

Minutes of the Meeting of Deddington Parish Council held on 22nd

March 1989

Present:

Cllrs. Cole (Chairman), Fenemore, Gibbs, (Mrs.) Kedge, Marmion, O'Neill, (Mrs.) Swash, Webber, (Mrs.) Stevens. Garvey

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Hayward and Stevens, Allen, Fuller

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

a) Ground Maintenance

The Chairman, in response to an observation by Cllr. Webber, intimated that whilst the arrangements for the Castle grounds would need to be continued, the maintenance of the (new) playing field would remain the Developer's responsibility until it was handed over to the Council. In the meantime he (Chairman) would endeavour to get Andrew Barnes - Consultant - to arrange for the groundsmen employed to maintain the new playing field to also attend to the existing playing field at the same time; it was accepted that the additional costs incurred (for existing playing field) would fall on the P.C.

b) Pedestrian Crossing at A423/Hempton Road Junction

Cllr. Webber reported that concern had been expressed at Deddington Primary School Governor's Meeting about the excavations on the pavement which put the school children at further risk when negotiating this particular junction. The Chairman, after first confirming that due notation had been taken of Cllr. Webber's report, re-affirmed the need for a properly controlled Pedestrian Crossing at this junction rather than elsewhere (along the A423), which, he was convinced, would be extremely dangerous.

4. Items of Correspondence

Prohibition of Heavy Commercial Vehicles

The Chairman reported that notice of Oxfordshire C.C.'s Prohibition of Heavy Commercial Vehicles from various roads within the Parish had been received. Cllr. Marmion then declared that his observations suggested that there were constant violations of the new restrictions, which prompted Cllr. Gibbs to mention that he had seen no evidence of these limitations. The Chairman replied that enforcement signs had been sited at Aynho and the Crossroad. The discussion was concluded by Cllr. Marmion who emphasised that most of the violations were to be found amongst the eastbound traffic and urged that the Police be encouraged to promote compliance with the new regulations by comprehensive traffic checks.

b) Revision of Site Plan for the Windmill Centre

The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from Johnson & Gaunt concerning an alleged discrepancy to the Site Plan for the Windmill Centre which needed to be appropriately revised. Consultations with Alan Gardner (former Parish Clerk) had revealed the issue to be no more than a minor technicality and no further action was required.



c) National/County Association of Local Councils - Renewal of Membership

It was agreed that membership of this Association should not be renewed.

d) Best Kept Village Competition

It was agreed that Deddington should be a participant in the Best Kept Village Competition.

e) Deddington Charity Estates - Annual Accounts

The Annual Accounts of Deddington Charity Estates for the F.Y. ended 31.12.88 were noted.

f) Alms Houses (Church Street) - Pavement in disrepair and Inconsiderate Parking

Notice had been received from Deddington Charity Estates of their action in advising the County Surveyor and Engineer of their concern about the disrepair of the pavement and inconsiderate car-parking, which presented additional hazards to the occupants of the Alms Houses and other pedestrians (particularly the elderly) requiring access to this area. Cllr. Marmion mentioned that he had previously been approached on these issues but objections to his pursuing them had arisen. Cllr. (Mrs.) Stevens also voiced her apprehensions, the 'meals on wheels' service she provided was made extremely difficult by the obstruction resulting from parked cars and the condition of the pavement. It was accordingly agreed to endorse the initiatives of Deddington Charity Estates and support their request for appropriate action by the Highway Authorities.

g) Pedestrian Hazards

A letter from Mr. John Scott listing various pedestrian hazards in the village was noted. Following some discussion of these and other dangers confronting pedestrians, Cllr. Marmion mentioned that walkers were at their most vulnerable from speeding traffic. It was agreed that an approach should be made to the Police Authorities with a view to establishing whether an occasional but nonetheless pronounced Police presence would encourage guilty drivers to proceed in a more responsible fashion.

h) Windmill Fund - Supplicants and Suggestions

A letter from Mr. W.F.M. Hunt with suggestions for the use of the Windmill Fund and one from Mrs. N. Harris (friend of Hempton Church) seeking financial support for improvements to Hempton Church were noted.

i) Proposed Alterations to Minerals Policies

Publication by Oxfordshire C.C. of "Proposed Alterations to Minerals Policies", which did not, however, affect Deddington, was noted.

j) Public Rights of Way and Updating Record of Landowners

The Chairman undertook to update the record of landowners within the Parish boundaries as required by Cherwell District Council.

k) Questionnaire on Bus Stops/Timetables

Although the provision of Bus Stops/Timetables in the area was considered adequate a suggestion by Cllr. Webber that the publication of a Timetable of alternative services now operating was noted for consideration.

l) Adoption of Deddington Lighting

An offer by Oxfordshire C.C. to adapt Deddington street lighting (including that proposed for the "Leyes" Development) was considered worthy of consideration. It was accordingly agreed that a meeting of the C.C.'s Engineers and the P.C. be convened on a mutually convenient date to further progress the matter.

m) Grapevine Newsletter - Winter 1988/9

It was agreed that additional copies be obtained in view of article about extension of V.A.T. to include Village Halls.

5. Report on Windmill Community Centre and Trust Fund

The Chairman reported that a draft letter to the Parishioners explaining the options available etc. for the management of the Windmill Fund had been prepared and circulated to Councillors for consideration.

The options were:-

- i) P.C. to retain full control of the funds
- ii) Establish Civil Trust Fund
- iii) Establish Charitable Trust Fund

Cllr. Fenemore held a preference for option (i) as control would be available to the new Council but Cllr. Marmion maintained that any such partiality, which could have unfortunate and unwelcome repercussions, would be unwise. This view was supported by the Chairman who declared that the choice would be decided within the neutrality of the Ballot Box. Cllr. Marmion then proposed that the letter be issued and arrangements for an open-meeting put in hand, he then voiced his doubts about the need to issue a personal letter to all parishioners as its reprinting in the Deddington News would, he averred, reach some 97% of the local population. Cllr. Webber then asserted that prior notice of any other options to be submitted for consideration at the open-meeting would be essential. It was agreed that this would be a wise precaution after some further general discussion of various issues, the Council agreed to the issue of the draft letter to all Parishioners, Local Clubs and Associations.

6.

Cllr. Webber's proposal that the Council's appreciation of the draft letter and their thanks to the Chairman and Cllr. Marmion for its preparation be formally recorded was unanimously endorsed.

7. Bus Tokens

The Chairman said that tentative arrangements had been made for the issue of Bus Tokens on Thursday 30th March, 1989 at the Town Hall.

8. Seat in Hempton Road

Cllr. Stevens proposed that a public seat (at a cost of £230.00 including £37.00 delivery charges) be erected at a convenient point on the Hempton Road approximately half way between its junction with the A423 and the cemetery

8. Seat in Hempton Road (continued)

for the convenience of particularly elderly, residents was approved.

9. Extension of Footpath from Windmill Centre to the Cemetery

In response to an enquiry from Cllr. Stevens as to whether the footpath from the Windmill Centre could be extended to the cemetery, the Chairman said that this matter had been previously investigated and the indications were that Oxford C.C. were unlikely to undertake the task. Further researches would be undertaken in the near future to determine whether the work could be funded from the Windmill Fund.

10. Planning Applications

a) No objections were raised to the following applications:-

- i) Extension to Victoria House, Horse Fair. Cllr. Gibbs declared an interest in this item.
- ii) New window in rear wall of dining-room of 12a High Street.

b) It was agreed that the proposed alternative access road for the Windmill Housing Development, which, as it entailed the destruction of existing facilities - tennis court(s), playgroup area (involving re-siting of playgroup building) and parking spaces - should be opposed.

c) Planning approval for the renovation at Garden Cottage, Featherton House was noted.

11. Castle Ground Gates

Following an observation by Cllr. Stevens to the effect that the new gates had been vandalised, the Chairman said the damage had been caused by children swinging on them. Arrangements would accordingly be made to get them repaired and have them locked in position which would obviate any recurrence of such damage in the future. The proposed action was accordingly endorsed.

12. Deddington Castle Signs

Cllr. Swash drew attention to the direction signs for "Deddington Castle" erected by English Heritage which were the cause of much unnecessary confusion. This could, she added, be rectified by the provision of substitute signs with the designation expanded to read "Deddington Castle Site". Cllr. Marmion undertook to seek out previous correspondence on the subject which was in his possession.

13. Accounts Passed for Payment

Southern Electricity - Consumption of energy	£ 268.90
Southern Electricity - Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 324.28
Southern Electricity - Town Hall	£ 7.67
Cherwell District Council - Bus Tokens	£2000.00
Oxford County Council - Ground Maintenance	£ 232.64
P.A. Franklin & Sons - Repairs Town Hall	£ 83.08
Kemble Press - Bus Token Application Forms	£ 20.24

14. April Meeting

To be held on Wednesday 26th April 1989

15.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John B. Col", written in black ink. The signature is slanted upwards to the right and has a long, sweeping underline.