

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 17 September 2003
commencing at 7.30pm

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

47/03 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Harvey, Westley and Co Councillor Jelf

48/03 **Chairman's Allowances**

Tertiary Education Grants were awarded to 5 people on the Parish going on to tertiary education, R A Soddy, M L Cross, D E Franklin, S A Ross and T Alton.

49/03 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

50/03 **Declaration of Interests**

Councillors Watts and Ellis re 53/03

Councillor Alton re 55/03 item 6

Councillor Flux re 55/03 items 5 & 6

Councillor Wood re Payments – Subscription to CPRE.

Councillor Ellis re 57/03 item 1

Councillor Rollason re 56/03 item c

Councillor Spencer re 56/03 item j

51/03 **10 Minute Open Forum**

The Chairman invited members of the public to address the meeting but only one elected to do so. He was therefore allocated the full ten minutes and addressed the meeting on the subject of the proposed Gypsy transit site at edge of the village

The Chairman thanked the speaker for outlining his concern and said the matter would be discussed later in the meeting.

52/03 **Speeding – Hempton Road, Deddington**

Cllr Halsam reported that a meeting had been held with Colin Carrat and Steve Bowden from the Highways Department at the end of August to raise concerns at OCC's slowness in addressing safety issues. In particular traffic calming in Clifton and speeding in and out of Hempton were discussed, together with PC Clive Middleton's report on speeding on the Hempton Road in Deddington and at Hempton Village. This had all been very well received and it had been recommended that a 'build out and hump' should be placed near Windmill Close, similar to the one constructed in Wendlebury. However, due to other commitments this would not be done until 2004. The Parish Council was awaiting a sketch from Highways illustrating the proposals; the next step would then be to get approval from residents and try to return this very quickly to

OCC. Cllr Wood added that the feeling was that an actual physical barrier was required to slow traffic down; signs were not sufficient. Thames Valley Police were thanked for their support and PC Middleton in particular for his report.

53/03

Deddington Royal British Legion Club

Cllrs Ellis and Watts both declared an interest.

Cllr. Wood outlined the background behind the establishment of the RBL Club in Deddington, which meant that if the Deddington branch ceased to exist, the premises would be held by the Trustees through the Parish Council on behalf of the Parish of Deddington. However, legally, neither the Parish Council nor the people of Deddington had any say in the way it was run, unless and until the Deddington Branch of the RBL ceased to exist, nor did they have a say in the way in which the Trustees organized the premises on behalf of the RBL.

The Chairman stated that many misunderstandings had arisen since original application for a change of licence. The difficulty was that it was still not clear exactly what was being proposed. In the meantime, the Parish Council had taken the view that if the hours did not change it would not object, although it was aware of complaints from residents regarding the behaviour of members when leaving the Club and the Parish Council would not support anything which would exacerbate this. Cllr Cox was concerned that a letter circulated individually to members of the Parish Council implied that the Parish Council was being accused of corruption and incompetence, whereas she felt that the Council had, throughout, handled the matter in the correct way. She also felt that the new licencees should be given a year to “pull their socks up”, but also that as this was a dispute between neighbours it should be looked at by the District Council’s Nuisance Group. Cllr Haslam felt it was essential that the Parish Council understood more fully the requirements of the Parishioners (as it had done in the case of the BMX track) and that the Parish Council as a whole did not have sufficient information as to the exact nature of the Resident’s concerns. The Chairman pointed out that the disagreement between The Trustees and the Royal British Legion Branch and other bodies was not within the remit of the Parish Council **It was agreed that Cllr Wood would provide a summary of the meeting which he and Cllr Flux had attended with the High Street Residents Group. This would be circulated with the Minutes.**

Cllr Squires proposed that the PC agree a resolution clearly stating it would support the application for licence renewal providing there was no extension of opening hours and that the club was run in a proper manner. Cllr Todd felt that such a resolution was premature. **After further discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council endorsed the letter sent to the Magistrates Court on 2nd June and the Paragraph 32/03 (c) of the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2003. It was also agreed that a letter should be sent to the Trustees confirming the PC’s position.**

54/03

Proposed Emergency Stopping place for Travellers adjacent to Deddington Highways Depot

The Chairman stated that he had received the planning document relating to this with no prior warning and CDC had not received it until 10 days later. There was obviously considerable concern that this proposal had got so far along the planning process before it was made public. He had been in contact with Co Cllr Jelf who had confirmed that complaints should be made to County Council regarding this. He had also confirmed his commitment to opposing this proposal, although he was in a difficult position because of his commitment to the people of North Aston.

The Chairman confirmed that an emergency meeting had been called for 29th September which Sally Willan, OCC's Gypsy Liaison Officer, Inspector Robinson of, Thames Valley Police, both the County and District Councillors, as well as Mike Buxton from the Planning Department at Cherwell had all been invited to attend. This is to be an open meeting that will give all a chance to express their views, including members of any action group that is set up as well as representatives of the gypsy community. The meeting had been broadcast as widely as possible via the local newspapers and radio stations.

