. **Deddington Colts.** Cllr Squires and Cllr Watts had met Mr Kaye and Mr Horvard and an idea had been put forward for the Windmill Centre which would enable them to have 3 pitches. Cllr Squires reported that since that meeting contact had also been made with representatives of the Cricket Club and Deddington Town Football Club who were going to discuss this idea with their respective committees. Initial feedback had been favourable, especially from the Cricket Club. As far as Castle Grounds and the problem with parking were concerned, Cllr Squires reported that the parking signs had now been completed and would be used from the next weekend.
- g. **BMX/Dirt Trail.** Grant was still ongoing.
- h. **Stone Pits.** Applications had been received from 10 applicants and Messrs Parker and Campion were undertaking the job of marking out the plots.

374/02 **Finance and General Purposes Working Group**

Cllr Todd reported as follows

- a. **Rationalisation of Parish Council Bank Accounts.** It was agreed that the Parish Council's Bank Accounts be reduced from six to three, namely Current, Imprest and Holding. The accounts concerned should be closed by 31 March.
- b. **Town Hall.** The Working Group would be analyzing the results of the questionnaire which had been circulated to all those normally attending Parish Council Meetings at their next meeting.
- c. **Application for Grants.** Applications from NSPCC, Friends of Ormerod School, Victim Support and Oxfordshire Association for the Blind would be considered in the new financial year. The Chairman added that the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, like Victim Support, included the local organisation, so any grant would be benefiting local people.
- d. **Noticeboards.** The new Noticeboards had been collected and a sample was displayed. **It was agreed that the Parish Council should purchase a battery powered drill to enable the Stewards to put up the new noticeboards.**
- e. **Deddington PC Accounts 2002/03.** Members of the Working Group would be examining the books towards the end of the Financial Year.
- f. **PC Computer.** It was proposed that as there was an underspend in the current year a new PC should be purchased from this year's budget, rather than in the forthcoming financial year as had already been approved. **This was agreed.** Steps were already in hand to replace the leased photocopier.
- g. **Part Repayment of Grant.** The Deddington Map Group had repaid a further £1000 of the Grant made for the Millennium Map Project. **It was agreed that the Parish Council**

should thank the Group for its repayment, and congratulate it for its success with this project.

- h. **Farmers Market.** Cllr Squires asked if the Farmers Market could repay its loan from the Parish Council out of money received from CDC. Cllr Todd declared an interest. It was explained that this was not possible, as the Farmers Market had applied to CDC for money for the specific purpose of providing new stalls. He also confirmed that the Farmers Market would start repaying its loan from the following month. The Chairman reported that an email had been received from Charles Newey asking if the Parish Council were happy for them to continue to store the road signs in the Town Hall. After some discussion **it was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the Charles Newey to see if the remaining items can be stored elsewhere.**

375/02 **Planning and Property Working Group**

Cllr Harvey reported as follows:

- a. A list of approvals, subject to conditions was read out.
- b. **03/00344/LB (Retrospective) The Hair Workshop, Market Place, Deddington.** One sign over doorway and one sign on West Elevation. Concern about the colour of the sign was expressed, in particular whether it was appropriate for the middle of the Market Square and conservation area. **Cllr Todd proposed that the Parish Council should state that it objected to the sign applied for, but would have no objection to a more appropriate sign in this location. This was seconded by Cllr Swash and agreed by 6 votes to 2.**
- c. **03/00398/LB Castle End House, Castle St, Deddington.** Formation of new opening to boundary wall including new oak gate and stone steps. **No objection.**
- d. **03/00352/F The Granary, Duns Tew Road, Hempton.** Two storey side and rear extension. There was a slight concern that this might result in loss of light to the adjoining property. The applicant was meeting with neighbours to discuss this. **It was agreed that the Council should state that it had no objection provided none were received from the neighbours.**
- e. **03/00401/TCA Craxton, Castle End, Castle St, Deddington.** Crown raise to 3 metres dead wood/crown clean and crown reduce to the order of 25% one Horse Chestnut tree. **No objection.**
- f. **03/00390/TCA Cromwell House, Market Place, Deddington.** Fell one Silver Birch tree. No objection, although the Parish Council would suggest that the applicant plant a replacement tree.

376/02 **Highways Working Group**

Cllr Haslam reported as follows

- a. **Speed Limits.** The Working Group was pleased to see that work on road markings had now started.
- b. No response had been received yet from OCC regarding the traffic issues at Hempton and Clifton.
- c. The trees at the junction with St Thomas St had been cut back
- d. The Working Group was aware of the crash at the Hempton Road traffic lights and would continue to monitor this. The Clerk reported that he had not received a response to his inquiry regarding the change in timing to the traffic lights at this junction and would chase this up.
- e. **Babtie.** The Working Group proposed that the existing bus stop pole be retained, but with improved timetable details. **This was agreed.** It was proposed that bus stop flag should also be placed on the side of the Town Hall. It was noted that Planning Permission would be required for this. **It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain further information from Babtie on funding for screens, benches etc. Parish Plan** The Working Group did not propose to make any major changes to the plan in the near future.
- f. **Broadband.** It was agreed that the Parish Council fully supported the issue of broadband accessibility for the Parish and anyone interested should be asked to notify the clerk and to register with BT. Support from 400 individuals would be needed to take this forward.

377/02 **Invoices for Payment**

Invoices totaling £9165.65, in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment.

378/02 **Investment of Councils Funds**

At the close of business on 19 March 2003 the balances were as follows:

BANK BALANCES AS AT 17/03/03

| A/C NUMBER | BALANCE | INTEREST | NOTICE |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 60858471 | 4694.71 | 1% | 14 Days |
| 60708569 | 1636.61 | .3% | Overnight |
| 70012564 | NIL | | Overnight |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-----------|
| 70708526 | 2544.95 | .1% | Imprest |
| 70708542 | 550.00 | .1% | Current |
| TOTAL | <u>9426.27</u> | | |
| Bradford & Bingley | 1000.00 | 3.4% | 120 Days |
| W. Bromwich Building Soc. 511819.43 | | 3.75% | Overnight |
| TOTAL | <u>522245.57</u> | | |

379/02 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence was circulated at the meeting. **Cllr Rollason requested that Emails should be included on this list. This was agreed.**

- a. **English Heritage**, 26 February: The Clerk confirmed that this was an acknowledgement of the Clerk's letter regarding signage
- b. **Cherwell District Council**, 19 March: The Chairman reported that this was a letter that was being sent to all Parish Councils asking for comments on housing transfers. District Cllr O'Sullivan confirmed that there were transfers in Windmill Close. **It was agreed that the Planning Committee should look at this in more detail.**
- c. **Letter Regarding Village Precept**. Responding to Cllr Haslam, the Chairman confirmed that he had received a number of comments from people who were pleased that the PC had written via the Deddington News. He had received only one objection, by Email, and he had subsequently managed to answer that person's objections. Cllr Haslam stated that this was a medium which the Parish Council should use again if necessary.

380/02 **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 7 May at 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre, not the Annual General Meeting as had been stated in the Minutes of the last meeting.

382/02 **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 16 April at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm

