

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meetings held in the Windmill Centre Lounge, Deddington on
Wednesday 8 May 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: eight parish councillors, the Clerk and minutes secretary.

Apologies: Cllr A. Collins, J. Watts, J. Higham and J. Eames.

1) Approval of Agenda.

2) Minutes May 2018 and Matters arising.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for May 2018 were unanimously approved by those in attendance.
Matters arising. **None.**

3) Report from the Chair 2019. – Parish Council Chair Cllr David Rogers reported;

Thank you. The Chair thanked all those whose efforts have helped, improved and supported both the Parish and the lives of Parishioners. With thanks to the volunteers who have turned out for a wide variety of causes including the Neighbourhood Plan, the Windmill redevelopment working group members, the Speedwatch volunteers, the litter pick volunteers, those who help maintain the green spaces, playing fields, sports facilities, allotments and monitor the footpaths, the Friends of Castle Grounds, the Snow Wardens, and the countless others that have given their time and talents so freely. The Deddington Charity Estates have done some great work with the Alms houses, Town Hall and Pest House Field and have his thanks for their efforts. The new playground at the Windmill Centre on the site of the old bowls club and Pocket Park Initiative deserve a special mention and thank you to all involved in these projects. He also thanked Richard, Gareth, Susan and Debbie and all those who have been councillors over the last year, parish, district and county, for their time and support. Lorraine left after many years of service as Clerk and Brian Wood stood down as chair of the Finance group, he thanked them for their service to the parish.

In summary. Plenty has been done over the year and the effort and hard work is evident. There has been much work to improve and expand public facilities across the parish.

4) Report from the Chairs of the PC's Working Groups:

a) Planning. Cllr Stella O'Neill reported; DPC received 66 Planning Applications during 2018/2019, 50 were building related and 16 tree related.

Tree applications. The 16 tree applications involved a total of some 105 trees. Of these, a total of 45 trees were to be felled for a variety of reasons, mostly overcrowding, poor, dangerous, diseased condition, overhanging neighbours' property and potential disruption of overhead cables & property and a number were requested to be replaced as appropriate. The remaining 60 trees were to pollard, reduce, crown, top trees, one of which had a TPO on it, which was approved in order to maintain the tree in a good condition.

Building applications. There were 50 building related applications, a majority were for renovations, modifications, single and two storey extensions; however, of these 50 applications, there were 3 applications for new residential dwellings, providing potential to provide 4 new homes in the Parish. An outline planning application for 21 new homes at Stone Pits on the Hempton Road, next to Wimborne Close was received in January. This is a development of 2, 3 & 4-bedroom homes. No decision has been made on this application at the time of writing. Two applications were for business signage, one for a change of use of residential to holiday let and one for a change in planning conditions, imposed on a previous application some two years prior. Of the applications received; 4 were withdrawn before determination, 2 were refused and 7 have not been determined at the time of writing.

CDC has the final say on applications and there have been some occasions where they have not agreed with the PC's recommendations. There have been 2 occasions in the last year where we have objected, and CDC have subsequently approved applications and a further 1 occasion where we have no objections, but CDC have refused the application. Some of these have been resubmitted and have subsequently been approved by us and CDC.

The PC in the majority of cases approve applications that meet planning criteria and are regarded as sustainable development, always having regard to legitimate concerns and objections of neighbours and other parishioners. In the last year, the David Wilson Homes development has progressed to virtual completion, with, we understand just 4 properties remaining to be sold.

b) Windmill Centre Redevelopment. Mary Robinson reported;

All-weather Court. This has been refurbished with a better surface, LED lights, and higher, tougher, vandal-proof fencing. The £26,000 cost of this has been met by PC revenue funds; it is still hired out to both groups and individuals, it is well used and very much valued.

New Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). The £101,000 cost of the new MUGA (and refurbishment of the old half-MUGA) was met by S106 money coming from the new housing development and it is working extremely well.

Adventure Playground and Woodland Trail. Here we received a very generous donation from a local resident, which was matched by the Parish Council and topped up by OCC. The old bowling green was selected as the perfect spot. We have selected timber equipment as far as possible. Creative Play was the main contractor, and

the splendid robinia timber multi-activity piece was built by Trevor Stewart. Later in the year we're planning an official opening to thank everyone involved in this £120,000 project.

Pocket Park. Just before Christmas 2018 we learned about a central government initiative to provide funding for new or refurbished 'Pocket Parks'. We jumped at the opportunity to renew our Under-6 play area. Within three weeks we came up with a concept design, got ballpark costings, drew up a proposal and won support from Cherwell DC as our sponsors, and were delighted to be awarded a £25,000 grant, the fund matched by £7,500 from the PC. It is a national scheme and will receive much publicity, both local and national. We've chosen a Trevor Stewart design for the work & he will start at the end of May and the Under-6 play area will be out of use while the work takes place.

The Windmill Centre. The Parish Council and the Management Committee have a rolling programme of improvements such as LED lighting, a better heating system; new windows and doors; car park and roof repairs. Also underway are plans for refurbished toilets, better CCTV, broadband, and wooden flooring in the upstairs room. We are looking at the possibility of replacing the Hempton Lounge with a 100-seater, high-spec hall with access to a kitchen and a bar, suitable for group meetings, parties and business seminars. I hope to be able to report more on this next year.

Thanks. Sincere thanks are in order for the success of this huge project: to Parish Councillors who have supported the work so far; Nicole O'Donnell of Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association for guidance; OCC and CDC for financial support and guidance; and the volunteers on the Development Group and Management Committee for their time and insights.

c) **Highways & Transport:**

Highways. Cllr Maureen Cox reported;

Site Visits. 9 have been made in the last year.

Speed Monitoring. Has taken place to check the efficacy of the Clifton VAS and in Earls Lane, we are awaiting results. Speed Watch has been carried out by other groups within the parish.

TVP Speed enforcement. This has taken place regularly in Hempton Road.

Hempton HGV Monitoring. Funds have been secured to monitor speed in Hempton, especially of HGV vehicles. A week of monitoring should take place before the end of June.

New St/High St Crossing. Elderly Crossing signs are to be placed on posts to raise awareness of residents crossing from Hudson St/Grove.

Grass Verges. We have proposed that all planning applications have a condition clause that verges be put back in good order, once building works have been completed.

Deddington Grange. We have applied pressure on the developers to fulfil all aspects of the development and Highway alterations.

DPPP. Disabled bays are for the use of any blue badges holders. An enforcement sign has to be erected in order that enforcement can take place if they are misused.

Fly Tipping. Locked wheelie bins in the Market Place continue to be monitored.

Civilians List Sent. Updated at the last DPC meeting.

Fix My Street. We endeavour to send all Highway Issues directly via this portal.

Transport. Cllr Helen Oldfield reported;

S106 public transport contribution. Two new bus stops complete with wooden bus shelters have been installed on the Banbury Road beside the Deddington Grange estate. The cost was met by S106 money provided by the developers and hard standing was provided by Oxfordshire County Council. The stops are now in operation. An additional sum of more than £70,000 is available in S106 funding from the Deddington Grange developers to improve local transport services, which in this parish primarily means the S4 bus service between Oxford and Banbury. This is not enough in itself to reinstate the half-hourly service between Deddington and Banbury. However as new housing is built along the route, particularly in Adderbury, and also potentially in Deddington, sufficient S106 funds may become available and we will continue to urge Stagecoach and Oxfordshire County Council to use it to improve the S4 service should that become feasible. The half-hourly service between Deddington and Banbury ran for three years from May 2015 to May 2018 but unfortunately did not attract enough passengers to make it viable without additional funding.

Bus stop in New Street. The parish council asked OCC to consider moving the Banbury-bound bus stop further north along the road to where there is a layby. This suggestion was rejected but OCC did, at the parish council's request, provide a small area of hard standing, beside the bus stop in its present location so that passengers no longer have to step off the bus onto a muddy churned-up grass verge.

Diversions to the S4 bus. The parish clerk will continue DPC's effort to ensure that Stagecoach properly advises passengers if the S4 is diverted, stopping at the junction of Hudson Street and High Street, when the Market Place is closed for events such as the funfair and the Deddington Car Festival

d) **Environment and Recreation. Cllr J Watts reported;**

War Memorial Cemetery. There have been volunteer groups to do work in the war memorial cemetery including a working party to tidy, mow, trim & prune around graves and repair and paint gates and fences.

Speed Watch. We have managed to set up a speed watch group; however more volunteers are desperately needed to become more proactive. Around the parish feedback has been especially positive and we have received encouraging comments from other parishes.

Play areas. Our group is responsible for maintaining the play areas. This year significant success has been achieved with the enhancement of Welford's Piece in Clifton.

Hempton Allotments. continue to be a great success with nearly all allotments let and an asset to the parish. Many thanks to Mr D Parker for leading this with Susan our clerk.

Grass cutting. This is a hot topic for discussion. With budgets the number of cuts are limited. It would be great if some parishioners could cut the grass outside their property. The resident who cuts the grass along the Hempton Road gets my sincere thanks.

Litter Picks. Two litter picks were arranged and litter collected.

Dogs. In agreement with the WMC and Clubs at the Windmill Centre a total Dog Ban was implemented on the playing areas at the Windmill Centre. However, a dog walk has been sign posted. Willing volunteers laid a Bark Path.

Public Footpaths. We have kept an eye on the public footpaths and reported any issues.

Village Planters. We are looking for helpers to maintain the village planters.

Thanks. I would like to thank our village Steward's Richard and Gareth for their efforts around the parish.

5. Report from Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Nothing reported.

6. Open discussions. None. Cllr D Rogers thanked those in attendance. The meeting closed at 8.26pm.