

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall, Deddington on
Wednesday 19 April 2006 commencing at 7.45pm

Present: Cllrs Flux (Chair), Todd, Mrs Swash, Alton, Mrs Cox, Mrs Spencer, Collins, Haslam, Squires, Rollason, Lorraine Watling (Clerk), Sue Gibbs (Minute Secretary).

50/06.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Cllrs Wood, Putland, Watts, Westley, Co Cllr Jelf</p>
51/06	<p><u>Minutes of last meeting.</u></p> <p>34/06: Declarations of interest. It was agreed that these should be changed to read:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">40/06(b) Cllr Swash declared an interest 39/06 (a) Cllr Todd declared an interest 41/06 Cllr Todd declared an interest</p> <p>36/06 (c) District O’Sullivan should be changed to District Cllr O’Sullivan</p> <p>38/06 (h) Lines on Hempton Road. This should include a sign as well. The numbering within paragraph 38/06 needed to be corrected.</p> <p>Deddington Town Hall. Cllr Collins stated that he recalled a query regarding the Parish Council’s financial liability for the Town Hall following expiry of the lease, which had not been included in the Minutes. The Chairman clarified the position as follows: The original 20 year lease had expired, but had been extended for 3 months. This was to give time for negotiations to be completed on what the Parish Council was and was not liable for. The Trustees had sent the Parish Council a letter outlining a number of items which the Parish Council should pay for. He and Cllr Wood (as delegated by the Parish Council to negotiate on its behalf) had been through the list with a surveyor (who had donated his services free of charge) and responded as they felt appropriate. The Trustees had passed the Parish Council’s response to their lawyers, from whom a response was now awaited. However, to enable to the Parish Council to continue to use the Town Hall in the meantime, a 3 month extension to the lease had been negotiated. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had two consecutive leases, each of 20 years. Although no legal advice had been taken, the PC had received professional advice on the matter. It was hoped that negotiations would be concluded in time for a recommendation to be put to the next council meeting.</p> <p>Subject to these changes, the Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 March were approved as a correct record. There were no other matters arising.</p>

52/06	<p><u>Declaration of Interests</u></p> <p>54/06 (a). Cllr Spencer declared an interest 58/06 (e). Cllr Haslam declared an interest</p>
53/06	<p><u>10 Minute Open Forum.</u></p> <p>Nicky Kirk, Youth Leader at Deddington Youth Club spoke regarding the Club's application to the Parish Council for a grant.</p>
54/06	<p><u>Environment and Recreation Group</u></p> <p>Cllr Squires reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Village Clean up. It was proposed that the village clean up would take place on 10 June, and that the parish should be divided into sections, with each councillor being responsible for one area. The usual voluntary organizations should be contacted and asked for assistance. The event would be sponsored by R Spencers who would provide free food at CastleDene from 12pm, plus use of swimming pool. This was agreed. It was noted that the Parish Council could take no legal or insurance responsibility for people using the swimming pool. Cllr Collins said that the residents of Clifton were intending to have a clean up on the Clifton Road on bank holiday Sunday (28 May 2006) and it was agreed that the equipment supplied by CDC (gloves, pickers and bags) should be made available then. It was also agreed that the Clerk should contact CDC to obtain high visibility vests. (b) BT Payphone. BT had confirmed that because the PC had objected, the payphone could not be removed. (c) Charter Housing. It was noted that District Cllr O'Sullivan had previously confirmed that the grants had been ring fenced. However, there had been a change in personnel and payments of grants had been delayed. It was agreed that the Clerk should write again, once it was known who to contact. (d) Oxfordshire Mental Health Cuts. Following a circular received from the Princess Royal Trust, it was agreed that a letter should be sent opposing the cutbacks. (e) Mobile Library. It was noted that the timings of visits by the Mobile Library had changed and the Deddington News was asked to publicise this. (f) Grass Cutting. Responding to a query from Cllr Spencer, the Chairman confirmed that the area around the castle mound which English Heritage paid for had been cut 3 times last year. It was noted that the Clerk was trying to get a timetable from the contractor as to when he was planning to come. He had confirmed that the grass needed cutting fortnightly at this time of year, but less often later when growth slowed down. It was however a false economy to cut less often at this time of year as each cut then became a much bigger job and therefore more expensive. It had previously been agreed that

	<p>a different area at Castle Ground would be cut each year and there was concern that if this was not done it would become much more difficult to cut a different area in the future. It was agreed that the Clerk should clarify with the Contractor what he was doing this year and that the Environment Group should then review the matter.</p> <p>(g) Application from Youth Club It was noted that the Working Group had included a sum for the Youth Club in its budget. It was agreed that this should now be further considered by the F&GP.</p>
55/06	<p><u>Parish Plan</u></p> <p>Cllr Squires reported that the responses had now been collated and Cllr Alton would now be able do an analysis and report. The grant of £1590 had been received. Any part of this not spent would have to be returned.</p>
56/06	<p><u>Finance and General Purposes Group</u></p> <p>The Group had not met this month. A cashflow and notes from Cllr Wood were tabled. There were no unexpected figures and the forecast for next year remained unchanged. <i>[For discussion on the Town Hall, see under Minutes of last meeting]</i></p>
57/06	<p><u>Highways Working Group</u></p> <p>Cllr Haslam reported that the working group had not met this month but there had been good progress in all areas. The footpath in Clifton had been well received and the traffic lights had been commissioned that afternoon.</p> <p>(a) Hempton Road. It was noted that where a complaint had arisen regarding street lighting on the Hempton Road there were now 5 road lamps within 50 metres, including two which had been placed on the other side because of the crossing, so this area was now well lit. It was also noted that the area where the contractors had stored all their equipment had been completely cleared up and re-seeded.</p> <p>(b) Earls Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk should again chase up OCC regarding the kerb in Earls Lane.</p> <p>(c). Parking Task Force Meeting. Cllr Haslam reported that a meeting had been held with local businesses but unfortunately there had been a very low turnout. Whilst those present agreed that the parking trial last year had been a great success, none was prepared to support the rental of alternative spaces at Orchard House (or similar) at a cost of £150 per annum. There was also a difficulty because while some businesses had only 2 employees, others had up to 40. It was agreed that the Task Force should continue to try and speak to local businesses, asking their support for not having long term parkers in a designated area of the market square. Cllr Haslam also stated that he was happy to continue on the task force if the new Council wished and try and see these issues through.</p> <p>It was noted that parking was also an issue on Market day, with incidents of</p>

	<p>parking rage occurring. It was agreed that the new policeman should be informed. Cllr Todd confirmed that the Market Committee had previously asked the police to come on market day and tickets had been issued.</p> <p>It was noted that when CDC had been approached for help, the response had been they no longer funded parking in the villages. It was suggested that CDC should be asked to devolve control for this to the village and agreed that this suggestion should be explored.</p> <p>(d). Signposts. Highways had asked for information on the signposts to be upgraded and it was agreed that the list should be forwarded.</p>
58/06	<p><u>Report from Planning Working Group</u></p> <p>Cllr Swash reported as follows:</p> <p>(a). 06/00273/F St Annes Residential Home, Clifton. Amended plan. Objected as before. Already dealt with as the closing date was 3 April 2006. It was noted that there had been a number of objections sent from nearby residents.</p> <p>(b). 06/00446/F The Nook, Chapel St, Deddington. Conservatory to rear. No objection; only comments are for the window for Centre Point to be kept clear because of the shape of the roof.</p> <p>(c). 06/00415/F 06/00416LB Cromwell House, Deddington. Conversion of existing small single storey barn in garden to form annex with conservatory to rear and raised roof. There was concern that comparing this application with that of Bowindows 06/00493/F – 06/00494/LB (see below), the boundary is not consistent. There was a potential problem with property being overlooked, and concern that if the barn were converted it should be solely for use and occupation for Cromwell House and not as an independent residence. It was also noted that the owner of Bowindows said there was a legal clause in her deeds written for a previous owner, stating that the barn should not be converted. Objection.</p> <p>(d). 06/00493/F 06/00494/LB Bowindow, Market Place, Deddington. Single storey rear extension. No objection.</p> <p>(e). 05/00535/F Ivings House, Deddington. Two storey rear extension. No objection.</p> <p>(f) 06/00410/F Saxton House, The Lane Hempton. Garden store and oil tank area. No objection.</p> <p>(g) 06/00462/F Land adjacent and south east of Orchard End, St Thomas St, Deddington. Construction of 2 no dwellings, alterations to front boundary wall and existing access. No objection; it was also agreed that a request should be made to extend the footpath from Orchard Cottage in front of the two new dwellings to meet the existing footpath.</p> <p>(h) 06/00624/F 63 Mill Close Deddington. Two storey front/side extension. No objection, as long as there are none from neighbours.</p> <p>(i) 06/00614.F Tithe End, Tithe Lane, Clifton. Convert existing garage to playroom with first floor extension over. New detached garage. No objection, as long as there are none from neighbours.</p> <p>(j) 06/00560/F 43 St Johns Way, Hempton. No objection, providing none from neighbours.</p>

	<p>(k). A list of approvals since the last meeting was read out. It was noted that approval had also been given for the radio mast, despite a number of objections.</p>												
59/06	<p><u>Invoices</u></p> <p>A schedule of invoices totalling £3,787.80 was tabled, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, and was approved for payment. It was noted that the payment to T Fox included a credit held over from last year.</p>												
60/06	<p><u>Investment of Councils Funds</u></p> <p>At the close of business on 19 April 2006 the balances were as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">ACCOUNT</th> <th style="text-align: right;">BALANCE (£'s)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Imprest</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,265.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current</td> <td style="text-align: right;">17,035.94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W. Bromwich Building Soc.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">285,221.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alliance & Leicester</td> <td style="text-align: right;">253,917.87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">557,440.70</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It was noted that the interest rate on the Alliance & Leicester Account was now only 2.6%. On investigation the clerk was told that there is another account which would pay better interest rates and that they would forward her details of this account.</p>	ACCOUNT	BALANCE (£'s)	Imprest	1,265.50	Current	17,035.94	W. Bromwich Building Soc.	285,221.39	Alliance & Leicester	253,917.87	TOTAL	557,440.70
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61/06	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>A list of correspondence since the last meeting was circulated.</p>												
62/06	<p><u>Parish Council Elections</u></p> <p>The Chairman reported that Parish Council elections were due on 4th May. As only eight valid nominations had been received, those individuals were elected unopposed. They were Cllrs Collins, Flux, Rollason, Spencer, Squires, Todd, Watts and Wood. The procedure for the remaining six places was complicated as it was different from when individuals stood down mid-term. As there was a quorum of the total Parish Council (more than one third), it was up to the eight councillors to co-opt the remaining members of the Parish Council. Should they fail to do this within 35 days, Cherwell would call an election for a new parish council.</p> <p>It was noted there had been some confusion in the Parish over the deadline for submitting nominations and that there had been some recent negative publicity suggesting that the Parish Council was unelected. It was noted however, that a similar situation had occurred in 37 out of the 40 parishes in</p>												

	<p>the County. It was agreed that it was important to try and counter any negative feelings and that, via Deddington News, as many people as possible interested in standing should be encouraged to come forward and to contact the Clerk before 12 May 2006. In order to generate wider publicity it was agreed that a press release should be sent to the Banbury Guardian, Radio Oxford and other appropriate media outlets.</p>
63/06	<p><u>Annual Parish Meeting</u></p> <p>The Chair confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Wednesday 26th April. It had not yet been confirmed who would be attending but the Clerk was following this up.</p>
64/06	<p><u>Minute Secretary</u></p> <p>The Chairman reported that due to other work commitments, Sue Gibbs, the Minute Secretary was no longer able to continue working for the Parish Council, although she was happy to stay on until a replacement could be found. Sue was thanked for her work over the last four years.</p>
65/06	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 17 May at 7.45pm at the Town Hall, Deddington.</p>