

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Deddington Parish Council held on

24th May, 1989

Present:

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

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Allen, Fuller and O'Neill.

1. To elect a Chairman for the ensuing year

Cllr. Fenemore was nominated by Cllr. Hayward and seconded by Cllr. (Mrs.) Kedge for the Chairman's post. Cllr. Fenemore; however, voiced his reluctance to stand in view of the heavy commitments (parochial and other responsibilities) he had already shouldered for the forthcoming year. He thereupon nominated, (seconded by Cllr. Marmion) Cllr. Hayward for the post but Cllr. Hayward rejoined that his business commitments would preclude his undertaking such a responsibility for at least another year. Following some further discussion of the issue Cllr. Fenemore agreed to let his nomination stand and he was unanimously elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. To elect a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year

Cllr. (Mrs.) Stevens nominated (seconded by Cllr. (Mrs.) Swash) Cllr. Cole.

Cllr. Webber nominated (seconded by Cllr. Garvey) Cllr. Marmion.

Cllr. Fenemore nominated (seconded by Cllr. Stevens) Cllr. Hayward.

A ballot was accordingly held and resulted in Cllr. Hayward being elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

3. The minutes of the previous Meeting were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

a) Pedestrian Hazards (Speeding Vehicles)

Cllr. Webber instanced that the introduction of 5 metre (rumble) strip of stone setts would curb excessive speeding but Cllr. Gibbs considered such measures hazardous and held that chicanes were a safer deterrent.

b) Adoption of Deddington Lighting

Cllr. Cole enquired as to whether anything had been done about the insufficiency of the lighting in the cul-de-sac of the Rockwell Development. Cllr. Webber said the existing light, which was sited some distance down the cul-de-sac lacked the capacity to provide a satisfactory level of illumination; a brighter light at the end of the cul-de-sac was required to fulfil the need. It was agreed that the matter be broached with the Contractor when a suitable opportunity arose.

The Secretary then reported that, although a series of dates for the proposed meeting with the Lighting Engineers had been agreed, a further letter, which dissipated the need for such a meeting, had been subsequently received from the C.C. This letter extended an offer to adopt all Deddington footpath lighting (including that of the Leyes Development) subject to the P.C.'s

b) Adoption of Deddington Lighting (Continued)

agreeing to meet the costs (£240.00) of replacing the existing aluminium column at the Daedings footpath column 2A with a 5 metre steel column c/w 35w 50 x L lantern. Following the expression of certain reservations by Cllr. Webber about the costs involved, the acceptance of the C.C.'s offer was endorsed.

c) Seat in Hempton Road

Cllr. Stevens reported that the seat had been delivered and that permission for its erection had been sought from Oxfordshire C.C. (Mr. White, Speedwell House) some three weeks previously. The Secretary undertook to hasten the issue of the requisite authorisation with the gentleman concerned.

d) Santini Bros. Circus - Application for Facilities

Cllr. Webber expressed his concern about the outright rejection of this application at the previous Meeting from which he was absent. He maintained that the leaving of 3 x dustbins of rubbish on the last occasion - 4 years ago - was insufficient reason to bar future visits. Cllr. Hayward then intervened to remind the Council that there had also been a fire which had damaged public property. It was agreed that the matter be put aside sine die.

5. Dates and Times of Council Meetings

It was agreed that the dates and times of Meetings should continue as previously, namely the fourth Wednesday in each month at 7.15 p.m. with the exception of December on which a decision would be made at the November Meeting.

6. Appointment of Members to Planning Committee

It was agreed that this Committee would comprise the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllrs. Garvey, Gibbs, O'Neill, Stevens and (Mrs.) Swash.

7. Items of Correspondence

a) Weight Limited B4031 : Aynho - Deddington

A reply had been received from Oxfordshire C.C. welcoming the comments made about the observance of the new restrictions and intimating that an assessment of the need for additional signing for vehicles approaching from the Buckingham direction would be made. The abuses reported would be brought to the attention of the Police for appropriate action.

b) Access to and disrepair of footway outside Almshouses plus provision of Pedestrian Crossing on A423

A reply had been received from Oxfordshire C.C. stating that;

- i) Arrangements would be made for a road marking to be laid in front of the steps to the Almshouses to afford easier access. The condition of the footway would be the subject of separate correspondence.
- ii) A decision on the provision of a Pedestrian Crossing on the A423 would have to be delayed until the M40 had been opened and the resultant changed traffic flows assessed.

c) Castle Grounds

A letter had been received from Mr. Scott stating 3 x bags of litter had been recovered from the Castle grounds but that much more was hidden by the undergrowth and would remain so until the Autumn. He very much appreciated the cutting of the grass around the wooden benches and expressed the hope that funds could be provided to meet the cost of restoring the site of the old Rifle Range which had not been properly cleared when the Range was demolished some years previously.

d) Offer of Chain Link Fencing

A letter had been received from Rockwell Developments confirming that P.C. could, if they so desired, remove and retain the high chain link fencing fronting the old Sportsfield. The offer was made on the understanding that any damage to the ground or the boarded fencing was made good or re-instated. The letter also enquired as to whether the P.C. wished to purchase the cleft chestnut pale fencing from Messrs. Welbourn.

Following some discussion of the subject, during which Cllr. Cole emphasised that the Playgroup were mainly concerned, Cllr. Hayward suggested that the Football Club might be interested in acquiring the chain link fencing. The Secretary agreed to make appropriate enquiries.

e) New Sportsfield

A letter had been received from Rockwell Developments confirming that the new Sportsfield was officially accepted as being ready for play; that the defects liability period would expire on 15th May, 1990; that the Contractor's Solicitor had written to Cherwell D.C. to arrange release from the Section 52 agreement. The letter also confirmed that the additional land drainage required had been completed and directed that it was the P.C.'s responsibility to water and maintain the turf surfacing the drainage trenches.

The Chairman, in response to an enquiry about future maintenance, confirmed that Design-Gro had been commissioned to provide this service to ensure there was no breach which could invalidate existing guarantees. Maintenance, thereafter, would be a subject for subsequent decision.

f) Cherwell-in-Bloom Competition

It was agreed that Deddington should participate in the Cherwell-in-Bloom Competition. The Chairman passed the correspondence to Cllrs. (Mrs.) Kedge and (Mrs.) Swash for appropriate action.

g) Oxfordshire's Representative at International Girl Guides' Camp

A letter had been received from Mrs. Maureen Arnold, Asst. Divisional Commissioner of the Oxfordshire (Cherwell Division) Girl Guides inviting the P.C.'s attention to Allison Fenemore's accomplishment in being chosen to represent Oxfordshire at a Girl Guides' International Camp in Italy and canvassing financial assistance in defraying the costs of her participation in the event. At this juncture the Chairman, in view of his personal interest in the matter relinquished the Chair in favour of Cllr. Hayward.

The Council were most impressed by Allison's achievement and Cllr. Hayward's proposal that a congratulatory acknowledgement be sent was unanimously endorsed as was a subsequent proposal by Cllr. Cole, supported by Cllr. Marmion, that a taken contribution of £25.00 to the financial assistance being sought should also accompany the response.

Cllr. Fenemore here resumed the Chair.



h) Rural Areas Local Plan

A letter devailing additional proposed changes to the Rural Areas Local Plan (including provision of rural (low cost) housing) for consideration at local public inquiry was noted.

i) Review of subsidised Bus Services

A letter concerning the review of subsidised bus services being undertaken by Oxfordshire C.C. was passed to CLlr. (Mrs.) Swash (Transport Representative) for consideration.

j) Village Halls and Meeting Rooms

Cherwell D.C. were seeking to compile a ^{list of} Village Halls and Meeting Rooms. The Secretary undertook to supply the required information.

k) Concessionary Bus Fares Grant

The Secretary undertook to submit the claim to Cherwell D.C. when the final distribution of Bus Tokens had been completed.

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8. Report on Windmill Community Centre and Trust Fund

Cllr. Cole said he had prepared proposal for the ballot on the Windmill Fund but Cllr. Hayward held that the subject was far too complex for immediate consideration and should be dealt with as a unique item on another occasion. This view was supported by the Chairman who maintained that only an Ad-hoc Meeting could satisfactorily resolve all the many issues involved. There was a general consensus to this approach and the calling of such a Meeting was subsequently agreed.

The Chairman, in response to an enquiry from Cllr. Marmion, stated that the granting of permission for the building of the alternative access road would have no practical effect as the Action Group would have to first acquire the land before their proposals could be implemented. This view was endorsed by Cllr. Croft (Cherwell Planning Cmtee.) who confirmed that these ambitions could not be realised unless the present owners of the land (Oxfordshire C.C. and Deddington P.C.) were prepared to forego their respective interests and sell the land to a purchaser wishing to execute such an undertaking.

9. Sewage at Clifton

Cllr. Stevens said there was no mains sewage system at Clifton and recent developments in the area had over-stretched the capacity of the local cistern which had overflowed on occasions with raw sewage invading public spaces. Local residents were most concerned and he went on to enquire as to when the joint (D.C. and Thames Water) and major works services planned to rectify matter would be put in hand. Cllr Croft (D.C.) responded by confirming that although the D.C. had included the project in the 1989/90 Works Programme, there was some confusion about the realisation of the Water Board's contribution to the enterprise. Appropriate representations had been made to the Thames Water Board who were making urgent enquiries to establish the true position. In the meantime the D.C. would proceed with their plans and the P.C. would be kept abreast of developments.

10. Play Area Equipment Project

Cllr. Cole reported that comprehensive proposals (illustrated plans were on display), involving a capital expenditure of some £20,000, had been received. There were, however, favourable prospects of a grant-in-aid (of up to 50% of the costs) being made available from funds administered by the D.C. provided the application was submitted by the Playgroup. The Secretary accordingly undertook to return the requisite form and explain the situation to Mrs. Herring (Deddington Play Group).

11. Civil Defence Matters

Cllr. Marmion said he had attended a further lecture on the subject but no volunteers had as yet come forward to man the required Civil Defence Teams. He had, therefore, drawn up an appropriate Plan which he proposed, should be kept in the Town Hall for use in the event of a Civil Emergency. Arrangements had also been made, should the Town Hall become untenable during such an emergency, to transfer operations to the building housing Messrs. Allen (Publishers) which included a suitably secure basement. Cllr. Marmion concluded by suggesting that an Emergency Planning Committee be appointed with instructions to review the Emergency Plan annually.

11. Civil Defence Matters (Continued)

A vote of thanks to Cllr. Marmion for successfully completing his voluntary undertaking was unanimously endorsed and it was also agreed that the appointment of an Emergency Planning Committee and other implications arising from Cllr. Marmion's report should be considered at the next Meeting.

12. Bus Tokens

Cllr. Cole said 7 outstanding applications remained in his possession and that he hoped to secure the assistance of the Post Office to service them and thereby complete the issue.

13. Cemetery Matters

The Secretary reported that because the graves in the Cemetery were not strictly aligned there was an increasing risk of a serious muddle occurring with possible unfortunate consequences. He submitted that a dedicated grave digger would encourage a sense of commitment to this valued local facility with a beneficial effect on existing standards. With the Council's permission he, therefore, undertook to explore with local Funeral Directors how best this might be done. Authority was given for:

- i) The grave digger to be employed within a financial limit of approximately £20.00 - say 4 hours @ £5.00 per hour, to assist in properly marking out the respective rows of graves

and

- ii) The purchase of good quality markers within a financial limit of approximately £100.00.

In the longer term the Notice Board, which was sadly dilapidated, would need to be replaced and the gate required a coat or two of preservative stain to improve its appearance. Consideration should also be given to provision of more trees and additional seating at strategic locations for the convenience of those seeking solace there.

Permission had been sought for the affixing of a porcelain photograph of the deceased to the memorial proposed for erection on his grave. Although local enquiries had revealed that the practice was permitted in Banbury and Hook Norton, the Council were unwilling to make a decision and establish a precedent until they had been able to give sufficient consideration to the request. The issue would accordingly be reviewed at the next Meeting.

14. Planning Applications

- a) i) Hartwell Cottage Clifton - Construction of porch and extension.
- ii) The Old House, Philcote Street - Erection of Victorian Conservatory

No objections were raised to these two applications.

- iii) Victoria House, Horsefair - Extensions amended Plan.

Cllr. Gibbs declared his interest in this item. Approval had previously been given as the item was due for consideration by the Cherwell D.C. Planning Committee on 18.5.89 and the amendment was only a formality involving partial demolition and full restoration of existing wall.

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14. Planning Applications (Continued)

- iv) Walnut Tree Workshops/Blocks - Change of use to Class B1 (Electronics Workshop) and improvements.

No objections were raised to this application.

- v) St. Anne's Cottage, Clifton - Additional Wing with 12 x Single Rooms

The Council were very much opposed to any further consideration being given to this application until the difficulties currently being experienced over the disposal of sewage in this area had been satisfactorily resolved. Any additional development such as this could only aggravate a situation which was already assuming intolerable proportions with raw sewage invading public spaces.

- vi) Rear of Post Office, 7 Market Place - Internal alterations to Post Office and extension. Construction of 2 x first floor flats and ground floor garages etc.

The council were very much opposed to this over intensive development which could only degrade the present pleasing visual aspect of the area and further aggravate the local parking difficulties which were already a matter of considerable public concern.

b) The following approvals of Planning Applications were noted:

- i) Change of use from garage to Chartered Surveyor's Office of rear of garage, High Street.
- ii) Change of use to Office of The Cottage Loaf, Market Place
- iii) New window in dining room of 12a High Street.

c) The rejection of the following Planning Application was noted:

- i) Relocation of Portable Building at the Health Centre.

Cllr. Hayward welcomed the inclusion of the outcome of Planning Applications in the Agenda and expressed his appreciation of the new practice.

15. The following accounts were passed for payment:

Southern Electricity - Repairs to Lighting Equipment	-	£ 40.94
Cllr. J.C. Marmion - Communication Link Extension		
Photocopying and Stationery	-	£ 33.13
John Boss - Maintenance of Cemetery and Castle Grounds	-	£ 75.00
A.R.B. Audio and Visual Hire Ltd. - Hire of P.A. System	-	£126.50
Marshalls Mono Ltd. - Public Wooden Seat	-	£256.25
Miss Allison Fenemore - Contribution to costs of attending		
Girl Guides Camp in Italy	-	£ 25.00

16. Acknowledgement

Cllr. Hayward's proposal that a vote of thanks be recorded for the retiring Chairman's (Cllr. Cole) sterling work during what had been a very difficult year was unanimously endorsed.



17. June Meeting

To be held on Wednesday 28th June 1989.

18. The Meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. J. Lawrence", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.