

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 19 October 2005
commencing at 7.45pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Squires, Putland, Mrs Swash, Todd, Alton, Rollason, Watts, Mrs Spencer, Haslam.

In Attendance Pamela Ward, Sue Gibbs (Minute Secretary)

64/05 **Apologies**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Wood, Mrs Cox, Westley, Co Cllr Jelf, and the Clerk.

Absent: Cllr Ellis

It was agreed that best wishes should be sent on behalf of the Parish Council to Cllr Wood for a speedy recovery following an operation on his knee.

65/05 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Cllr Rollason said that at the last meeting reference had been made to OCC's Scrutiny Committee and he had proposed that the PC write expressing concern at OCC's tardiness in dealing with matters relating to highways in the parish. The Chairman confirmed that this had been done. **It was agreed that a record of this should be included in the minutes of this meeting. It was also agreed that Cllr Westley should be added to the apologies.** Subject to these changes the Minutes of the last meeting held on 21 September 2005 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

66/05 **Matters arising**

58/05 (i). Cllr Swash reported that the conditions referred to in this application had not been met and that a letter had been sent back to the planning department.

67/05 **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Swash declared an interest in respect of 69/05(c).

68/05 **10 Minute Open Forum**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

69/05 **Finance and General Purposes Working Group**

Cllr Todd reported that the F&GP had not met this month but issues had been discussed over the telephone as follows:

- (a). Because of the absence of both Cllr Wood and the Clerk there was no bank reconciliation or statement of income and expenditure to 30 September. These would be presented at the next meeting.
- (b). The relevant paperwork had been received from the Alliance and Leicester Bank. These

needed to be checked by both Cllr Wood and the Clerk and would await their return.

(c). **Town Hall.** A letter had been received from Charles Newey setting out 3 options for the Town Hall. The F&GP agreed with the Charity Estates that the Town Hall should be maintained as functioning community asset. The options being proposed were:

(i) to renew the lease on terms to be agreed. The cost and practicality of the disability work would have to be agreed first;

(ii) rent the upper room for PC meetings while negotiations continued, or use another location;

(iii) the PC to purchase the Town Hall from the charity. This could be done before the disability arrangements were made and the PC would then take responsibility for any work which needed to be done.

Cllr Todd proposed that a working party consisting of two of the Feoffees (Terry Clinch and Charles Newey) and two representatives of the PC should look at all this in more detail. **This was agreed and that the Chairman and Cllr Wood should represent the Parish Council.**

(d). Paperwork had been received from The War Memorial Trust indicating that grants of £250 were available for suitable projects. **It was agreed that Cllr Wood should follow this up on his return.**

(e). A late application for a tertiary educational grant had been received. **It was agreed it was important that, providing the paperwork was all in order, the grant should be awarded as quickly as possible, and the Chairman's allowance increased accordingly.**

70/05

Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Squires reported as follows:

(a). **November 'Pudding n Pie' Fair.** The applications for the agreed road closures had been made and **the Clerk would follow this up on his return.** It was emphasised that only a small part of the road would be closed at the bottom of Hudson St. **It was agreed that a letter should be sent to all residents /businesses on the market place giving details of what was happening and how they would be affected. It was also agreed that flyers should be put on all cars parked in the Square on Wednesday night so that their owners would be aware of the need for them to be removed on Thursday.** It was anticipated that only one caravan would be parked in the market Square, but that final clarification was still awaited from Mr Hatwell. **It was agreed that the Clerk should follow this up on this return.** It was noted that taking into account the cost of the road closures, the Parish Council would only make £75 from the Fair. The Chairman emphasised that this was not being held as a money making venture but as a way of providing entertainment for some of the younger members of the Parish by reviving an old tradition. Every attempt had been made to take into account all areas of concern and any potential negative effects and this was a trial for one year.

(b). **Toddlers Play Area – Windmill Centre.** It was proposed that the broken see saw be replaced with an Octopus spring see saw at a cost of £600. This amount had been put aside in the budget for the provision of new swings in Clifton; however, as these had now been repaired and were working it was suggested that this money be spent on the see saw and new swings delayed until the next financial year. **This was agreed.**

(c). **Deddington Circular Walk.** In order to ensure that problems did not occur next spring with the bull in one of the fields in this walk, **it was agreed that the Clerk should follow this up with the Rights of Way officer.**

(d). **Castle Grounds.** The problem trees had now been removed. **It was agreed that Deddington News should be asked to clarify to the Parish that the PC was examining**

ways of improving the amenity value of Castle Ground, and that if a ‘nature reserve’ option was considered it would be for full access, including dog walking. Nothing however would be done until after completion of the Parish Plan.

(e). **Oxfordshire Minerals/Waste Development Framework.** It appeared that Parish councils would be sent details of any proposals in there area but would not be consulted. **It was agreed that the Chairman should raise this at the next OLC meeting.**

(f). It was noted that the next Cherwell Environmental Forum Meeting would be held on 9th November at 6.30pm in Bodicote.

(g). It was noted that the next meeting of the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association was being held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25 October.

71/05

Parish Plan Working Group

Cllr Squires reported that the questionnaire was now completed and ready to go to the printers. Although the Working Group was technically autonomous and not part of the Parish Council, **it was agreed that copies would be emailed to all Councillors, with comments be returned by the following weekend as it was due to go to the printers on Monday. The cost would be £1000.** It was hoped that they would be circulated in early November, and returned before Christmas. Deddington News was thanked for agreeing to distribute the questionnaires. Deddington News had also agreed to give the questionnaire a lot of publicity and it was hoped that there would be a good response.

Cllr Squires reported that with the printing costs, the Working Group would have spent £1100 out of a budget of £2000. Further anticipated costs were £800 for analysis and final report publication cost of £1000. A new grant application was being made to DEFRA and **it was agreed that the Clerk should pursue this.** It was hoped that this would largely cover the additional cost.

The Working Group was congratulated on completing the questionnaire and thanked for all the work which had gone into this.

72/05

Highways Working Group

Cllr Haslam reported as follows:

(a). **Relationship with OCC.** He was becoming increasingly frustrated that despite all the requests for action and two meetings with Ralph Grant, nothing appeared to have been forthcoming from OCC in the areas which the Working Group had been concentrating for a long period of time. This contrasted with the closure of Earls Lane for repairs caused by drought damage, and the swift response by OCC to a letter direct from a Parishioner expressing concern over the Hempton Road. The Chairman confirmed that an email had been received from Ralph Grant responding to various roads and footpaths issues which he felt did meet some of their concerns, and **it was agreed that the Highways Working Group would look at this again.** However, it was confirmed that there had still been no response from OCC regarding the footpath in Clifton nor had there been any further information on when the crossings in the Hempton Road and by the library were to be installed. Although Co Cllr Jelf had indicated that it would be in November, Cllr Squires reported that it was not included in the list on OCC’s website of forthcoming work up until February.

In order to try and take this forward, Cllr Haslam proposed that another meeting should be

sought with Ralph Grant and that more support was needed from Co Cllr Jelf. Cllr Wood had agreed to take the lead on this and take over chairmanship of the Working Group. **It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr Robertson, with a copy to Keith Mitchell, expressing concerns and that the matter be taken up again with the Scrutiny Committee, with a letter being sent from the Chairman. It was agreed that Cllr Haslam would provide the Clerk with a list of meetings and correspondence giving a full history of events.** It was also suggested that the matter could be taken up with Tony Balrdy; however, **it was agreed that the Chairman should talk to Co Cllr Jelf before doing this.** Following this Cllr Jelf arranged a meeting between the Chairman, Cllr Robertson and the chair of the Highways Working Group.

(b). **Hempton Road.** Cllr Todd reported that the 'Keep Clear' markings outside Manor Farm Barns had not been replaced when the Hempton Road had been resurfaced. It was agreed that the Clerk should check this.

(c). **Parking Outside the Antique Centre.** It was noted that the no parking area outside the Antique Centre had been put back by mistake after resurfacing. The Highways Department had said that they would just let these fade over time; it was felt however that this was taking up a valuable parking space and that they should be removed. **It was agreed that the Clerk should go back to Highways on this.**

(d). **Parking Working Group.** Cllr Haslam said he had been unable to schedule a parking review meeting as the statistics for the trial period were still not available but would report as soon as possible.

73/05

Planning Working Group.

Cllr Swash reported as follows:

(a). **05/01884/F Tays Cottage, Tays Gateway, Deddington.** Conservatory to rear. **No objection**

(b). **Planning application for erection of early years prefabricated classroom building for a temporary period of five years at Deddington CE Primary School, Earls Lane. Removal of 1 tree. No objection.**

(c). **05/01876/F F Eagles Fresh Foods, Market Place, Deddington.** Butcher blind/awning over shop frontage. It was noted that unlike the one proposed at the Holcombe Hotel some time previously, this would not be a permanent awning and there was therefore **no objection.**

(d). **05/01923/F Heritage House, Walnut Tree Workshop, St Thomas St, Deddington.** Change of use to small animal surgery. **No objection.**

(e). **05/0189/F The Vicarage, Earls Lane, Deddington.** Variation of condition 3 of 04/02722/REM – Installation of PVCU windows, external doors and porch side screens in place of timber units. Concern was expressed that although this was not in the conservation area it would have an impact on the conservation area. **It was agreed by 5 votes to 3, with one abstention, that an objection to the relaxing of condition 3 should be made.**

(f). **05/01325/F 2 Philcote Street, Deddington. Raising of roof with second floor extension/loft conversion (as amended by plans received 17.08.05 and in accordance with amended plan Nos 25.6.001c & 25.c.102c received 4 .10.05).** It was noted that several letters of objection had been received. It appeared that the plans were still misleading according to the measurements taken. Concerns were also expressed regarding fire hazard as it appeared that the space would be very restricted. **It was therefore agreed that the PC should continue to oppose this application as before because the plans seem to be incorrect.**

(g). **05/01944/TCA Featherton House, Chapel Square, Deddington.** Fell 1 No Acer.

Pollard 1No. Sycamore. Reduce 1 No Holly tree by 40%, 3 No. Leylandii by 40%, 1 No Yew by 20%. **No objection, although the PC would like to see a replacement for the one to be felled.**

(h). **05/01881/TPO Sedge Hill, Clifton.** Clean out, tidy and crown lift 1 No Silvery Birch by 2.5 metres and clean out, tidy and thing 1 No Ash by 10% subject to TP) 23/94. **No objection.**

(i). **05/01841/TCA Stable Cottage, Hempton Road, Deddington.** Fell 1 no Horse Chestnut and 1 no Cypress. It appeared that the Horse Chestnut tree was diseased . However, it was noted that under the rules of the TPO, proof of this was required and that an inspection should be made by the local tree officer. **It was agreed that this should be requested in the response.** There was concern also at the proposed felling of the Cypress tree as it was felt that this formed the back boundary onto the fields at the back of the village; it provided a soundbreak and wind barrier, offered amenity value to the surrounding area and was visible from a public place. It was therefore agreed that the application should be opposed.

(j). A list of approvals was circulated. Approvals had also been given to applications at Clifton Mill and Russett Cottage, The Stile.

(k). **Planning Appeal.** A planning appeal had been received from Mr and Mrs T Davies, 11 The Beeches, Deddington. **It was agreed that no objection should be made and that the PC's comments should be the same as previously.**

(h). There were several letters in the correspondence regarding the planning application at Bengal Spice. The Chairman reported that the CDC Inspectors had been back to the premises to check but no confirmation had yet been received as to whether all conditions had been met. In view of the number of letters of concern regarding this application it was proposed that the PC requested that this went to the planning committee at CDC. **This was agreed with 8 votes in favour and 2 abstentions. It was agreed that the request should be sent the next day, emphasizing the PC's view that no further applications should be agreed until all conditions of the first application had been met.**

74/05

Invoices for Payment

No invoices had been prepared for payment this month. **It was agreed that anything requiring payment would be forwarded to the F&GP.**

75/05

Investment of Councils Funds

At the close of business on 19 October 2005 the balances were as follows:

| Account No | Balance | Interest | Notice |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 70708526 | 1258.39 | 0.1% | Imprest |
| 70708542 | 8732.02 | 0.1% | Current |
| W Bromwich BS | 297221.39 | 4.45% | Overnight |
| Alliance & Leicester | 252537.67 | 4.2% | 30 Day Notice |
| TOTAL | 559749.47 | | |

76/05

Correspondence

A list of correspondence since the last meeting was circulated.

- (a). **5 October 2005:** The Chairman confirmed that he would be attending the Annual Parish Liaison Meeting with CDC on 3 November 2005.
- (b) **29 September 2005:** It was agreed that clarification should be sought from Rob Forsyth regarding Deddington On Line updates and missing charity
- (c). **10 October 2005.** Letter from Brown/Pajak regarding rainwater problems at 28 Mill Close had been passed to the Windmill Management Committee.
- (d). **19 October 2005:** The Chairman confirmed that a meeting was being held with Charter Housing on 29 November at 6.30pm at the Windmill Centre to discuss the various expenditure proposals which had been put forward.
- (e). **12 October 2005:** Cllr Squires clarified the details of the letter from Tony Baldry to himself which had been copied to the Parish Council. Cllr Squires had been acting in a private capacity but Tony Baldry had copied the Parish Council in his response. The Chairman said this may have been because the Parish Council had been involved in correspondence regarding the B4031 to which this related.
- (f). **19 October 2005:** Newsletter from OVID – the Chairman clarified that this related to an investigation of the infrastructure of voluntary organizations through the county. A questionnaire had been sent to 3000 voluntary organizations through Cherwell and to Parish Councils as well.

77/07

Remembrance Sunday

It was agreed that the Chairman would check with the RBL if the procedure for Remembrance Sunday was to be as in previous years.
The service will be November 13th with the parade starting at 10.30am in Bullring, as usual.
Parish

78/05

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 16th November 2005 at the Town Hall commencing at 7.45pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm