

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 16 November 2005
commencing at 7.45pm

Present: Cllrs Flux (Chair), Squires, Todd, Mrs Swash, Putland, Alton, Wood, Rollason, Haslam, Cox, Watt, Co Cllr Jelf, Graham Pitts (Clerk), Sue Gibbs (Minute Secretary)

79/05.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Steve Westley. The Chair reported that Cllr Westley had asked for leave of absence until January/February 2006. This was agreed. It was also agreed that the Chairman should write to Martin Ellis stating that as no response had been received to his recent letter, it was assumed that Mr Ellis was no longer a member of the council.</p>
80/05	<p><u>Minutes of last meeting.</u></p> <p>Highways. Cllr Haslam wished to correct the impression he had given at the last meeting that Cllr Putland had taken over as Chair of the Highways Working Group. This would be clarified during the report from the sub committee.</p> <p>72/05(a): It was agreed that the final sentence should be in italics to indicate this was action arising from the meeting.</p> <p>Subject to these changes, the Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 October were approved as a correct record.</p>
81/05	<p><u>Declaration of Interests</u></p> <p>Cllr Swash: 83/05(d) Cllr Putland: 83/05 (h)</p>
82/05	<p><u>10 Minute Open Forum.</u></p> <p>There were no members of the public wishing to speak.</p>
83/05	<p><u>Planning Working Group</u></p> <p>Cllr Swash reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) 50/02006/F 4 Mill Close, Deddington. Two storey side extension. No objection(b) 05/02002/ Parkside House, Tithe Lane, Clifton. Relaxation of condition 3RM CHN 513.88 Insertion of 3 windows to garage front. No objection, unless any were received from the neighbours.(c) 05/01616/LB/Laurel House, Bull Ring, Deddington. Repairs to Cellar Floor. It was noted that this work had already started. No

	<p>objection.</p> <p>Cllr Todd reported:</p> <p>(d) 05/02113/F 2 Murdock Close, Deddington 2 storey side extension and single front extension. No objection</p> <p>Cllr Swash reported as follows:</p> <p>(e) 05/02054 LB Monks Court, Deddington Hardwood, glazed orangery to side and to the back. No objection</p> <p>(f) 05/02060/F 6 Hempton Road, Deddington 2 Storey side extension and 2 storey and single storey rear extension. The neighbour at 5 Hempton Road was concerned that this extension would take much light from the back of his property and would be objecting to the Council. Concern was also expressed that this was a large development on a small plot. It was agreed that the PC should respond saying that it had noted that one neighbour was objecting but that the Parish Council had no objections.</p> <p>(g) 05/01923/F Heritage House, Walnut Tree Workshop St Thomas St, Deddington. Change of use to a small animal surgery. No objection</p> <p>(h) 05/02046/LB Unicorn Hotel, Market Place, Deddington Proposed fire exit door to south elevation. No objection</p> <p>(i) A list of planning applications approved since the last meeting was read out.</p> <p>(j) Three Horseshoes. The Chairman reported that he had been advised that the windows had been changed and the doors painted. Cllr Swash reported that she had queried this with CDC but there was no problem because this was not a listed property.</p>
84/05	<p>Finance and General Purposes Group</p> <p>Cllr Wood reported as follows:</p> <p>(a). A cashflow statement to the end of October was tabled. A budget for the rest of the year would be circulated with the minutes. The cashflow had been ‘tidied’ up to reflect what had actually happened. The main expenditure was the money loaned to the Windmill Centre for upgrading the all-weather court; expenditure on the water supply for the allotments had been less than expected.</p> <p>(b). Expenditure for the rest of the year was anticipated as being very near the original budget. Some grant money from English Heritage was still to come. Expenditure on the Parish Plan was an estimate at present and the Clerk was asked to check if these figures correct. More grant money for grass cutting had been received than had been expected, although expenditure had also been more than anticipated. Concern was expressed that the Parish Council had undertaken to try and spend less on grass cutting this year. However, it was recognized that the weather had made this an exceptional year requiring additional cuts. It was felt that this additional expenditure could have been highlighted earlier. The question of the Parish council buying its own grass cutting was again raised, but the additional costs of storage, maintenance, insurance etc all needed to be taken into consideration. It was noted that there had been many complaints about the grass cutting this year and the</p>

	<p>village had high expectations in this area. As the Parish Plan contained a question about grass cutting it was agreed to see what came out of this before discussing this further.</p> <p>(c). The Environment Working Group was asked to submit a budget for next year before the next Parish council meeting.</p> <p>(d). Alliance and Leicester. It was agreed that changes in bank account should wait until the new clerk had been appointed</p> <p>(e). The Clerk was leaving at the end of November, although he had agreed to come back and help in December if needed. Pamela Ward had also agreed to help if necessary. It was suggested that consideration be given to a 3 month notice period in future. It was noted there had been considerable interest in the post and 5 applicants were being interviewed the following week. The interview panel would be Cllrs Flux, Wood and Mrs Swash.</p>
85/05	<p>Environment and Recreation Group</p> <p>Cllr Squires reported as follows:</p> <p>(a). Fair. Hatwells would be arriving as planned on 17th November. Leaflets were being put on cars parked in the area affected giving warning about this. Cllrs Putland and the Chairman agreed to be on hand at 6.00pm when the rides were being erected; Cllr Squires would be present when they were dismantled on Sunday. During the days the Steward was to keep a watching brief. If there were any concerns arising over the Fair, Councillors were asked to contact the Chairman. It was confirmed that First Aid Cover was not a legal requirement and it was up to Hatwells to organize this if they felt it was necessary. Cllr Putland suggested that in future such events one councillor should be elected to do a risk assessment. Cllr Squires said that legally, the Parish Council was only responsible for the road closure and that it was Hatwells responsibility to undertake a risk assessment. It was hoped that the event would be successful.</p> <p>(b). Castle Grounds. The Working Group had been advised that the first step in progressing the idea of a nature reserve was to contact the county ecologist. It was emphasised that the Group would not support any plan which would not maintain or improve the existing level of access including that for dogs.</p> <p>(c). Christmas Tree. The Clerk confirmed that this had been organized through the same source as last year and would be erected on 1 December. There was concern as to whether new lights might be needed. It was agreed that the electrician be asked to check them and see whether they could last for another year. <i>Since the meeting the lights have been checked and were condemned so new lights have been purchased.</i></p> <p>(d). Cllr Cox reported that the trees on the Clifton Road had been chopped into the hedgerow. The Parish Council had contributed towards this and it had been agreed that the landowner would look after them. It was agreed that enquiries should be made with the landowner concerned.</p> <p>(e). Parish Council Venues. It was proposed that consideration be given to holding one Parish Council meeting each year in both Clifton and Hempton. It was felt that this would increase inclusiveness and awareness throughout the Parish, but that as a new Parish Council would be elected in May, a</p>

	<p>decision on this should be left until then. However, it was also argued that in an election year it would be even valuable to try and raise awareness. As there was no suitable meeting place in Clifton, it would be necessary to check that it would not contravene any regulations to hold the meeting in the Pub. It was therefore agreed that consideration be given this year to holding the February and March meetings in Clifton and Hempton and that this should be further discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>(f). The Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement will be available in the clerks office for reference.</p> <p>(g). Free Websites. CDC was offering website space to all villages, voluntary organizations etc. If Deddington on Line applied, they could link in with this.</p>
86/05	<p>Parish Plan</p> <p>Cllr Squires reported that the questionnaires had now been delivered. Cllr Swash asked why the Deddington News team had not been asked to print the questionnaire. Cllr Squires confirmed that printing of the questionnaire had been discussed at meetings when the Editor was present and that 3 quotes had been obtained. It was felt that a lot of work would be involved in the printing and collation, and that it would be too much to ask the volunteers, who were already helping with the distribution. It was noted however that there was still the final report to be published and perhaps their help could be sought there.</p> <p>A number of responses had been received but it was hoped that more would start to come in soon. A stall was being held at the Farmers Market to promote the plan.</p> <p>The clerk confirmed that the next grant application had been submitted. If this was successful, the Plan would not cost the Parish Council anything; if not, it was estimated that the total cost would be £1500.</p> <p>The chairman reported that, in another capacity, he had attended a meeting at CDC looking at the Cherwell Community Plan. He reported that Parish Plans now play an important role in this area.</p>
87/05	<p>Parking Task Force</p> <p>Cllr Haslam reported as follows</p> <p>This group had met and looked at the outcome of the parking trials, focusing on the period between 10.00am and 6.00pm. At 10.00am during this period, there had been a 40% reduction in cars parked in the designated areas, (as opposed to 10% when this had last been looked at in 2001), and at 2.00pm there had been a 17% reduction. At 6.00pm there was no difference, with 50% of all spaces being used at this time. Added to these figures was the number of positive comments received and improved appearance of the centre of the village. It therefore appeared that providing alternative parking for long term parkers had been successful.</p>

	<p>In order to take matters forward it was proposed that the Task Force should have another meeting with the businesses involved, show them that the trial period had worked, thanking them for their support, and try and apply moral pressure to elicit their support for ways of finding a permanent solution. In the meantime, Cllr Haslam was also proposing that he be authorized to start discussions to look at the cost of providing long term parking, without any commitment from the Parish Council regarding funding.</p> <p>It was agreed that thanks should be extended to the businesses for their support and that it was how necessary to move forward. However, there was some concern that discussions at this stage should not include any mention of Parish Council money, whilst it was recognized that it would strengthen the Task Force's case when talking with the businesses to be able to say that all options were on the table, although none had been endorsed by the Parish Council.</p> <p>After some discussion it was proposed that the Parking Task Force should be authorized to discuss the matter with all parties concerned and see what alternatives were available. This was seconded by Cllr Wood and agreed by 6 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions. It was emphasised however that this was not a commitment from the Parish Council to provide any funding.</p>
88/05	<p>Highways Working Group</p> <p>Cllr Haslam reported as follows:</p> <p>(a). Chairmanship of Working Group. He apologized for the confusion which had arisen following his report at the last meeting and Cllr Putland was now to take over the chairing the Group until Parish Council elections in May.</p> <p>(b). A meeting had been arranged by Co Cllr Jelf with David Robertson and the Chairman. This had been a very good meeting. Mr Robertson had appeared to take on board what had been said and to take the PC's concerns seriously. He had promised to reply within 10 -14 days, although it was noted that no reply had yet been received. Co Cllr Jelf said he was meeting Mr Robertson the following week and would keep up the pressure.</p> <p>(c). Cllr Haslam was thanked for all the work he had done as Chair of the Highways Group, in trying to take these matters forward, and in particular for his work with the Parking Task Force.</p>
89/05	<p><u>Invoices</u></p> <p>A schedule of invoices totalling £7736.89 was tabled, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, and was approved for payment.</p>
90/05	<p><u>Investment of Councils Funds</u></p>

	At the close of business on 16 November 2005 the balances were as follows:
91/05	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>A list of correspondence since the last meeting was circulated.</p> <p>(a). Charter Housing. The Parish Council had been asked to attend the meeting on 29 November. The Clerk was asked to check that the application from the Youth Club was included on the Agenda.</p> <p>(b). Bengal Spice. The Chairman confirmed that this application was going to the Planning Committee.</p>
92/05	<p><u>Windmill Centre</u></p> <p>Cllr Cox reported that Deddington Town FC was unhappy with the pitch and that several complaints had been received regarding the regularity of nuisance and vandalism at the Windmill Centre with incidences of joy-riding etc. She had left a message on the police answer phone asking for a regular presence on a Friday night and it was agreed that the Clerk should follow this up.</p>
93/05	<p><u>Resignation of Clerk</u></p> <p>Cllr Flux reported that the Clerk would be at the end of the month. The Parish Council thanked Graham for all his work over the 3 years he had been in the post and wished him every success in his new work.</p>

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm. The date of the next meeting was set for Weds 21 Dec at 1945 in the Town Hall.