

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 27TH MAY 1987

Present: Councillor Hayward (Chairman), Councillors Allen, Cole, Fenemore, Fuller, Garrett, Garvey, Mrs. Kedge, Marmion, O'Neill, Stevens and Webber.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. Swash.

1. To elect a Chairman for the ensuing year It was moved by Councillor Garrett, seconded by Councillor Cole and unanimously RESOLVED that Councillor Fenemore be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Fenemore then signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

RESOLVED that a vote of thanks be recorded to Councillor Hayward, the outgoing Chairman for the way in which he had conducted proceedings during the past year.

To elect a Vice-chairman for the ensuing year It was moved by Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Garrett and unanimously RESOLVED that Councillor Cole be elected Vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 22nd April 1987, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes

B4031 Weight Restriction A letter from the County Council was reported.  
Castle Street Footway A letter from the Area Engineer offering two dates was reported and RESOLVED that the Chairman, Vice-chairman and Councillors Garrett and Marmion meet him at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, 17th June 1987.

Community Volunteer Scheme Councillor Marmion reported that it was now hoped to commence training in August.

Lorry parking It was noted that this lorry had now been moved.

The Grove footway lighting A letter from the builder stating that he was prepared to erect additional lighting was reported and RESOLVED that the County Council be asked to advise on the status of The Grove.

Village Theatre Workshops The Clerk stated that he had not heard from Parent-Teacher Association.

Deddington Playgroup Two letters from Playgroup were read and RESOLVED that further developments be awaited.

5. Dates and times of Meetings RESOLVED that Meetings be held on the fourth Wednesday in each month at 7.15 p.m., with the exception of December on which a decision would be made in November.
6. Membership of Planning Committee RESOLVED that the members of the Planning Committee be the Chairman, Vice-chairman and Councillors Garrett, Garvey, O'Neill and Stevens.
7. Items of correspondence

Deddington Charity Estates accounts Receipt was reported.

Holly Tree Club RESOLVED that the application for an allocation from Cherwell Lottery be supported.

Planning decisions at variance It was reported that the application for four dwellings at the rear of Manor Farmhouse, Clifton, which this Council had supported, had been refused, and that the application to change the use of The Old Fire Station to offices, which this Council had objected to had been approved.

Planning appeal It was reported that an appeal had been made against the refusal to erect a small dwelling at The Old Stores, Clifton.

District Council Accounts An abstract for 1985/86 was available.

Grapevine Receipt of the Spring issue was reported;

SEK

8. Notice of Audit Audit of 1986/87 Accounts was reported.

9. Castle Grounds

Visual amenities A report prepared by the Forestry Adviser was considered, but was deferred until the financial details were available: Mr. Scott was thanked for the report and RESOLVED that he be given £50 towards his expenses.

Playground equipment RESOLVED that an application be made to the District Council for a grant on the basis of expenditure of £3000.

Grass cutting Notification of an increase in the charge to be made by the County Council was accepted. It was noted that the grass around the playground area had not been cut and RESOLVED that the contract be cancelled, and that the matter be considered further at the next Meeting. Councillor Allen stated that he would cut the grass meantime.

Metal detecting RESOLVED that permission be not given for this work.

### Cemetery

Grass cutting The contractor had not cut this grass and RESOLVED that the contract be cancelled, the matter be considered further at the next Meeting, and that meantime Councillor O'Neill make one cut with the contract price being given to a local charity.

Soil clearance The Clerk reported that this had not been satisfactorily done recently and RESOLVED that the undertakers be advised that they must pay the gravedigger for this to be removed to an agreed place.

11. Post Office footway Councillor Fuller referred to the unsatisfactory state of this footway and RESOLVED that this be pointed out to the Area Engineer when he was met.

12. A423 south of Deddington Councillor Hayward referred to a complaint he had had from the police about the lack of a warning sign at Brickyards Hill where traffic often built up to at busy times. RESOLVED that the County Council be asked to consider.

13. Town Hall canopy RESOLVED that Mrs. Ward be given permission to display a quilt on 5th June and the Women's Institute be given permission to hold their market stalls on 19th September, subject to no liability falling on the Council thereby.

14. Windmill Centre

Lease The Clerk reported that the draft was with the Charity Commissioners.

Cricket Club fence It was reported that the builder was only prepared to erect a ten-foot fence which he was now doing: the Club had accepted the position reluctantly.

Phase II The Clerk reported that the appeal decision was still awaited.

Mr. Bishop The Clerk reported that he had had no reply and was sending a reminder for the Council to reach a final decision at the next Meeting.

Committee accounts Copies of the 1986/87 accounts were made available.

Joint consultative committee Councillor Marmion was added to the Council representatives and it was noted that a meeting would be held when the committee had submitted items for the agenda.

15. Planning Committee reported that they had met and had had no objections to (a) a single garage at the rear of Trelholford, New Street; (b) a barn at Greencourts, Earls Lane; or to (c) a garage extension at 65 St. John's Way.

16. Development at Hempton Councillor Webber reported that there were inaccuracies in a plan where permission had been given at Hempton and that the neighbour aggrieved was in touch with the District Council.

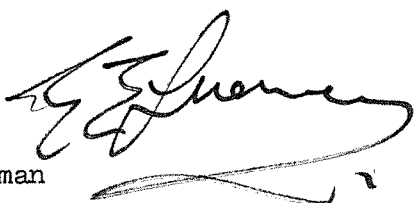


17. Planning application No objection was made to a free-standing sign at Holcombe Hotel.

18. Accounts for payment were passed as follows:-

Cleenol Group Ltd.	Materials, Windmill Centre	£ 7. 48
G. Fenemore	Refreshments at plaque ceremony	15. 00
J. Keys	Windmill Centre plaque	15. 00
Southern Electricity	Street lighting and Town Hall	795. 94
M. P. Weatherhead	Electricity testing, Windmill	8. 63
J. Scott	Expenses, forestry advice	50. 00

The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

  
Chairman

2<sup>nd</sup> April '87

THE CASTLE GROUNDS

This is a proposal for the Deddington Parish Council to consider the woodland belt round these grounds worth managing as a nature study area for Deddington and anyone else who is interested. This belt of trees, varied by stretches of rough grass, summer growth of nettles, and scrub, covers an area of about three acres; it is described in more detail in Appendix A.

The Grounds have a central use as a sports and athletics field, and an occasional use as a children's playground where the swings and slide are situated. The woodland belt is enjoyed by walkers, with their dogs, and also provides important wild corners for "adventure" activities by youngsters. The proposal for a nature study area should in no way conflict with these uses, rather it would enhance the value of the woodland belt in possibly the only way and provide an objective for its future. If this woodland is left to itself, it would gradually lose its older and infirm trees, and see its variety swamped by the invasion of sycamore. If consciously managed as a nature study area it would offer much more interest than at present to the walker and passer by, and become a site for detailed observation to the naturalist.

During the last six months, I have invited six knowledgeable people to visit the Grounds and give me their advice. Regarding the size of the area and its scope to offer resources for study, I am assured that it is of practical size and displays enough variety in all sorts of ways even in its present state. With careful management and planting it should slowly give greater cover to birds and more inducements to insects to diversify. These points are expanded a little in Appendix A. It is obvious that for some years, even after measures for improvement, there will be little more or less than is found at present. We should expect to learn mutually better ways of making the area richer and more densely inhabited by creatures as the years go by.

I look therefore for a group of Deddington people, assisted by one or two outside experts, to establish yearly objectives and schemes of management and to seek the Council's support for their intentions. In order to provide a start sufficient to generate support from Deddington, I suggest the initial expenditure in Appendix B and also an outline of the Council's annual commitment.

It is probable that the Countryside Commission (approached through the Cherwell District Council) would pay for all the initial work because it would make access to a corner of publicly owned countryside much more convenient and offer prospects for later enhancement as a nature study area. Although my proposal could be read as an attempt to encourage more and varied wildlife in the Castle Grounds, it is equally an effort to bring people into contact with their natural surroundings and to observe changes in them. Deddington is fortunate in possessing a piece of public land where this could happen.

John Smith

## Appendix A

In broad terms, the woodland belt (about three acres in extent) is a rectangular shaped strip, sometimes with a large ditch, or bank, about 250 yards by 200 yards. Its north side features a line of mature and infirm sycamores, ending in a small area of bramble and scrub, bounded now by newly planted Scots pine. The north eastern corner is almost entirely nettle and rough grass, the nettle being rich in all kinds of insects and the grass, with hogweed, providing ground cover for a large number of voles etc, and seed heads for small birds. The south flank contains a few mature and over-aged horse chestnut and ash, elder and thorn scrub, and invading sycamore which has taken the place of the elm. There are three very old and fallen crab apples. The sycamore requires gradual removal (it being of little use for bird or insect life) and replacement by native oak which will in the end harbour a great deal of bird and insect life. The western flank is similar except there is little low cover for birds. Some oaks have been newly planted in the north western corner. There are three surviving elm trunks still standing which are important for beetles and other insects, and fungi.

For the first years, the important improvements should provide low cover for the woodland type of bird along the north side under the old sycamores, and to start the planting of oak along the south side. Also, since the Grounds have little flower interest, some attempt should be made to introduce wild spring bulbs and some summer meadow flowers for the butterflies.

Two points should conclude this brief note at this moment:

- i) There is no intention to interfere with or encroach upon the Deddington Castle site;
- ii) The Castle Grounds as a whole provide even now a refuge for insect life which is valuable and could be far more valuable in the years to come to the arable fields to its east and south.

Appendix B

*Please note the Budget  
is tentative. Discuss with  
the C.D.C. or continuing.*

~~Please refer to the map attached.~~

Although the Castle Grounds are criss-crossed with paths both in the woodland and in the nettle areas, some are obviously more used than others. For reasons of future management, it is advised that the more trodden paths are defined on the ground and made easier for walking, or levelled or stepped to save walkers from damaging the banks. This will encourage, it is hoped, their use rather than the minor ones. The provision of benches for sitting should be welcome. Fuller details are shown below.

After the initial expenditure, which establishes the project, I would expect a small annual financial commitment of about this order:

- £10 postage, stationery to deal with enquiries and publicity
- £30 for planting material and seeds;
- £20 for repair and maintenance.

Perhaps summer clearance of the paths through the nettles could be absorbed in the sports field grass cutting contract.

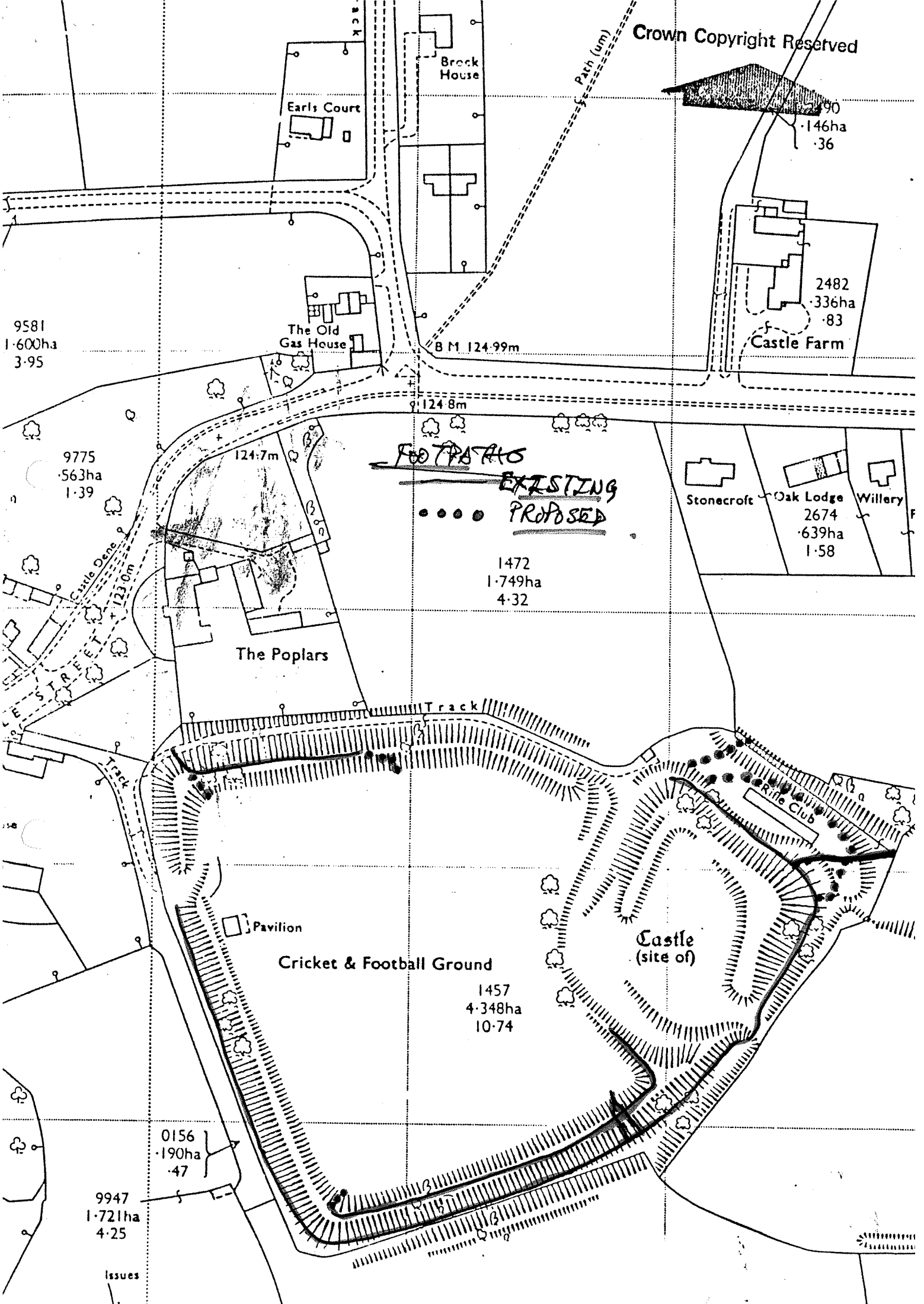
Initial Expenditure

	£	pp
Materials for 12 benches, each bench being 4' in length, supported on 3½" posts of treated timber	72	(+ VAT)
Materials for 16 waymarks to define paths (arrow discs on short posts)	12	(+ VAT)
Noticeboard to read:  "Deddington Parish Council - The Castle Grounds  The woodland area is managed as a nature study area. Your observations will be gladly received by the Clerk to the Council"		
Materials for making about 30 steps (sawn treated posts)	95	(+ VAT)
Labour to define the footpaths, to make the benches and cut steps in the banks where advisable, to be provided by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers		<i>SEE ABOVE</i>

TOTAL

£ \_\_\_\_\_

Crown Copyright Reserved



9581  
1.600ha  
3.95

Earls Court

Brock House

The Old Gas House

B M 124.99m

2482  
336ha  
83  
Castle Farm

9775  
563ha  
1.39

124.7m

~~FOOTPATHS~~  
EXISTING  
.....  
PROPOSED

Stonecroft

Oak Lodge  
2674  
639ha  
1.58

Willery

1472  
1.749ha  
4.32

The Poplars

Track

Pavilion

Cricket & Football Ground

1457  
4.348ha  
10.74

Castle  
(site of)

Rifle Club

0156  
190ha  
47

9947  
1.721ha  
4.25

Issues

MINUTES OF THE DEDDINGTON PARISH MEETING HELD ON 27TH MAY 1987 AT 7.15 P.M.

Present: Councillor Hayward (Chairman) and twenty-six local government electors. County Councillor H. R. H. Clifton was also present.

1. The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Clifton to the Meeting.
2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting which had been held on 21st May 1986 were read, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters of general interest

Windmill Community Centre The Chairman answered questions about the progress of the lease, the dispute with the architect and the progress of the Planning appeal for the recreation ground site adjoining the Centre. He also agreed that a meeting of the joint consultative committee would be held as soon as both parties had submitted items for the agenda.

Castle Grounds Mr. John Scott, the Council's forestry adviser explained his proposals for enhancing the beauty of the Grounds and the Chairman thanked him for the work he was undertaking.

Earl's Lane Reference was made to the need to re-instate the Gas Board trenches and the Chairman stated that this would be referred to the Area Engineer when representatives of the Council met him shortly.

B 4031 The suggestion that the edges of the highway be marked with white lines was referred to the County Council.

Water pressure at Hempton It was agreed that any specific instances of low water pressure, especially at the western end of the hamlet, be referred to Thames Water.

Traffic lights A complaint that the phasing of the traffic lights was biased too heavily in favour of the A423 was generally agreed with and referred to the County Council for their comments.

The Parish Meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman

