

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Minutes of the Meetings held in the Windmill Community Centre, Deddington on**  
**Wednesday 4 May April 2016 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** four members of public, eight parish councillors (including District Cllr), the Clerk and minutes secretary

**Report from the Chair 2016**

The Chair, Cllr Alan Collins, delivered his report. Explaining that he was to stand down as Chair to fulfil personal commitments. He said that his four years as Chair had proved fascinating, challenging, deeply rewarding but certainly draining.

**Highlights**

**The Parish Beacon for the Victory in Europe 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

Lit by one of our last surviving infantryman from that conflict. Cllr A Collins had not planned it would be a spectator event but over 100 people attended to be a part of a simple ceremony assisted by Scouts, Boys Brigade and retained fire service.

**War Memorial.** He was pleased that in his last year as Chair there were commemoration of those who fell making this country the object of so many peoples ambition is something very dear to him many of your Councillors. This was underlined by the earlier refurbishment of the War Memorial by the PC to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the First World War.

**Victory in Japan.** Commemoration, in August, that marked the true end of the Second World War. He said he would remember for a very long time the sight of Deddington's very best Golfers, allotment holders, tennis players and many more clubs and societies marching past those who served this country in its darkest hour who were rightly in pride of place on the saluting dais. Marching to a very talented Youth band and with a genuine WW2 jeep in tow. With Annie then leading a lovely service before a good old fashioned sing song.

**Freddie Knoller.** The Chair was delighted to meet Freddie Knoller – now OBE. Who as part of a PC supported Friends of Deddington Library event gave all an insight into his incredible life where surviving Auschwitz and being liberated from Bergen Belsen were not the most incredible part of his life. To have a veteran 'tanker' at the event who was also at his liberation made it even more unforgettable.

**Blue plaque application.** The PC is applying for Deddington's first Blue Plaque to remember Major General Sir Percy Hobart who lived in Leadenporch House and without whom Eisenhower said D-Day would have failed.

Cllr A Collins thought the Parish had done its bit to mark the history of this county, commemorate those lost and thank the survivors who had served.

**Other.** The Neighbourhood Plan has progressed to its third drop in. The PC obtained protection for Clifton's pub, delivering a much needed overhaul of this building to keep it for future generations. Installed a VAS in Clifton that has delivered a substantial drop in speeds though the village. Granted support for the Youth Club and organised a spring clean (thanking Cllr J Watts for his lead on this), while all the time trying to safeguard the community for the future.

**Planning.** Cllr A Collins read the Planning report on behalf of District Cllr Bryn Williams.

The Parish Council received 86 Planning Applications during 2015/16, an increase on 56 for 2014/15. CDC approved 57 and refused 5 with 7 applications being withdrawn, that is an increase on the 44 approvals in 2014/15. CDC has the final say on applications and on many occasions has not agreed with the PC's recommendations.

The majority of applications continue to be for minor residential works, tree felling/reduction and other residential applications. The PC in the majority of cases approve applications that meet planning criteria and are regarded as sustainable development conducive in a Conservation Area.

The one large development which the PC continues to oppose but was passed on appeal is that of 85 houses on Land North of Gaveston Gardens. This has recently been increased to a separate application for 95 houses and in the past two weeks to 99 houses. There are currently a number of applications before CDC to relieve the developer (David Wilson Homes) of several 'Planning Conditions' associated with this development, once again the PC continue to oppose these.

The PC, in the later part of 2015, secured a 'Group Tree Preservation Order' on the northern boundary of the site, this will ensure that the developers cannot tamper or fell any of the trees within the border. Assurance have been sought from CDC's Arboricultural Officer that the hedge bordering the A4260 will be protected. The PC have objected to the developers suggestion of naming the development Deddington Grange and suggested three possible names to CDC for consideration, these are, 1) The Swere, 2) Daedas View and 3) Axletree Drive.

Other planning matters dealt with by the PC this year have been the nomination of Deddington Library and The Old School Hall, Hempton as Non-Designated Heritage Assets and the Satin Lane Allotments in St Thomas St as an Asset of Community Value. The PC ensured that the Duke of Cumberland's Head in Clifton was made an Asset of Community Value in July 2015 and is currently being purchased with a view to reinstating as a public house.

The PC continues the preparation of our Neighbourhood Plan, if adopted it will reflect the views and aspirations of parishioners and help guide future development within the community. The PC therefore welcome and encourage all parishioners to engage with the Neighbourhood Plan working group and PC to ensure the Parish remains a thriving and pleasant community for all.

#### **Highways & Transport:**

Cllr Helen Oldfield spoke on behalf of herself Cllrs David Rogers, Maureen Cox and Janet Higham. Reporting another successful year Close co-operation and collegiate work with Parishioners', OCC CDC, TVP. County and District Cllrs and other DPC working groups have achieved the following;

**Speed watch.** This has been carried out throughout the Parish in collaboration with TVP.

**Speed monitoring.** Has been carried out using a hand held device. As a result of speed monitoring the Clifton approach from the Clifton Road was identified as an area which persistently recorded speeding vehicles especially at peak times.

**Clifton VAS sign.** This was funded by PC and was installed earlier this year. Early results have suggested that fewer vehicles are speeding and vehicles are generally travelling at lower speeds when entering the village. In addition, an unexpected benefit has been observed and that is a change in the driver's behaviour and attitude when noticing the flashing sign. It is hoped that this improvement is sustained and will be monitored again 6 months.

**Traffic Lights.** There have been repeated complaints about the phasing of the lights. This was due to failing batteries. The response to complaints have usually produced a rapid response. The group will continue to monitor phasing and traffic flow. It has been suggested that the lights will be at saturation level by 2021. Turning right into the Hempton road from Banbury has caused a standstill. If there are more than 3 vehicles queuing to turn it holds up the flow of traffic causing vehicles bound towards Oxford to mount the kerb.

**Traffic Cones.** Six were purchased for the use of the Parish.

**Windmill St Car park.** After many months of negotiation CDC finally accepted that the responsibility and accountability for the car park as theirs. The drainage has been sorted and a new and improved surface has been laid.

**Windmill Close car park.** CDC have plans to address the flooding - many thanks to Steve Turner from CDC who took over the car parks issues. He found funding to address the problems and is overseeing the quality of the workmanship. Thanks also to Mr Timms who was instrumental in alerting us to the issue and attending site meetings with CDC, H&TWG and District Cllr B Williams.

**Vehicle Weight Limits.** Following a complaint, we have found that this is now the responsibility of trading standards.

**Town Hall lamppost.** The second lamp post for the south-east corner of the Town Hall was installed in November 2015.

**DPPB application.** Granted for bull ring.

**Fly tipping.** This was in the Windmill St car park and also in Cosy lane – H&TWG will continue to monitor fly tipping incidents and ask the Parish to do the same.

**Parking Issues.** H&TWG pass to OCC/TVP as appropriate. Ongoing parking problems regarding the school – TVP and OCC are working closely with the Primary School in an attempt to alleviate the problems of parking at prime times of school opening and going home time.

- **Outside Primary School.** PCSO's have visited the school twice and spoken to the drivers of the vehicles parking illegally on the double yellow lines. This was effective for a very short time only and apparently the illegal parking continues.
- **Parking on the A4260.** OCC installed 10 posts on the grass verge to prevent parents parking on the grass verge when collecting their children. It has been noted that cars now park on the road alongside the posts. This is highly dangerous for both the children driver and other road users.

**TVP have issued guidelines to clarify parking rules/regulations.** 'Unless there are local parking restrictions giving a right to a particular space, residents do not have automatic rights to a parking space on a public road. However, they do have a right of access to their drive. If there is a shared drive, then each person has a right of access and neither should block the drive. They have also set out clear guidelines

about dealing with neighbour disputes. In brief it suggests. 1. Talk to your neighbour. 2. Contact your neighbours' landlord; 3. Use a mediation service. "

**Anonymous letter sent to DPC regarding Highways matters.** It is not the PC's practice to discuss unsigned letters of complaint. The complaint was therefore not discussed by H&TWG

## **Transport**

**Bus service cuts 81 & 90.** From July subsidies to all Oxfordshire bus operators will end as a result of £6.25 million cuts to OCC transport budget. The parish has been affected by these cuts in that the 81 service between Banbury and Bicester calling at Deddington and Clifton has been cut. Likewise, the one-day a week 90 Banbury to Upper Heyford bus via Hempton is being cut.

**S4 Bus service.** The S4 has more than doubled northwards, to a half hourly service thanks to developer S106 contributions from the Longford estate in Bodicote. It is hoped that School field developer contribution will be around £95,000 towards transport. Which should be used for increasing the S4 south service to Oxford to a half hourly service. The PC will be lobbying for a better early morning service to Oxford so that it'll be a more feasible way to travel for commuters.

**Pilot scheme.** OCC have a statutory duty to provide transport for school children and for older people wishing to go to day centres. They have a fleet of minibuses, with drivers on full-time contracts who currently have little to do between the morning and afternoon peak hours. A pilot scheme, if agreed at the county council's May cabinet meeting, will start so that parishioners can book a place on a bus during the day. The cost would be £18 per hour but if used by 10 it would cost £1.80 per person.

**Dial-a-ride.** Dial-a-ride is coming to an end. The community residents using this service have been informed and alternatives given.

There are no cuts currently planned for the concessionary bus passes which cost OCC £8 million a year as it is a statutory duty. Parishioners' are urged to use the bus service or face losing them in the future.

## **Environment and Recreation**

Cllr D Rogers spoke on behalf of the E&R working group whose members are John Finnigan, Jim Flux, Martin Squires, Jonathan Watts and David Rogers.

**Staff.** Thanks were passed to The Clerk, Lorraine, Steward, Richard and Minute Secretary, Susan for their efforts over the year. The parish is in good shape and very good hands.

**Parish Spring Clean.** Cllr J Watts organised this year's event and it has been a great success. Thank you to all those who participated. It is being considered to hold another clean later on in the year.

**Castle Ground.** Thank you to the Friends of Castle Grounds who have worked very hard over the year. There are a number of initiatives underway to further enhance the grounds.

**Town Hall and the Coat of Arms.** The Feoffees of Deddington Charity Estates have done a wonderful job in restoring the Town Hall and the PC thank them for their assistance in helping remount the restored Coat of Arms.

**Windmill Centre.** The PC has funded a number of improvements to the building including new doors, windows, exterior staining, guttering repairs, block paving repairs, interior decoration a new boiler and new radiators. Other areas under consideration include carpets, disabled access, storage options, a new toilet block and a sum towards this has been requested in the S106 settlement for the 95 house application at School Field.

**Allotments.** The PC has contributed towards the cost of extending watering system and has also applied for an "Asset of Community Value" on the Satin Lane site. Many thanks to the allotment society for their support, help and efforts over the year.

**Clifton flooding.** Thames Water and OCC have brought the drains in Clifton up to their maximum capacity. Flooding continues to be a frequent, significant issue and parishioners are encouraged to report any surface water flooding problems to the Clerk, Cllr D Rogers and most importantly to Thames Water (0800 316 9800) Without information from residents Thames Water will not upgrade the system.

**Deddington footpaths.** Very many thanks to the team of volunteers who regularly inspect our paths and report concerns to the Clerk. This process has worked well over the year and much has been achieved through this co-operation.

**Tree Survey.** Has been conducted and recommended work actioned.

**RoSPA report.** All play areas inspected and all remedial work actioned including a new POS swing bowl at the Windmill Centre.

**MUGA extension.** Has been costed which includes moving the underground cabling and a sum towards this has been requested in the S106 settlement for the 95 house application at School Field. If that does not materialise then a grant application will be considered.

**AWC fencing.** Replacement has been costed and will be re-considered after the Windmill AGM in May.

**Fitness trail at the Windmill Centre.** Has been costed and will be re-considered after the Windmill AGM in May.

**Notice boards.** Have been refurbished, cork backings installed and a notice board installed at the Castle grounds.

**Planters.** Thank you to all those who maintain the planters and flower beds around the parish. The planter on the Clifton Road is available to sponsor if any local organisation or business is interested.

**Christmas tree lights.** Another excellent volunteer effort – thank you to the team who assist in installing, decorating and removing the tree. Special thanks to Bob Staig for his efforts. The Chair thanked Cllr D Rogers for his inspired thinking regarding the power source. This can now be retired as there is a connection in the new lamp post to permit powering Christmas tree lights by mains.

**Grass cutting.** OCC are expected to cut the grass verges twice this year. The PC cutting schedule remains eight cuts per year as in previous year even though the payment for this have reduced.

#### **Finance and General Purposes**

Cllr Brian Wood, the Chair of the working group, addressed the meeting. Cllr B Wood works with Cllrs D Anderson, H Oldfield and J Flux.

Cllr B Wood is currently compiling the draft account. He reported that interest on reserves were still low in comparison with the 8% possible years ago. Over the years the PC has continually needed to cut back which it has done to date by less grass cutting and one less steward. The reserve revenue is being spent on the WMC refurbishments. At the beginning of the 2015/16 year the reserves stood at £63k with £19k being spent throughout the year on the refurbishment. This leave £47k available with £20k being earmarked for emergencies and roughly £25k to spend on future refurbishment works if need be. The Solar panel asset expenditure has been lucrative with a £5k income whereas the capital outlay for the VAS will see no income generation. It looks likely that the day to day expenditure at year end will show a £2k surplus which is good when working to a break even aim. John Suckling was given special thanks for all the years he has acted as a pro bono internal auditor. This position needs to be filled so if anyone wishes to help the PC out on pro bono capacity as internal Auditor please contact the Clerk.

#### **Emergency and Winter Planning Working Group**

Group members are Alan Collins, Stella O'Neill, Jonathan Watts, Helen Oldfield, Janet Higham, Maureen Cox, Jim Flux and David Rogers.

**Snow Wardens.** There are currently 25 volunteers snow wardens (more always welcome) and a good supply of equipment should this be required.

**Grit supplies.** The Parish grit supplies are healthy which could prove useful as there is no guarantee of future, free supplies from OCC.

**Grant application** Currently under consideration is the purchase of three AED (defibrillator) units, three wheelchairs and a supply of emergency blankets to distribute amongst the villages of the parish.

**Report from Neighbourhood Plan.** Emerging Policies documents were made available to those in attendance.

#### **Application North of Gaveston Gardens Cllr D Rogers updated the meeting on the**

The PC are working to ensure the discharge conditions with three or four currently being refused by OCC after PC objections. CDC seems to be listening to the PC's concerns. The PC is trying hard to keep the development in check despite the developer pushing the boundaries (i.e. increasing 85 house permission to an additional application for 95 and then 99). The PC is trying to ensure that the development is reasonable, useable and sustainable.

Concerns has been raised that the roads in the site are too narrow and would not be adopted so a management company would have to be set up for the estate which could prove problematic for residents in the future. The would also be responsible for the surface water drainage system.

OCC and the PC are trying to apply stringent conditions regarding broadening the A4260 and building the junction and moving the 30mph restrictions before construction on the development starts.

Concerns was raised that there were less 1-2 bedroom homes. The foul water drainage issue has been vague with the developer not identifying which pipe it is hoping to connect to. Thames Water are concerned that the developer has not contacted them to resolve issues.

Cllr D Rogers thanked the many parishioners whom have helped regarding this development.

**Queen's Birthday Commemorations.** A consortium of interested parties have been awarded a grant payment of £500 towards events to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Parish.

**Open discussions.** None.

Cllr A Collins thanked those in attendance. The meeting closed at 8:40pm.