He felt that the Parish Council should wait for the meeting before deciding what steps to take, but recommended in the meantime setting up an Action Group and writing to the leader of OCC voicing concerns at the lack of consultation. **It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Leader of OCC and that members of the Parish should be encouraged to express their views individually. It was also agreed that an Action Group should be set up. Cllrs Haslam, Squires and Wood agreed to serve (and possibly Cllr Westley) – since confirmed- and that at least 2 members of the public should be invited to join.** Any members of the public wishing to do become part of the group were asked to make themselves known to the Clerk. Responding to Cllr Squires, District Cllr O'Sullivan confirmed that the application would come to CDC North Area Planning Committee for comment, but that the decision would be made by the County Council. The Chairman confirmed that a copy of the OCC Justification document was available for inspection at the PC's office which was open Monday and Wednesdays. **It was agreed that once established the Clerk would provide the Action Group with an information pack including relevant contact numbers, papers etc.**

55/03

Finance and General Purposes Working Group

Cllr Todd reported as follows:

1. Friends of Deddington library had submitted a late request for payment for £749.94. **It was agreed that the F&GP Working Group would report at the next meeting indicating the savings it would make in its budget to meet this additional payment.**
2. The 2001/02 Accounts were now cleared and those for 2002/03 were satisfactory and signed off by the internal auditor. They would be circulated to members as soon as possible.
3. The Imprest Account had not had sufficient funds to meet likely commitments in August and transfers had needed to be made. An improved method for dealing with expenditure and transfers across accounts was being developed.
4. The Parish Council had received a summary document describing CDC's Review and Performance Plan. A copy was available for inspection in the Office.
5. The Carer's Centre (North and West Oxon) had submitted a request for a grant. Cllr Flux declared an interest. As there were now several requests outstanding it had been agreed that the F&GP should review all such requests at their next meeting and make final recommendations at the next PC meeting.
6. **Chairman's Allowances.** It was proposed that a Chairman's Allowance of £500 be made. Cllr Alton declared an interest. **This was agreed.**
7. CDC had been advised that they failed to charge the Parish Council VAT for the emptying of dog bins. They would therefore be submitting a bill for the previous three years.

56/03

Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Spencer reported as follows:

- a. **BMX Track.** This had now been constructed and had proved a great success with all users. Letter of thanks had been sent to all those who had helped with its construction. There had been some problems with stones on the All Weather Court, which the Stewards had had to remove. Grass seeding was planned for later this month and fencing would be constructed in two months time.
- b. **Teen Shelter.** This had been ordered and it was hoped would arrive the following week. It was to be placed between the BMX track and the main field and a suitable area had been cleared.
- c. **Resurfacing of All Weather Pitch.** Cllr Rollason declared an interest. The All Weather Court had been surfaced in 1994 and was now showing signs of wear. An independent review from 3 organisations had been sought, two of which had already made their inspection and the Working Group would report on this at the next meeting. A joint bid with Deddington Colts to try and obtain funding for Astroturf was also being considered.
- d. **Fencing.** A request had been received from the Windmill Centre to replace the fencing which had originally been erected by the Woodland Trust. This would be considered further at the next meeting.
- e. **Recycling.** Feedback had been quite positive although most would prefer weekly collections. **It was agreed that the Stewards should be asked to monitor rubbish and check for any fly-tipping.**
- f. **Best Kept Village.** Deddington had not been placed in the top five.
- g. **Payphone.** BT proposed to remove the payphone in the layby. There was no objection to this.
- h. **Disability Discrimination Act.** The implications of this had been discussed and the Working Group had decided against changing the chippings in the main play area, but wanted a ramp for the older play area and adjustments made to the gates. **It was agreed that Deddington News should be requested to ask parishioners for information as to what changes to facilities they would like.**
- i. **Oxford Playing Fields Association.** Cllr Rollason agreed to attend a meeting of OPFA on 7 October 2003.
- j. **Deddington Colts Parking.** Cllr Spencer declared an interest. This was still causing problems. The Colts had not introduced the signage, cones etc as promised. **It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Colts again reminding them about this.**
- k. **Millennium Yew Tree.** Cllr Cox reported that she had a Millennium Yew tree that needed planting out. **It was agreed that Environment Working Group should find a suitable spot for this.**
- l. **Glass Bowl (Best Kept Village Award 2002).** **It was agreed that the Library be asked to house the glass bowl won last year.**

57/03

Planning and Property Working Group

Cllr Swash reported as follows:

- a. A list of approvals, subject to conditions was read out. The application at 44 Mill Close (03/01602/F) had been refused, but a subsequent application had been made and had been accepted.
- b. **03/01427 ADV Little Princes & Princesses.** New fascia sign and projecting sign. **No**

- objection.**
- c.** **03/01491/TCA** 6 Philcote St. Fell one Holly Tree. **No objection.**
 - d.** **03/01530/LB** The Paper Mill, Oxford Road, Adderbury. Renovation and Repairs to living accommodation. **No objection.**
 - e.** **03/01595/TCA** Daeda Cottage, Market Place, Deddington. Re-shape one yew tree and fell another. **No objection.**
 - f.** **03/01689/F** 21 Gaveston Gardens, Deddington. Change of use of one of existing garages to living accommodation including single storey front extension. **No objection.**
 - g.** **03/01835/TCA** Loke Cottage, Castle St, Deddington. Alternations to shop façade. **No objection.**
 - h.** **03/01821/F** The Lanterns, Tithe Lane, Clifton. Erection of conservatory to rear. **No objection.**
 - i.** **03/01833/LB** Deddington Mill, Deddington. Re-roof South West elevation of main roof utilizing reclaimed blue Welsh slate. **No objection.**
 - j.** **03/01849/F** The Sheiling, Hempton. Two storey side extension. **No objection.**
 - k.** **03/01845/F** The Bungalow, Earls Lane, Deddington. Erection of single storey rear extension and conservatory. **No objection.**
 - l.** **03/01528/F** Huntleys, New St, Deddington. Change of use of retail unit to A3 restaurant without take away facility. Cllr Ellis declared an interest. The original application had been for a takeaway and restaurant and the PC had previously objected. However, this application had been withdrawn and the current application, without the takeaway facility, submitted. Concerns were expressed about the implications of parking, noise, removal of rubbish, fire regulations, and the visual impact of the chimney in a conservation area. Objections had been received from residents. At the same time however, it was felt important not to drive business from the centre of the village and that the Parish Council needed to take a consistent approach. **Cllr Rollason proposed that the Council should write stating it had no objection to the application but stress that levels of noise, parking, cooking smells etc should be acceptable within the requirements of a conservation/residential area. This was seconded by Cllr Squires and approved by 7 votes to 3.**
 - m.** **03/01897/LB** 7 Market Place, Deddington. Replacement of front elevation windows with like for like. **No objection.**
 - n.** **03.01859/F** 7 Windmill St, Deddington. Single storey rear extension. **No objection.**
 - o.** Cllr Squires expressed concern that when there was no full Parish Council meeting, the Working Group might make objections without the necessary authority. The Chairman acknowledged that this was a valid point and it was emphasized that before any such decisions were made the agreement of the majority of Councillors must be obtained by telephone. (It has since been established that all councillors were sent information about all of the Planning Working Group decisions on 14th August 2003)

58/03

Highways Working Group

Cllr Haslam reported as follows:

- a. Three issues had been discussed at the meeting with Colin Carrat and Steve Bowden: Deddington parish traffic calming scheme; Hempton speeding including Hempton Road and Clifton speeding and pedestrian safety.
- b. Traffic Calming.** The Clerk had been asked by OCC to reconfirm the budget set aside

for traffic calming. Cllr Cox said that given that traffic calming measures were generally being implemented throughout the County was it right that the Parish Council should still be paying for these. **It was agreed that this should be raised with OCC.** The PC was to clarify to OCC once more the final position of the entry gates with a view to the work being completed by end of March 2004.

- c. Hempton and Clifton.** Steve Bowden was to complete a drawing of the proposed new “build outs” and speed humps near the Windmill turn and in Clifton. The Parish Council then needed to local residents to gain their agreement to the schemes. Again, OCC proposed to complete the works in 2004. Cllr Squires suggested that a zebra crossing be incorporated into the bump outside the Windmill turn.
- d. Babtie.** Changes to the area under the Town Hall were due to be completed on 22 September. Changes included improvement to the lighting, and an electrical display board. The service was due to go live in by the end of 2003.
- e. Line Markings.** The Working Group had requested OCC to include road marking of the area outside Centre point and other pinch points in the Parish as well as the new road surface in Hempton and Clifton.
- f. Posts for Area outside Co-op.** OCC have confirmed that they are prepared to install posts around Goose Green and outside of the Co-op for a fee of £20 per post.(Although six had already been installed at Goose Green). The working group were asked to report back at the next meeting with ideas as to how this could be funded.
- g. Lime Cottage.** Cars were still being parked on the verge. It was agreed that OCC be asked to write regarding this.

59/03 **Invoices for Payment**

Invoices totaling £7467.78 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment. Cllr Wood declared an interest regarding the payment to CPRE.

60/03 **Investment of Councils Funds**

At the close of business on 17 September 2003 the balances were as follows:

BANK BALANCES AS AT 17/09/03

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
70708526	1320.12	.1%	Imprest
70708542	15543.03	.1%	Current
TOTAL	16863.15		
Bradford & Bingley	1000.00	3.4%	120 Days
W. Bromwich Building Soc.	520373.97	3.4%	Overnight
TOTAL	<u>538237.12</u>		

- 62/03 **Computer**
The Clerk reported that one request for the old office computer had been received, from a pre-school outside the Parish. No other groups had come forward and it was agreed that this request be accepted. (After the meeting a local group came forward and the original recipients have kindly withdrawn)
- 63/03 **Date of Next Meeting**
Wednesday 16 October at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm.
Open Parish Meeting: 29th September at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm