

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 17 December 2003
commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Squires, Mrs Swash, Todd, Harvey, Alton, Wood, Mrs Spencer, Rollason, Ellis, Westley, Graham Pitts (Clerk), Sue Gibbs (Minute Secretary).

101/03 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cox, Watts, Haslam, District Cllr O'Sullivan and County Cllr Jelf.

102/03 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

93/03 (7): Cllr Wood stated that the correct name of the Internal Auditor was Pamela Ward.

It was agreed that this should be changed. The Minutes were then approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

104/03 **Declaration of Interests**

Councillors declared an interest as follows:

- a. Cllr Harvey declared an interest in respect of paragraph 114/03.

105/03 **10 Minute Open Forum**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak

106/03 **Emergency Stopping Place for Travellers**

Cllr Wood reported that Co Cllr Jelf had attended the Environment Scrutiny Meeting which had gone smoothly and that he had attended the Meeting of the Executive Committee which had been chaired by Keith Mitchell and at which both Mr Parry and Mr Simm had been present. It was clear that this was now to be looked at on an overall, regional basis. The Parish Council had been complemented on the thoroughness and relevance of the points contained in its letter to the Council. The Chairman added that he had spoken to Co Cllr Jelf who had reported that this matter had now been referred to the Community Safety Committee of which he was a member and that he would keep the Parish Council informed of any developments. He thanked Co Cllr Jelf, Cllrs Squires and Wood and all those involved with the Working Group for all their work on this issue.

107/03 **Finance and General Purposes Working Group**

The notes of the last meeting were circulated. Cllr Wood highlighted the following:

1. **Accounts** for 2002-2003. These had now been accepted by the external auditor.

2. **Income and Expenditure.** A note of projected income and expenditure to the end of the year was circulated together with a paper on the precept and budgets. From these it appeared that it was likely that the deficit for the year would be in the region of £5000. It would be necessary to look at this and the budget as a whole before the next meeting because it would then be time to set the precept for the following year and inform CDC immediately. **He asked that all bids for funding be well documented. It was agreed that the Working Group should continue to look at this and come back with recommendations to the next meeting.** The Chairman thanked Cllr Wood and the Working Group for their work in this area.

108/03

Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Squires reported as follows:

- a. He had been elected chairman of the Working Group.
- b. **Grass Cutting.** Although it appears that it could be economical for the Parish Council to undertake this 'in house', the Working Group felt that much more information will be needed before a decision can be made, especially of the non financial considerations. **It was agreed that a much more detailed examination would be needed and the Clerk together with the F&GP and E&R Working Groups will look at this further.**
- c. **Budget.** This had been passed to the F&GP Working Group. The main item of expenditure was resurfacing the All Weather Court.
- d. **BMX Track.** It was hoped that more soil would be donated in April.
- e. **School.** Concern had been expressed about the Parish Council's representation on the School Governing Body, particularly following recent events. The Chairman reported that when it had been agreed that Linda Davies should continue to be the Parish Council Governor to the School it had also been agreed that she should continue to liaise with the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Linda regarding this and also clarify when her term of office expired.
- f. **Hanging Baskets.** Cllr Todd queried the costs for these referred to in the budget. **It was agreed that the correct figure should be obtained.**

109/03

Highways Working Group

A report of the last meeting had been circulated by Cllr Haslam. Cllr Woods reported as follows:

- a. **Parking.** The Parish Council would like to discourage parking on grass verges in the Parish.
- b. **Better Ways to School.** Cllr Westley reported that there was an opportunity for a representative from the Parish Council to become involved in the Working Group on this. **It was agreed that anyone willing to become involved would let the Clerk know.**
- c. **Scaffolding at Featherstone House.** The Clerk reported that OCC had confirmed that permission had been obtained for the erection at Featherstone House. **It was agreed that the Clerk should find out when the work was likely to be completed and ask them to ensure that the area was completely tidied up and the grass replenished.**
- d. **Babtie.** The Clerk had written to Babtie requesting that the sign be placed on the rendering above the brickwork. Babtie had also confirmed that there was no money for

benches. Some comments had been received on the new lighting, 3 of which had been complaints, 2 had been in favour of the improved lighting. As it was generally felt that the lighting was likely to deter vandalism, **it was agreed that it should be left as it was for a further 3 months and then reviewed. It was also agreed that the Clerk would check whether the lights were on a timer and if so for how long they were on.** There was also some concern as to whether the new bus service was being used and it was felt more publicity was needed. **It was agreed that the Clerk should write both to the commercial operators and OCC asking them to promote the service in the local villages and that Deddington News should be also asked to publicise the service.**

- e. **Clifton.** A drawing had been received from OCC, which put the crossing in a different place from that originally thought. **It was agreed that the villagers should be shown the two options and be asked to choose which they would prefer.**
- f. **Hempton.** Cllr Wood was going to chase this up.
- g. **Deddington.** A number of traffic calming issues were still outstanding. **It was agreed that the Clerk would follow these up with OCC.**

110/03 **Planning Working Group**

Cllr Harvey reported as follows:

- a. A list of approvals since the last meeting was circulated
- b. **03/02344/F The Flat, Pretoria House, Market Place Deddington.** Remove existing external spiral staircase and metal decking and replace with wooden decking and staircase. Installation of window to the rear. **No objection.**
- c. **03/02518/F 03/02519/LB Deddington Post Office, Market Place, Deddington** Installation of new front door and window and internal alterations. A letter had been received from Mr and Mrs Haller from the Antiques Centre, not objecting to the application itself, but expressing concern regarding a number of issues relating to building regulations, which they felt might affect their own property. Cllr Todd also expressed concern about the proposed large refrigeration room at the rear of the premises. As it was adjacent to a residential property he felt it could represent a nuisance to neighbours and asked if an environmental assessment could take place. **Subject to these concerns, there was no objection.**
- d. **03/02281/F 21 The Daedings, Deddington.** Two storey front extension (Amended plans). **No objection.**
- e. **Planning Seminar for Parish Council.** Cllr Cox was thanked for attending this meeting. A copy of the presentation slides and new guide for Parishes “Planning Applications and Parish Councils – A Practical Guide” was available in the office and the Clerk had ordered further copies.
- f. **Signage in Philcote St.** Cllr Westley reported that he had received a number of comments regarding the signage at the Business Centre and there was concern that these might increase. **It was agreed that the Clerk should follow this up with CDC.**
- g. **Centrepoint.** Cllr Swash also expressed concern that a house letting agency had been set up at Centrepoint and asked whether this was designated as offices or shops. **It was agreed that the Clerk should also follow this up with CDC.**

111/03 **Invoices for Payment**

Invoices totaling £2936.05 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of

which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment.

112/03 **Investment of Councils Funds**

At the close of business on 17 December 2003 the balances were as follows:

BANK BALANCES AS AT 17/12/03

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
70708526	606.68	.1%	Imprest
70708542	5596.61	.1%	Current
TOTAL	6203.29		
Bradford & Bingley	1000.00	3.4%	120 Days
W. Bromwich Building Soc.	520373.97	3.4%	Overnight
TOTAL	527577.26		

113/03 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence was circulated at the meeting.

114/03 **Royal British Legion**

The Clerk reported that as agreed at the previous meeting a letter had been sent to Aplins asking for sight of the lease. He had chased this up 3 times and had received no response. He had that day spoken to a Mr Yeaden who had explained that part of the delay had been as a result of continuing discussions with the Charity Commission. He had stated that there was no requirement for them to circulate copies of the lease. He had confirmed that the proposed lessee was Thames Valley Investments Ltd who would continue to run the premises as a social club and that it was not the intention of the Royal British Legion club to cease using this as a branch. It was not clear therefore why the original notice had been placed in the Banbury Guardian. **It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Mr Yeaden to confirm this conversation in writing and ask whether the Lease could be viewed in some other way. It was also agreed that the Chairman would attempt again to follow this up with the RBL in Deddington.**

115/03 **Oxford Association of Local Councils**

The Chairman reported that Co Cllr Jelf had invited him to put himself forward as a member of Oxford Association of Local Councils. **This was agreed.**

116/03 **Deddington Colts**

On behalf of Deddington Colts, Cllr Alton presented the Parish Council with a certificate thanking them for their assistance over the previous year.

Date of Next Meeting

117/03

Wednesday 21 January at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm.