

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at The Town Hall on Wednesday, 13th December 2000 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Bell, Clarke, Clinch, Cosgrove, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Davies, Hart, Miss Hill, Newey, Mrs. Swash, Todd and Mrs. Walker.
Mr. D. Blakey (Clerk) and Mrs. J. Smith (Minute Secretary)

93/00 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr. Matthews.

94/00 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 15th November 2000 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

95/00 **Matters Arising**

- a) Further to minute 77/00(a), the Chairman reported that the matter has been brought to the attention of the school governors. The School is still negotiating regarding the proposed classroom and parking arrangements. However, it is understood that all work will be carried out at the same time when the plans go ahead. The Chairman will report further on this matter when progress has been made.
- b) The Clerk reported that the cost of siting of the Clifton millennium map, referred to in minute 77/00(b), will be met by the Clifton Residents Association subject to no residents objections being received following the publication of this point in the December issue of the Deddington News. The Parish Council has paid Mr. Robinson the agreed sum of £50 for his work.
- c) Further to minute 78/00, it was understood that the noise nuisance has ceased following the Parish Council reporting the matter to the District Council Housing Department.

96/00 **Open Forum**

Mr. R. Nash of 13 The Paddocks, Deddington addressed the Council regarding the accidental use of his reserved burial plot. He expressed his concern over the way this matter has been dealt with; he felt that the Clerk had kept him informed as much as possible but little official communication had been received. He stated that 5 months has passed and still no settlement has been reached. He queried the fact that no meeting has been held between all parties concerned. He also felt that it was unacceptable to wait 2 weeks after the burial to tell the Coleman family that a mistake had occurred. He stated that he understood that he is unlikely to get his reserved plot back and asked that the Council offer him a satisfactory settlement in the near future.

The Chairman responded on behalf of the Council stating that the Councils Solicitors have dealt with the matter. He has apologised publicly and privately regarding this matter and apologised again for the fact that the matter was taking so long to resolve. The Clerk would follow this matter up and let Mr. Nash know the current position.

97/00

Resignation

- a) Cllr. Mrs. Harper has resigned from the Parish Council for personal reasons. The Clerk confirmed that a Notice of Vacancy would be posted in the Parish on 14th December 2000. If ten electors of the parish request the Returning Officer for an election, an election will be held within 60 working days of the date of the Notice. If no such request is received the remaining parish councillors may co-opt a new member.
- b) The Clerk read out a letter from Mr. Ellis of the Red Lion, Market Place, Deddington stating that he would like to be considered as a parish councillor. He pointed out in his letter that he came second in the recent by election held in the parish. This letter was noted and the Clerk will write to Mr Ellis explaining the nomination procedure.
- c) A number of councillors stated that they were anxious to ensure any election is well promoted. If possible the details of how to stand for nomination and the election timetable should be published in the Deddington News. The Clerk confirmed he would talk to the Deddington News Editor regarding publicity and also that a sign on the village green, announcing the election, would be erected in plenty of time.
- d) The Chairman confirmed that in accordance with minute 59/00(d) poll cards will be requested if a poll is held.

98/00

Low Cost (Affordable) Housing

- a) A list of Housing Association tenants was circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.
- b) The Clerk has written to Cherwell DC withdrawing the Parish Council's acceptance of the commuted sum for landscaping due to discrepancies as reported under minute 79/00(d). It has been confirmed that there is far more grass in reality than shown on the submitted plans and, therefore, the maintenance cost will be higher. The District Council will undertake an inspection of the site and the commuted sum of £26,834 will be reviewed. The Clerk will report further on this matter upon receipt of a response from the District Council.
- c) Following a question from Cllr. Bell, the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council have never agreed or discussed any relaxation of the condition stating that shared ownership properties should only be available to first time buyers.

99/00

Clifton to Deddington Footpath

Cllr. Mrs. Davies reported that a reply has been received from Oxfordshire County Council Highways regarding the provision of a new footpath between Clifton and Deddington. A copy of the letter had been circulated to all councillors. OCC have stated that unless the parish council is able to assist in the funding of the footpath it is unlikely that the project will be completed for some considerable time. The county council has confirmed that the scheme will remain on the request list but no indication as to when or whether it will become a successful project can be given. However, it was agreed that the main priority should be a pavement through the village of Clifton and, therefore, the Working Group will meet to draw up a case, based on safety grounds, for the provision of such pavement. Cllr. Mrs. Davies will report back to the Parish Council following the Working Group meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council paid the full cost of providing the Hempton to Deddington footpath.

100/00

Precept 2001/2002

The Clerk reported that the District Council would be setting the tax base for the above year at a meeting on 18th December 2000. Budget papers circulated with the agenda were noted. It was agreed that the Finance and General Purposes Working Group would discuss the budget papers and report back to the next meeting, when the precept has to be set.

Cllr. Todd reported that the Finance and General Purposes Working Group have already discussed the rent charged for use of the Town Hall. The Group will investigate the costs of hire of other village premises and report back to the next meeting.

101/00

Finance and General Purposes Working Group

Cllr. Todd reported as follows:

Deddington Library

- a) The Book Sale on 3rd December 2000 raised £1,000 towards the contribution pledged by Friends of Deddington Library towards the renovations. Their funds now stand at £1,200 and with contributions received or promised by North Aston, Steeple Aston, Steeple Barton and Somerton Parish Councils it looks likely they will hit their target during the summer. The Library Christmas Quiz (Chiltern Railways tickets prize), May Time Concert and other events are on going or planned.
- b) OCC Library Sub Committee meets next week (18th December 2000) and if approval is given for the work then it will go for final approval by OCC Strategy and Resources on 23rd January 2001.
- c) The application for grant form from Cherwell DC should be received shortly and arrangements are in hand for its submission by the due date. CDC will announce any award in March 2001.

The Council noted the report and agreed that all persons who helped raise £1,000 at the Book Stall should be thanked for their efforts.

102/00

Planning and Property Working Group

Cllr Miss Hill reported the recommendations of her Group as follows:

Applications

00/02112/F – 1 The Daedings – Revised plans for two storey front extension – no objections

00/02402/F – 7 The Daedings – Two storey extension and conservatory extension at rear and single storey porch extension at front of existing house – no objections

00/2158/F – 2 Philcote Street – Revised plans for brick and stone conservatory – no objections

00/02088/F – Sunnyside, Hopcraft Lane – Enlarge existing garage and form pitched roof over. Remove flat roof to utility and form pitched roof. Remove tiles to front gable and render to match existing render at rear of dwelling – no objections

00/02097/TCA - 1 Manor Farm Barns, Hempton Road – cut down sycamore tree – no objections

00/02182/F – The Willows, Chapel Close, Clifton – Erection of single storey conservatory, front porch and rear porch extensions, replacement of existing roof light with new dormer window to rear and new windows.

The above recommendations of the Group were agreed.

Approvals

98/00598/F – 1 –4 Bachelors Row, Hempton (approved with revised legal agreement re parking spaces which would be passed to owners in Bachelors Row free of charge).

Deddington Salerooms

- a) A meeting with the Architect took place on 29th November 2000 at which he agreed that the detailing on the front of the building is poor. A letter has subsequently been sent to Cherwell DC Planning Department. A copy of this letter was circulated with the agenda. No response has yet been received. It was agreed that D. Cllr. O'Sullivan will be asked to investigate this matter and also that a meeting should be arranged to meet the Cherwell Planners on site.
- b) The hoarding is still in place around the works. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Knowles the Builders stating that the hoarding must be removed before the Public Carol singing in the Market Place on Christmas eve. Copies of the letter will be sent to Allens Updates, Colin Carritt OCC and the Architect.
- c) A copy of a letter sent to a parishioner by Tony Baldry MP confirms that the existing base hospital will be demolished. The MP agrees that this appears to be a crazy situation. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the Chairman of the Primary Care Group.

New Development – Upper Heyford

The Group expressed concerns that, despite being advised to the contrary, there is a suggestion that the existing Health Centre and Fire Station in Deddington would be expected to support the new development. Clerk to query this.

Growth of Banbury and Bicester

The Clerk reported that Tony Baldry MP has sent a copy of a speech he made in the House of Commons regarding this matter. A copy of this is available from the Clerk.

103/00

Environmental and Highways Working Group

Cllr Mrs Cox reported as follows:

Environment

- a) Notification has been received from Leisure Services at Cherwell DC regarding a Countryside Forum to be held on Wednesday 24 January 2001 at Bodicote House. The topic is Profitable Farming: practical conservation.
- b) The Nature Conservation News states that progress surveys carried out in June revealed that not many parishes have been involved in the Hedgerow Survey & Parish Conservation. However, the work of the Deddington Parish Naturalists led by Mr. Meyher, the Parish-Pump, was recognised. The Council has given funding to this group in the past and the Group was glad that their enthusiasm has been recognised.
- c) A reminder was also published in the Nature Conservation News stating that funding is still available for pond restoration, amenity tree planting, willow pollarding, hedgerow work, tree surgery for important trees and restoration for historic features such as mile stones and kissing gates.
- d) Cllr Hill pointed out that the hedge at the Clifton Road/Earls Lane junction is overgrown and obstructing vision. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr. Nobbs, the owner, pointing this out.
- e) Cllr. Swash reported that the drains in the Market Place keep overflowing in heavy rainstorms.

Highways

- a) A request has been submitted to OCC for road edging white lines along the Hempton to Deddington Road. The Group feels that these lines are also needed along the Clifton to Deddington road. It was agreed that a further request be sent to OCC, stressing that during dark/twilight hours the visibility of the road edge along these routes is poor.
- b) The skid warning sign on the Hempton Road should be removed as Manor Farm no longer exists as a working farm and, therefore, there is no skid hazard. It was agreed that OCC highways should be asked to remove the sign.
- c) The Deddington Arms A board is still in situ. The Clerk to obtain update from OCC highways.

- d) It has been noted that posters and advertisements attached to the traffic lights remain in situ too long. It was agreed that the Clerk should remind the Village Steward to remove these signs immediately.
- e) It has been noted that two building skips opposite the Chinese restaurant on New Street have been full for some time but have not been removed. The Clerk reported that TVP should have copies of permissions granted for the siting of skips and that he would follow up this matter.
- f) The 'Keep clear' sign painted on the road at the junction of Earls Lane and Oxford Road needs re painting. Clerk to write to OCC highways to request this.

Parking Sub Group

Both task groups have been busy and productive. A parking audit is scheduled, dates to be confirmed following meeting on 20 December 2000. The Group requested help from all Councillors for this audit.

104/00 **Recreation and Grants Working Group**

- a) Deddington Beeches Bowls Club
Cllr Todd declared an interest. A letter has been received from the Club requesting a contribution from the Council towards to cost of the paint for the fencing. The maintenance contract states that the paint must be the same as the paint used on the Windmill building. However, this paint costs 50% more than standard Dulux paint. It was agreed that the club should obtain standard paint which matches the colour required as closely as possible.
- b) The letter also queried the rent and, therefore, a copy has been passed to the Windmill Management Committee.
- c) Deddington Youth Club. A business plan has now been submitted and this was noted and accepted.

105/00 **Windmill Management Committee**

Due to Cllr. Harper's resignation it was agreed that Cllr. Hart would become the Council's representative on the Committee.

The Chairman stated that steps were being taken to establish a new Trust Deed and that replacement Trustees were being sought.

106/00 **Governor – Deddington Primary School**

It was agreed that Cllr. Mrs. Davies be appointed to serve as the Councils Minor Authority Governor on the Board of the Deddington C of E School.

107/00 **Invoices for payment**

Invoices totalling £2,314.62 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment.

108/00 **Investment of the councils funds**

At close of business on 12th December, 2000 the balances were as follows:-

Account No	Balance	£	Rate of interest %	Notice
60858471		4,601.12	3.5	14 days
20708550		Nil		
60708569		7,183.04	2.3	Overnight
60830488		<u>737.49</u>	2.1	Overnight
		12,521.65		
Bradford & Bingley BS		500,000.00	6.25	120 days
Treasury Deposit		28,000.00	5.0975	Fixed to 18.12.00
Total		<u>540,251.65</u>		

Capital Investment

The Clerk is currently investigating possibilities for investing the capital sum currently held in the Bradford and Bingley Building Society. Details will be sent to all Councillors.

109/00

Correspondence

- a) A letter has been received from Deddington Colts FC seeking clarification of the status of the Windmill Centre playing field and this clubs use of it. It was agreed that the letter should be passed to Windmill Management Committee advising that a meeting should be arranged between all parties concerned in this matter.
- b) A copy of a letter from the Council's Solicitors regarding the burial plot was previously circulated to all councillors. The Clerk to advise the Solicitors that Mr. Nash came to the meeting and raised a number of queries. (Note:- subsequent to the meeting the solicitors have forwarded a letter to Mr Nash).
- c) The DETR have published the white paper entitled Our countryside: the Future. A copy is available for inspection in the Clerks office. It was noted that this paper has considerable impact on parish councils.
- d) Trading Standards issued a bulletin regarding BSE latest, specifically on the import and sale of over 30 month old beef from countries with known BSE histories. The leaflet is available from the Clerk.
- e) Letter received from Banbury Star Cyclists requesting display of posters.
- f) A report from the Deddington Map Group was circulated at the meeting. It was agreed that the current facsimile map should remain on display in the church. Cllrs. Flux and Newey will continue to work with the Group regarding the permanent siting of the map. It was agreed that Cllr. Clinch would join this group.

110/00

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 17th January 2001 at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

111/00

E mail

The Clerk advised that, due to a fault with the modem, the parish council e-mail is not currently functioning.

MATTERS OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE

112/00 **Low Cost Housing Scheme**

Further to minute 92/00, Cllrs. Bell and Newey met the Head of Housing at Cherwell DC. Cllr. Bell reported that all procedures regarding allocation of properties have been properly followed and that no further action should be taken on the allegations.

113/00 **National Salary Award for Parish Clerks**

The Clerk left the room during discussion of this item.

National negotiations have reached agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2000. The agreed increase was 3%. Mr. D. Blakey is paid 15.37ths of the national rate. He is also due an incremental increase to point 21 of Scale LC1, with effect from the same date. This point is the top of the salary scale.

It was agreed that a revised salary of £7,434.32 be paid to the Clerk with effect from 1 April 2000 and that the Clerk's letter of appointment be checked to ensure that it is up to date.