

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 16th April 2003
commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman) Mrs Spencer, Mrs Cox, Alton, Squires, Todd, Ellis, Watts, Rollason, Westley, Haslam, Cllr. R Jelf, Graham Pitts (Clerk)

383/02 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs Swash, Mrs Harvey, Messrs O'Sullivan and Wood.

384/02 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Chairman was asked if any progress had been made in implementing the proposed Nature Day (Ref.355/02). The Chairman explained that a number of meetings had been arranged with interested parties and that an event of some kind would take place in the Autumn.

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the tragic death of the Rev. K Reeves and said that approximately 450 people had attended the funeral service earlier that day. It was agreed that a note of condolence be sent to his next of kin, expressing thanks for all that he had done for the parish.

385/02 **10 Minute Open Forum**

Mr David Keats, a resident of Wimborn Close, expressed concern about the excessive speed of vehicles travelling through the village and in particular those along the Hempton/Deddington Road. He said that residents were extremely worried about the possibility of a serious, if not fatal, accident occurring. Mr Keats said his purpose in speaking was to urge the Parish Council to take the matter seriously and to see what could be done to progress things.

The Chairman thanked Mr Keats for presenting the case and assured him that the council is treating the issue seriously and urgently.

386/02 **Highways Working Group**

Councillor Haslam reported as follows:

- a. **Speed Limit Changes.** It was noted that work on the changes to the speed limits had started but had not been completed. **It was agreed that the Clerk would chase OCC to find out what was causing the delay.** Councillor Jelf also agreed to investigate.
- b. **Hempton and Clifton Projects.** It was noted that there had still not been any response from OCC on this matter. **The Clerk will chase again.**
- c. **Babtie.** It was noted that funding for the Bus Stop project at the Town Hall should be confirmed by the end of April. **It was agreed that the Clerk should then investigate what funds were available for screening and other alterations within the Town Hall.**
- d. **Hempton Road Crossing.** A report had been received from OCC summarising the investigation into the viability of a Zebra Crossing in Hempton Road. It was agreed that the Parish Council support this initiative and **the Clerk was asked to confirm this.**
- e. **Road Safety Week – 22-28th September.** Councillor Haslam reported that the Working Group is supporting this initiative and is contacting the Co-ordinator.
- f. **Re-surfacing Horsefair and Hempton Road.** Councillor Cox enquired if there was any information about when this work might be carried out as it had been promised in the past. Councillor Jelf agreed to investigate.

387/02 **Planning and Property Working Group**

Councillor Cox reported as follows:

A list of approvals was noted

03/00698/F St Peter & St Pauls Church. Erection of a storage hut and guard rails to Boiler House and Crypt. **No Objection.**

03/00627/F Brock House, Earls Lane, Deddington. Removal of existing garage and erection of a detached double garage. **No Objection.**

03/00531/F 4 Mill Close, Deddington. Construction of conservatory to rear. (Councillor Todd declared an interest) **No Objection**

03/00558/F Swiss Re Life and Health Ltd. Home Farm, Clifton. Erection of detached stone house and construction of new vehicular access to highway. **Objection, access to the highway does not appear to have taken into consideration the proposed new footpath to be constructed by OCC Highways and therefore site lines will be important.**

388/02 **Environment and Recreation Working Group**

Councillor Spencer reported as follows:

- a. **Grass Cutting.** It was reported that the new grass cutting contractors appeared to be doing a good job. However, a few places had been missed and these are being rectified.
- b. **“Bull Ring” Sign.** It was suggested that this replacement sign, when delivered, should be placed on the wall of Wychway House, near it's old location rather than on the original posts. **The Clerk was asked contact CDC to see if this would be possible.**
- c. **Market Place Signs.** It was recommended that consideration be given to producing a sign that would be placed near the traffic lights directing people to the shops/pubs and services that are available within the vicinity of the Market place. **It was unanimously agreed that the Working Group should liaise with the Holly Tree Club to decide the location of the sign and to recommend a suitable design.**
- d. **Best Kept Village.** It was noted that a litter blitz had been organised for Saturday 10th May. **The Clerk was asked to organise rubbish bags and gloves from CDC and to contact the Guides, Scouts, Boys/Girls Brigade and Deddington Colts to seek their help.** Councillor Ellis offered the use of his yard for the temporary storage of the rubbish and the proprietor of the Unicorn has kindly agreed to provide refreshments.
- e. **Parking at Windmill Centre.** It was alleged that charges for parking at the Windmill Centre had been made at a recent league football final. This matter was being looked into by the Windmill Centre Management Committee.

389/02 **Finance and General Purposes Working Group**

Councillor Todd reported as follows:

- a. **Venue for Parish Council Meetings.** On behalf of the working group Councillor Alton summarised the results of the questionnaire that had previously been circulated. Whilst other venues were considered to have better facilities it was the majority view that the Town Hall should be used for meetings.
It was therefore recommended that Council meetings should continue to be held in the Town Hall, subject to it being possible to improve the accommodation so that it meets the needs of current legislation. **The Clerk was asked to draw up and cost the schedule of work both to meet imminent legal requirements and the expectations mentioned within the survey. He was also asked to explore the possibility of grants for upgrading the building wherever possible.**

- b. Deddington Parish Council – Annual Accounts 2001/02.** It was recommended that the accounts, previously circulated should be approved subject to audit. This was unanimously agreed. Councillor Todd also expressed appreciation and thanks to Councillor Wood for the preparation of these accounts. It was further noted that an alternative auditor was being sought and that a recommendation would shortly be made to the Council.
- c. Notice Boards.** It was reported that erection of the new village notice boards would start before the Best Kept Village inspection.
- d. OALC.** It was recommended that the Council renew it's subscription to the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils. The fee is £309.65.

390/02 **Invoices for payment.** Invoices totalling £2829.57, in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment.

391/02 **Investment of Councils Funds.**

At the close of business on 16th April 2003 the balances were as follows:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
60858471	4694.71	1%	14 Days
60708569	11465.67	.3%	Overnight
70012564	NIL		Overnight
70708526	1501.44	.1%	Imprest
70708542	500.00	.1%	Current
TOTAL	18161.82		
Bradford & Bingley	1000.00	3.4%	120 Days
W. Bromwich Building Soc.	506203.68	3.75%	Overnight
TOTAL	<u>525365.50</u>		

The Clerk explained that the bank had been instructed to close some of the accounts, as previously agreed, but that this had not yet been actioned by them.

392/02 **Correspondence.** A list of correspondence received during the period from the last meeting was circulated at the meeting.

393/02 **Any Other Business.**

- a. Conflict of Interest.** The Chairman reminded those present of the need for Councillors to declare any interests they might have in parish business. He proposed that future agendas should have this item included and this was agreed.
- b. Freedom of Information Act.** The Clerk, through the minutes of the meeting, wished to reminded people that the public had the right to access information as described within the Parish Council Model Scheme.
- c. Any Questions.** In a letter to the Parish Council, Mr F Steiner had suggested that Deddington should invite the BBC to host it's Any Questions programme in the village at some future date. **The Clerk was asked to follow this up with the BBC.**

- d. **Dr. O'Donnell.** The Chairman advised councillors that Dr O'Donnell was retiring after over thirty years and it was agreed that a letter of appreciation and thanks should be sent to him from the PC for all that he has done.

393/02 **Annual Parish Meeting** Will be held at 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre on 7th May

393/02 **Date of Next Meeting.** Wednesday 21st May at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm.