

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 18 May 2005
commencing at 7.45pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Squires, Todd, Haslam, Swash, Mrs Cox, Alton, Rollason, Spencer, Wood, Ellis, Watts, Putland, Co Cllr Jelf, Graham Pitts (Clerk), Sue Gibbs (Minute Secretary).

- 01/05 **Apologies**
Apologies were received from Cllr Westley and District Cllr O'Sullivan.
- 02/05 **Minutes of Last Meeting**
156/04/(c) It was agreed that the reference to OCC should be changed to Cherwell District Council. Subject to this change, the Minutes of the last meeting held on 20 April 2005 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.
- 03/05 **Declaration of Interests**
08/05(g). Cllr Putland declared an interest.
10/05(b). Cllr Spencer declared an interest.
10/05(d). Cllr Todd declared an interest.
- 04/05 **10 Minute Open Forum**
There were no members of the public wishing to speak.
- 05/05 **Annual Parish Meeting**
A report listing the topics raised at the Annual Parish Meeting was read by the Clerk. These included speed cameras, affordable housing, traffic and parking, Castle Grounds and grass cutting, safety of the BMX track and the impact of proposed development at Upper Heyford on Deddington Health Centre. The Chairman confirmed that the concerns raised had been noted and passed to the relevant working groups to follow up as necessary. The Clerk reported that he had checked with Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association regarding the safety of the BMX track and had been assured that there was no problem. Cllr Cox said she was willing to talk to the manager of the Health Centre regarding the impact of Upper Heyford. **It was agreed that the report of the meeting should be filed as a record.**
- 06/05 **County Council Election**
The Chairman congratulated Cllr Jelf on his re-election to the County Council.
- 07/05 **Finance & General Purposes Working Group**

Cllr Wood reported that the Working Group had not met since the last PC meeting. He was in the process of preparing the accounts till the end of March and hoped to have these available for the next meeting. A schedule of cash flow was tabled; it was noted that the account at the Bradford and Bingley had now been closed with funds divided between the West Bromwich Building Society and the Alliance and Leicester.
- Other items to be noted:
- (a) The OCC grass cutting grant for next year had increased from 10p per square metre to

16.04p

- (b) Small business rate relief had been applied for for both the Town Hall and the Cemetery;
- (c) Preparations were in hand for the financial audit;
- (d) The school had asked if the PC wished to nominate a sponsor governor. **The importance of the PC being represented at the school was agreed and it was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting.**
- (e) Following discussions at the Annual Parish Meeting, it was noted that the Parish Council was not permitted to use capital funding for revenue items, and that when items of capital expenditure were considered, the implications of these on income should also be taken into account. **It was agreed that Deddington News should be asked to remind parishioners of this and that this should be included in the Parish Plan. In the meantime it was agreed that the Clerk should update the list of what had been spent in recent years.**

08/05

Parish Plan

Cllr Squires reported as follows:

- (a). **War Memorial.** Following continuing correspondence, it had been decided that a question regarding relocation of the war memorial should be included in the Parish Plan questionnaire. It was agreed that this should be accompanied by an explanatory note. Cllr Haslam asked whether a second war memorial could be constructed and the Chairman confirmed that this idea had been suggested to the RBL and was being considered.
- (b). It had been decided that to save money the questionnaires should not be individually addressed; also questionnaires were for multiple respondents.
- (c). It had been decided not to include an ORCC Housing Needs Survey in the questionnaire, due to the volume of questions asked. A specific question on low cost housing would be included and if sufficient demand were then identified, an ORCC survey could then be commissioned.
- (e). The timeframe had been extended with a view to production being completed by mid July, printing in August and delivery in September. It was hoped that a final version would be available for Cllrs at the next meeting.
- (f). **Funding.** It was anticipated that the £2,000 already allocated would be spent on printing the questionnaire and it was therefore likely that additional funds would be needed for printing the actual plan.
- (g). **Completion Prizes.** Four responses had been received. Cllr Putland offered an additional prize from the Unicorn.

09/05

Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Squires reported as follows:

- (a) **Stonepit Allotments.** Thames Water had now been paid £876 for the connection charges. **It was agreed that the Clerk would now co-ordinate with the allotment group over installment. It was emphasized that all pipework/fitting must conform to regulations and that the trench must be left open for inspection.**
- (b) **Funfair.** A detailed proposal had now been received from Perry Hatwell, stating that

the Fair would arrive on Tuesday 15th November at 6.00pm; would be open Thursday to Saturday and depart on Sunday 20th. Caravans would be placed in the Bull Ring with rides in the Market Place, but because of the slope these would be placed at the side of the Green. Therefore road closure and re-routing of the buses would need to be organized as well as making sure that access to all shops remained open for deliveries etc. Parking could also be difficult. Concern was expressed over a number of these proposals and there was a feeling that the size of the fair, the length of stay and the extent to which it was taking over was too great for the size of the village. **After some discussion it was agreed that more information was required before a decision could be taken and the Clerk was asked to go back to Perry Hatwell accordingly.**

- (c) **Relocation of War Memorial.** Further correspondence relating to moving the War Memorial had been received. Minutes from 1993/94 when this was last discussed indicated that there had been little support at that time, although no specific mention was made of the wishes of the families of those being remembered and that it was because of these that the war memorial had been originally placed in its existing site. Cllr Swash expressed surprise at this as she remembered this point being discussed at the time. It was noted that a question on the siting of the war memorial would now be included in the Village Plan questionnaire. Cllr Cox said that important that history was taken into account and the wishes of those involved at the time were respected; when new people into the village, decisions could be made without any real understanding of what had gone before and of the reasons why decisions had been taken in the past. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to see if any records still existed from the 1920's relating to the original construction of the War Memorial.
- (d) **Castle Grounds.** A quote of £420 had been received from AJ Fox to clear fallen branches. It was recommended that this was accepted on health and safety reasons.
- (e) **Landscape Conservation Grant.** It was noted that if the PC wanted to apply for any of these it had to do so by July.
- (f) **Public Sewer Discharge.** Further correspondence had been received regarding the public sewer overflow. **It was agreed that the Parish Council should press for the problem to be resolved.**
- (g) **Subscription to ORCC.** It was agreed that the PC's subscription to ORCC should be renewed.

10/05

Highways Working Committee

Cllr Haslam reported:

- (a). **Parking Task Force.** A benchmark audit had been conducted before the introduction of the new arrangements whereby certain areas were not being used for long stay parking. All business had been given white stickers to place in their cars and those users had been asked to park at Orchard House and elsewhere. The new arrangements had come into effect on 16 May and an improvement had already been seen. The PC had a note of the registration numbers of all business users and anyone seeing cars parked where they were not supposed to was asked to let the Clerk know. A letter expressing some concern had been received from Rodney Hayward and it was agreed that Cllr Haslam would write clarifying what was being trialed.
- (b). **Clifton Footpath.** As agreed at the last meeting, a letter had been sent to Ralph Grant and Steve Bowden at OCC indicating that the PC was not prepared to pay the extra funds

required for the footpath. A response had been received stating that OCC would not pay this either and that this would therefore go into a list of future capital projects. Cllr Jelf was asked to follow this up and exert some pressure to try and reach a speedy resolution of this matter.

(c). **New Crossing.** The proposed new crossing outside the Library on the main Banbury/Oxford Road was progressing.

(d). **Speed Cameras.** In the absence of other measures, it was suggested that the PC should consider buying a number of cars which could be strategically parked in order to slow down traffic along the Hempton Road. It was agreed that PC should talk to the police about this. Cllr Todd suggested that the PC should put pressure on OCC to supply permanent “Please Slow Down” signs.

(e). **OCC.** Cllr Watts again raised concerns regarding OCC’s failure to deliver on any of the measures which the PC had been pushing within the Parish. Co Cllr Jelf advised that this should be taken up with the new cabinet members rather than the officers. He suggested that the PC write to David Robertson and promised that he would also follow this up.

10/05

Planning Working Group

Cllr Swash reported as follows:

(a) **04/02722. REM The Vicarage, Earls Lane, Deddington.** Demolition of existing Vicarage and erection of new Vicarage, 2 building plots and new access to highway (as amended by plans received 27/4/05). **No objection.**

(b). **05/00793/LM Winmour Cottage, Philcote Street, Deddington.** Insertion of 2 fully glazed doors and 3 roof lights to south elevation, insertion of 1 half glazed door and 1 fully glazed double door to rear elevation. **No objection, unless any of the neighbours made any objections.**

(c). **05/00603/F 1, The Lane, Hempton.** Conservatory to rear. **No objection.**

(d). A schedule of applications approved and withdrawn since the last meeting was circulated.

37/05

Invoices for Payment

A schedule of invoices totaling £9999.57 was tabled, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, and was approved for payment. The Clerk confirmed that the minibus used to transport passengers to the Health Centre did not include Upper Heyford.

38/05

Investment of Councils Funds

At the close of business on 18 May 2005 the balances were as follows:

BANK BALANCES AS AT 18th May 2005

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
70708526	897.63	.1%	Imprest
70708542	10,035.35	.1%	Current

W. Bromwich Building Soc.	284659.85	4.7%	Overnight
Alliance & Leicester	250000.00	4.55%	30 Day Notice
TOTAL	545592.83		

Cllr Putland suggested that not all the PC's funds needed to be on short term/overnight availability. Cllr Wood confirmed the accounts where the money was currently placed were represented the best deal at the time. The rules governing Parish Council meant that it was only accounts which paid interest gross could be used; also the PC was only allowed to invest in certain types of funds.

11/05 **Attendance Record**

A schedule of the attendance record, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes, was tabled.

12/05 **Correspondence**

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

- (a) Copies of Emails relating to extraction unit at the Bengal Spice. The Chairman reported that the Agents dealing with this had forwarded to him copies of all the relevant correspondence. It appeared that all concerns were being met and that all planning and environmental health obligations were being fulfilled.

13/05 **VE Day Celebratons**

The Chairman reported that the RBL had contacted him asking if the Parish Council were planning any village celebrations to commemorate VE Day. The RBL were planning an open weekend and were also liaising with the vicar regarding this.

14/05 **'Any Questions'**

The Chairman reported that following a suggestion from Frank Steiner, the Parish Council had invited the Radio 4 programme '*Any Questions*' to Deddington. Confirmation had just been received that day that the programme would be coming on Friday 8th July and would be held at the Windmill Centre. The Clerk was ensuring that the PC was able to comply with all necessary regulations. 200 tickets would be available and admission would be by ticket only. **It was agreed that following the broadcast the Parish Council should host a small reception for the panelists and that any suggestions as to who else should be invited should be passed to the Clerk.**

12/05 **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 15th June at the Town Hall commencing at 7.45pm

ANNUAL MEETING

- 13/05 **Election of Chairman for 2005/06**
The Chairman asked for nominations for the post of Chairman of the Council for 2005/06. Cllr Todd proposed that Cllr Flux; this was seconded by Cllr Alton and unanimously agreed. Cllr Flux was therefore re-elected as Chairman. He thanked all the members of the Parish Council for their continuing support and for all the work done by the sub-committees.
- 14/05 **Election of Vice-Chairman for 2005/06**
The Chairman nominated Cllr Squires for the post of Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by Cllrs Mrs Spencer and Haslam and unanimously agreed. Cllr Squires was therefore re-elected as Vice-Chairman.
- 15/05 **Working Group Structure**
It was agreed that the existing Working Group structure should continue.
- 16/05 **Membership of Working Groups**

The following Working Group members were agreed:
- Finance and General Purposes Working Group**
 Cllrs Wood, Alton, Todd and Swash
- Environment Working Group**
 Cllrs Squires, Watts, Rollason and Spencer
- Highways Working Group**
 Cllrs Haslam, Wood, Westley and Putland
- Planning Working Group**
 Cllrs Swash, Todd, Cox and Wood
- 17/05 **Meeting Dates**
It was agreed that meetings would continue on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm.
- 18/05 **Student Grants**
It was agreed that the PC would continue to award tertiary education grants which, in the absence of further clarification as to whether this was legal, would continue to be financed from the Chairman's allowance.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm