

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at The Town Hall on Wednesday, 21st February 2001 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors Todd (Chairman), Bell, Clarke, Cosgrove, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Davies, Hart, Miss Hill, Newey, Mrs. Swash, and Mrs. Walker. Crs. Matthews and O'Sullivan in attendance.
Mr. D. Blakey (Clerk) and Mrs. J. Smith (Minute Secretary)

135/01 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clinch and Flux.

136/01 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 17th January 2001 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

137/01 **Matters Arising**

a) Further to minute 116/01 (a), the Clerk confirmed that a letter was sent on 7th February 2001. No reply has been received and this will be followed up.

b) Further to minute 116/01(c) the Clerk confirmed that a letter was sent to South East Regional Council (SE Housing) and no reply has been received. It was also confirmed that the Chairman has spoken to the Practice Manager at the Health Centre. Full details are given in the Parking sub group report.

138/01 **Urgent Business**

a) **Hempton Neighbourhood Watch**

A vote of thanks was given to David Carter of Hempton who is running the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Hempton.

b) **Stonepit Land**

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Swash and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Cox that the Council agree to take no further action regarding the possible use of Stonepit land until Council has considered all possibilities.

It was further proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Swash and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Walker that a special meeting of the Council should be held, in closed session, when Cllr. Flux returns from holiday so that the Council may consider the background to this matter.

A vote was taken and by a unanimous decision both proposals were agreed.

139/01 **10 Minute Forum**

No member of the public wished to speak.

140/01 **Vacancy for a Member**

The Clerk reported that the Returning Officer has received 3 nominations. An Election will be held on Thursday 8th March 2001. The Clerk confirmed that poll cards have been delivered. Each candidate has been invited to write a short election address for the March edition of the Deddington News.

141/01 **Affordable Housing**

The Clerk reported as follows: -

a) Considerable correspondence has taken place with the Site Architect, Landscape Architect and Cherwell DC regarding landscaping. This is ongoing.

b) Questionnaires have been sent to all 23 residents regarding landscaping and provision of play equipment. These are to be returned by the 15th March 2001.

c) The latest letter from Cherwell DC suggests that from a maintenance point of view the front of the development should be planted with shrubs. There was also a suggestion that strips of grass are provided between the shrubs, however, the Clerk pointed out that this would be very

difficult to maintain.

- d) Further to minute no 120/01(c) the Housing Association has agreed to provide 2 seats.
- e) A letter has been received from Mr Nigel Oddy who is a previous Chairman of the Council. Mr. Oddy points out that when the affordable housing scheme was instigated it was felt that provision should be made to ensure that houses were available to Deddington residents who had to leave the village to find affordable property but who wished to return. The Clerk pointed out that it was unlikely that it was this decision that Cherwell DC Housing Department had referred concerning the criteria when allocating properties.

142/01 **Report of the District Auditor on the Accounts for 1999/2000**

- a) Copies of "Detailed matters arising from Audit" were circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Cllr Todd confirmed that the Finance and General Purposes Working Group had looked at the comments and only two were still outstanding. The first, concerning assets and insurance, was being dealt with. The Clerk has written to the Council's Insurer's for quotes in respect of fidelity insurance.
The second outstanding matter was regarding earmarking of capital funds. This will be done when balance sheets are drawn up for the current financial year.
- b) Final Accounts 99/00, which have been examined by the District Audit representative, were circulated at the meeting. The Clerk pointed out that the only variation from the previously circulated copies was £775 due to inclusion of a debtor for the 1999/2000 audit. Cllr. Todd proposed and Cllr. Bell seconded that the accounts should be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.
- c) Thanks were given to the Clerk for all the work put in to producing the accounts.

Environment and Highways Working Group

Cllr Mrs Cox reported as follows:

143/01 **Environment**

- a) A letter has been received from Cherwell DC Planning and Development Department re the Draft Cherwell Local Plan 2011. The plan is on deposit at Council Offices and Banbury Library. This plan, if adopted, together with the Oxfordshire Structure Plan and the Oxfordshire Mineral and waste local plan will form the basis for the decisions on land use planning affecting the area.. Any representations about the plan should be made in writing before 23 March 2001. The Clerk confirmed that a copy is available for inspection in his office.
- b) A letter has been received from Mr. Colaclides of the Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions re Area of special control of advertisements. Cllr. Miss Hill noted at a previous meeting that possible changes in law regarding advertising boards would have a major detrimental effect. A letter of concern was subsequently sent. The Department have now informed us that they have decided not to amend the current regulations in the way originally proposed.
- c) A letter has been received from Mr. Meagher, the Parish Pump. He states that the hedge and bushes on the Hempton Road boundary of the Windmill Centre remain a problem. The hedge penetrates and shades the verge side ornamental cherry trees. This is the responsibility of the Parish Council and, therefore, a matter for the Windmill Centre Management Committee. It was agreed that any necessary action should be taken when appropriate.
- d) A letter has been received from Mr. Middlewood of Cherwell DC Environmental Health Department giving notice that The Environmental Forum meets on Tuesday 13th March 2001 at 7.00 pm at Bodicote House. The topic is Genetically Modified Crops and anyone wishing to attend should contact Mr Middlewood.
- e) An open invitation from Mr. Mould, Woodcarver, has been received inviting the Council to view his work. He specializes in hand carved, village signs. He works from Peterborough. Further details have been requested.
- f) Southern Tourist Board have written regarding the Thames and Chiltern Country in Bloom workshop, which is to be held on Wednesday 7th March 2001. The Group felt that the invitation to enter the competition should be declined this year. This was agreed.

- g) Further to minute 103/00, a letter has been received from Oxfordshire County Council, Mr. Bowden, Deputy Area Engineer. He confirms that hedgerows are the responsibility of the landowners, and, therefore, landowners should keep hedges trimmed. As the hedgerow at the junction of Earls Lane and Clifton Road is still obscuring vision for motorists, it was agreed that Mr. Nobbs should be requested to trim the hedge further.

144/01 Highways

- a) The Group proposed that strong action should be taken regarding the use of A boards in the village. This action should include the enforcement of legislation regarding this form of advertising by asking the Highways Department to remove all forms of advertising on the Highway. This would include the greens in the Market Square. A long debate took place regarding this subject. As the discussion raised further queries it was agreed that the Working Group would report back to the Council with different proposals taking into account views expressed during the debate.
- b) A thank you letter has been received from the lady who tripped on a pothole at the traffic lights. The hole has been repaired. However, another one has appeared. The Clerk will report this to the Highways Department.
- c) A complaint has been received regarding the poor state of the wall on the Oxford Road opposite the Holly Tree Club wall. The Clerk will report this to the Highways Department.
- d) At a previous meeting it was agreed to erect a lamppost outside 7 The Paddocks. There is some confusion as to whether the post has been erected in the correct position. Cllr. Mrs. Cox will look into the matter and report back.
- e) Cllr. Mrs. Cox reported that she has personally removed signs secured to posts at the traffic lights, which had been in situ for up to three days. The Clerk confirmed that the Village Steward takes the signs down when he sees them.
- f) The Working Group requested a progress report on the Traffic Calming measures. The Clerk confirmed that Mr. Carritt has now replied regarding this matter and explained that delays have been caused by staff turnover. The matter is now being given priority.
- g) Mr. Bowden of OCC Highways has written concerning the linking of the gravel footpath to Tithe Lane, Clifton. He is currently arranging for an estimate and providing the cost of the work does not exceed £4,000 he may be able to provide the link this year. The owner of Home Farm has to be approached, as the grass bank will need to be regraded to fit the path in the verge. The Working Group proposed that the Council should meet any costs over £4,000 to ensure this work is completed. This was agreed that this could be done by the Chairman under delegated authority, subject to the amount of additional monies required. Cllr. Mrs. Davies confirmed that this was welcome news. However, requests are being made from Clifton residents regarding footpaths required in other parts of the village, and these requests should not be over looked.
- h) The Scheme to place barriers at Deddington Crossroads is to be re investigated. Highways are concerned that by widening the footpath, large HGV's will not be able to turn left towards Banbury without mounting the kerb.
- i) Highways have confirmed that, providing the Contractor has the resource available, the work on the Hempton footpath will be carried out early in the new financial year (April/May). Apologies have been given for the delay in the scheme; this has been caused by bad weather putting a strain on budgets, which resulted in several important projects being carried over into the New Year.
- j) The Manager of the Chinese Restaurant on New Street has requested that the double yellow lines be extended from Hudson Street to the doors of the restaurant for safety reasons. The Working Group requested that the Clerk write and inform him that this is currently being considered as part of the parking management scheme. This was agreed.

145/01 Parking Group

- a) Cllr. Newey reported that his team are looking at alternative parking areas, both long and short term. They have looked at the possibility of providing residents parking places in High Street, Victoria Terrace, Goose Green and Castle Street. However, no action will be taken until the

results of the parking survey are known. A guide price of £40 per square metre has been given in relation to providing tarmac spaces. This works out at approximately £350 - £400 per space provided. For long term parking the use of the Holly Tree Club lawn has been considered. A possible plan could be that 20 plus spaces are provided and businesses in the village are charged for the use of the spaces for their staff. This would raise revenue for the Holly Tree Club, which is a charity. Other possibilities include provision of parking spaces on the verge of Earls Lane. The re siting of the electricity sub station will be investigated.

- b) Cllrs. Mrs. Cox and Flux met with the Practice Manager of the Health Centre on 24th January 2001. The Practice Manager was informed of the possible new pavement to be built outside the HC. She was also given the details regarding the traffic audit, and a request was made for staff to help if possible. The Practice Manager confirmed that the practice is already taking on new patients from Upper Heyford and intended to provide the health care for the new housing development. A mini bus is already provided to pick up patients and extra Doctor consultation hours are in place. It was suggested that this was made known to the villagers in the Deddington News. She was informed that complaints have been received about patients who are unable to get a Doctors appointment within 48 hours; she confirmed that any difficulties of this kind should be forwarded to her and action will be taken. As yet no formal plans for providing primary health care for the possible thousand plus additional patients have been made as building plans remain unclear and, therefore, it is not possible to estimate patient numbers. A request was made that close communication on this matter is maintained with the Parish Council and she agreed. Concerns over the additional problems of Doctors and parking availability were discussed. It was also suggested that the Partners bear the cost of any necessary additional parking spaces. Cllr. Flux requested a qualified pharmacist to be provided at the surgery following a number of requests for this facility from villagers. The Practice Manager will forward all concerns and proposals at the next partners meeting. It was agreed the Council would write to the Chair of the Primary Care Trust/Primary Care Group expressing concerns regarding the increase in patients attending Deddington Health Centre.
- c) Cllr. Bell reported that the Resident questionnaires are coming in well. He will report the findings at a later meeting. Volunteers are still needed for the Audit. The briefing meeting of all volunteers will be held at 7.30 pm at the Windmill Centre on 1st March 2001. It was agreed that the Council would pay the hire charge for this meeting.

146/01 **Recreation and Grants Working Group**

Cllr. Mrs. Davies reported as follows:

BMX Track

Cllr. Mrs. Davies has met with a representative of the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association who agreed that the area of rough land behind the football pitches at the Windmill Centre would make an ideal BMX track. A meeting will be held on 19th March 2001 at the Windmill Centre, to which all interested youngsters are invited. The possibility of providing a BMX facility will be discussed and if enough interest is shown further investigations will be made. Posters advertising this meeting have been displayed around the parish.

It was also agreed that the suggestion of providing a “teenagers shelter” be discussed at the meeting to ascertain interest.

147/01 **Finance and General Purposes Working Group**

Cllr. Todd reported that Friends of Deddington Library have now raised £1586.43 towards the £2,000 promised. The submission from FoL to Cherwell DC will be considered in March. Oxfordshire CC will make final decision on funding in April. Two fundraising events currently planned are a “Who said that?” evening in April and a Concert in the Parish Church to be held on 13th May 2001. FoL are seeking sponsors for the concert. C. Cllr. Matthews congratulated FoL for the initiatives on fund raising and confirmed OCC backing for the scheme subject to Cherwell DC committing financial help. D. Cllr. O’Sullivan will encourage Cherwell DC to approve the grant application.

148/01 **Planning and Property Working Group**

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

Applications

01/00235LB – Wirral House, Bull Ring – permission to re roof. No objections

01/00179/F - 43 Gaveston Gardens – alteration of existing porch. No objections

Cllr. Miss Hill took the Chair.

01/00122/LB – Orchard House, Hopcraft Lane – erection of NFU sign. Agreement in principal but suggested moving the sign slightly to the right.

Cllr. Todd returned to the Chair.

01/00277/F – Grove Lodge, The Grove – conversion of barn to residential. Minor alterations have been made in accordance with previous objections. However, the property would still be overlooked and would overlook neighbouring property. Objection.

The above recommendations of the Group were agreed.

Deferral

Pretoria House – previously rejected as incomplete by Council. CDC planners have not received Parish Council's comments although sent. Cllr. Miss Hill and Clerk to follow this up.

Deddington Salerooms

Cherwell DC Planners have still not sent a written reply to a letter sent a month ago. Planners have not yet approved the scheme and the stonework remains the same. It was agreed to send a letter to the Chief Executive at Cherwell DC to prompt a decision from the Planners. A decision is required before Ombudsman proceedings can begin.

Sunnyside, Hopcraft Lane

Cherwell DC's Enforcement Officer has inspected the installation of a velux window. This appears to be in contravention of the permission granted in respect of application 00/02088/F.

Cherwell Local Plan 2001/2002

No development is proposed for Deddington in the plan. The document is on deposit in the Clerks office and also at Cherwell DC, Oxfordshire CC and large public libraries.

149/01 **Windmill Management Committee**

Cllr. Hart reported as follows:

- a) On the 23rd January 2001 the Management Committee met Users. This meeting was poorly attended and there is nothing to report.
- b) On 20th February 2001, the Management Committee met. It was agreed that a lot of maintenance work needs to be completed at the Centre and, therefore, the committee would prioritise and budget for this.
- c) The flooring around the new doors needs to be made good. It was agreed to request John Spencer to carry out this work.
- d) The all weather facility is grossly under used; the revenue from hirers from April to December 2000 totalled £8.50. Although there is now a regular user on a Monday. The playing surface is not up to standard and the Management Committee would like to seek expert advice on updating the facility. Cllr. Mrs. Davies stated that she had previously received quotes regarding astro turfing the area and she would pass these on to Cllr. Hart for his information. C.Cllr. Matthews suggested that RoSPA might be able to assist. It was agreed that the Management Committee would investigate further all possibilities and then report back to the Council.

150/01 **Invoices for payment**

Invoices totalling £8,793.35 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment. It was also agreed to pay an invoice from Oxfordshire County Council for £319.23 in respect of library books. Total approved for payment £9112.58.

151/01 **Investment of the councils funds**

At close of business on 13 February 2001 the balances were as follows: -

Account No	Balance	Rate of interest%	Notice
60858471	4,638.18	3.5	14 days
60708569	4,467.14	2.3	Overnight
60830488	<u>741.05</u>	2.1	Overnight
	9,846.37		
Bradford & Bingley BS	19,970.00	6.25	120 days
West Bromwich BS	480,000.00	6.25	Overnight
Treasury Deposit	25,000.00	4.7475	Fixed to 19.03.01
Total	<u>534,816.37</u>		

152/01 **Correspondence**

- a) A consultation letter was received from OCC on the future of Lincoln House, Banbury. It is proposed that the occupants be rehoused in 2003 in a newly built 60 bedded home in Banbury and in the Spring of 2004 on the site of the present Orchard Lodge. Lincoln House currently falls far short of the newly introduced standards for this type of accommodation.
- b) Copies of letters sent by Solicitors acting for Mr Nash and the Council's Solicitors have been received. The Clerk confirmed all but the most recent letter have been sent to the Council's insurers. This letter will also be forwarded. The Solicitors have not agreed any settlement and no further action will be taken until instructions are received from the Insurers.
- c) Messrs. JP Charles have now concluded that they have exhausted all possible ways of stopping the leaking roof at the Windmill Centre. The general opinion is that the water is caused by condensation and this is proving impossible to eliminate.
- d) A review of the Registration Service is taking place. The proposal is to reduce the 9 registration districts in the County to one. This will have the benefit of a registration being made at the nearest office to the client. Thus if a person died in the John Radcliffe Hospital, the registration of death could be made in Banbury rather than Oxford, as at present. If approved this change will take place from 1st October 2001.
- e) Entries have been requested to the Oxfordshire Best Kept Village Competition. Environmental and Highways Working Group will consider this and report back to Council.
- f) Letters of thanks have been received from Katharine House Hospice and Macmillan Nurses.
- g) Details of the NSPCC Full Stop Appeal – Great Round Oxfordshire Walk have been received. The sponsored walk will take place on Sunday 20th May 2001. Volunteers are required to seek sponsors and walk a portion of the County Boundary, which does coincide with the Parish Boundary in places. There is a simultaneous start time of 10.30 am.
- h) A meeting is to be convened at Exeter Hall on 4th April 2001 to discuss the review of Village Appraisal. It was agreed that the Millennium Questionnaire completed by residents was a review of the original appraisal carried out in 1994.
- i) Tony Baldry MP forwarded, for information, a copy of a letter to Cllr. B. Hodgson, the Leader of the Labour Group on Oxfordshire County Council. Following recent comments made by Cllr. Hodgson, Mr. Baldry is seeking confirmation that the all-party agreement that no new town should be built at Upper Heyford remains unchanged.

153/01 **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 21st March 2001 at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.