

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday, 17th February, 1999 at the Town Hall, Deddington commencing at 7,30 pm.

Present:- Crs Flux (Chairman), Church, Clarke, Cosgrove, Mrs Cox, Mrs Davies, Mrs Fisher, Mrs Harper, Miss Hill, Newey, Mrs Swash and Todd. County Councillor Matthews in attendance.

118/98 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from District Councillor O'Sullivan.

119/98 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th January, 1999..

The above Minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

120/98 There were no matters arising or requests for matters of urgency.

121/98 Mr T Clinch, having given due notice, addressed the Council regarding the Millennium and in particular, the recently issued questionnaire. He stated that there was no opening note as to the Council's policy, budget, or schemes in progress in respect of the Millennium, many of the questions were repeated and were leading. The Chairman thanked Mr Clinch for his contribution

122/98 Low Cost Housing.


The Clerk reported that he had checked with the Housing Association regarding the funding of the scheme and it had been confirmed that it was available for the utility works and the first 7 properties. Subsequently however they confirmed that the Housing Corporation have now made funds available for the whole scheme. The plans to be incorporated in the Section 106 agreement were now being agreed by each party and the Association were hoping to complete the purchase of the site by the end of the current month. The Chairman thanked Cr O'Sullivan for his efforts with the District Council in this matter.

123/98 Cherwell Local Plan Review – Housing in Rural Areas.

The Clerk circulated to Members the notes of the meeting held at the Windmill Centre with Parish Councils to the north of Deddington. The Council's Review indicated that a future commitment of 350 houses was required in the rural areas to 2011 and some 14 villages had been included as Category 1 – villages having the services capable of supporting some limited extra housing growth – of which Deddington is one. Thus on average the District is looking to an average of 25 new dwellings per Category 1 village, The areas of 'Search' shown on the Deddington map would possibly provide sufficient land for the total Rural Areas requirement and the identification of suitable land may only involve an area similar in size to that which has received planning permission for the Low Cost Housing on the Hempton Road. Each of the villages at the aforementioned meeting had been given plans which showed a similar excessive situation.

The local plan had been displayed on the village notice boards and circulated via the Deddington News, for which the Council was grateful. A public meeting at which the LPA will be represented will be held at the Windmill Centre on 24th March commencing at 7.30 pm and parishioners who wish to raise matters should inform the Clerk of their concerns in advance in order that the meeting may be structured. The Parish Council's responses should be with the LPA by the end of March, but it was agreed that the Council apply for this date to be extended.

It was agreed that for the next meeting a policy document be prepared, incorporating the results of an appeal be made to parishioners for comments on the LPA plans by way of a flyer in the Deddington News, extracts from the Village Appraisal etc.



124/98 Millennium Working Group.

Cr Newey reported as follows:-

- (a) He apologised to the Chairman for circulating the questionnaire prior to his seeing it, but said that it had required 3 proofs and this had led to an urgency to circulate to parishioners. He was pleased with the number of forms which were being returned and a much broader view of the wishes of the parishioners would be available for the next meeting. Cr Clarke commented that some of the projects had been discussed ad idem and Cr Church stated that the Group were aware of the need for full business plans to be agreed prior to a scheme receiving the go ahead.
- (b) The Group were seeking to raise the profile of the Millennium in the village and to crystalise the thinking process but would not be responsible for the implementation of projects.
- (c) Non-members of Council were thanked for their involvement so far and a continued interest was needed.
- ✓(d) It was necessary as a result of analysing the questionnaires to register with the Data Protection Agency and authority was given to register at a cost of £75.

125/98 Environmental and Housing Working Group.

Cr Mrs Cox reported as follows:-

- (a) The District Council had written stating that the Dog Litter Bins were to be emptied twice per week and that they were currently going out to tender. It was agreed that the need for 2 emptyings per week should be checked.
- ✓(b) It was agreed that Clifton be entered for the Britain in Bloom Competition at no cost to the Council.
- ✓(c) It was agreed that the Clerk contact the County Council in respect of the pollarding of the trees on Goose Green.
- ✓(d) The National Spring Clean was scheduled for April and the Brownies, Youth Club and other organisations were to be asked to participate.
- (e) Cr Cosgrove, who had left the meeting through illness, had asked to learn the position regarding the new street lamp which it had been agreed would be erected on The Lane at Hempton. It was confirmed that the matter be still left until the houses are developed at the end of The Lane.
- (f) A Speedwatch leaflet was distributed to each Member and a meeting at the Town Hall on February 25th at 7.30 pm would be looking at further information on traffic speeds in the village which had been obtained by the police.

126/98 Recreation and Grants Working Group.

Cr Mrs Harper reported as follows:-

- (a) A grant application had been received from the newly formed Deddington Parish Naturalists for the sum of £500 in connection with the Hedgerow project. There were certain queries with the application and Mr Meagher the initiator of the application was currently overseas. It had been established that a small grant of £100 was available from the District Council for these projects and as an interim measure it was agreed that a grant of £100 be made and a claim be made on the District Council for a similar sum.

127/98 Finance and General Purposes Working Group.

Cr Todd reported that the first account had been received in respect of books purchased by this Council for the County Library, each of which had the Parish's Coat of Arms affixed to the inside of the front cover. These books had proved to be very popular as they had been quickly borrowed.

128/98 Planning and Property Working Group.

Cr Miss Hill reported the recommendations of the Group as follows:-

Applications.

- ✓ 99/0092F – The Bothy, The Grove – Conversion of garage into living accommodation and front porch canopy – Observation - regret the loss of a further garage.
- ✓ 99/0100F – Stonewalls, Castle Street – Conversion of existing garage into living accommodation and construction of free standing double garage – No observations.
- ✓ 99/0102F – 3, Hudson Street – Conversion of roof space to living accommodation involving the insertion of dormer windows, 2 at rear and 2 at front, and single storey rear extension - Observation – the glazing of the dormer windows should match as closely as possible that of the existing windows

In respect of App.99/0092F Cr Todd moved an amendment that the application should be recommended for refusal, which was duly seconded but was lost by 4 votes to 5. (Cr Mrs Davies declared her interest in App.99/0100F)

The recommendations were approved.

Approvals

- ✓ 98/1654F, 1655LB, 1656CAC – Redevelopment of Earls Farm Farmyard, Earls Lane.
- ✓ 98/2107F – The Stone House, Market Place – Renewal of CHN524/93

Refusals

- ✓ 98/1658F – Tennis Courts, Windmill Centre – Installation of floodlights.
- 98/2146F – Deddington Post Office – Change of use from A1 retail use to A3 restaurant use.

Appeal.

98/0659F – Greystones, Banbury Road – Partial demolition of pool building and conversion of remaining structure to ancillary accommodation to Greystones. The appellant was successful but included a condition that the development shall not be occupied at any time other than for purposes ancillary to the residential use of the dwelling known as Greystones.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Tennis Club to establish the next moves in regard to their proposed development. At the Windmill Centre.

129/98 The Clerk reported that the accounts for 1997/98 had not yet been completely typed, but would be forwarded to the Finance and General Purposes Working Group for a report to the next meeting.

130/98 Accounts for Payment.

Accounts totalling £7,483.89, in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, (a copy of which is filed with these Minutes), were unanimously approved for payment.

131/98 Investment of the Council's Funds.

The Clerk reported that at close of business on 16th February the balances were as follows:-
£

500,000.00 Bradford and Bingley Building Society 120 day Bonus Account at 6.15%
60,000.00 Treasury Deposit fixed to 11th March, 1999 at 4.625%
592.98 at 14 days notice at 3'625%
14,562.07 overnight at 1.75%
715.23 overnight at 1.75%
575,870.28


132/98 Letter from Bradford and Bingley Building Society.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter from the Society informing the Council that at their Annual General Meeting in April 1999 they had agreed to debate a Members Resolution asking them to convert the Society into a bank. The Society state their position of wishing to retain mutual status and the reasons therefor. The Society will be reporting its financial results for 1998 at the end of this month from which it may be possible to estimate the amount of windfalls likely to be paid should the vote at the AGM be in favour of converting to a bank. It was resolved that the way the Council should vote in this matter be determined at the next meeting.

133/98 Correspondence.

- (a) Letters of thanks from the Assistant County Librarian and the Local Library Manager for the 'books so generously donated by the Parish Council'. Many favourable comments had been received from library users and the books purchased were a good choice as they were borrowed soon after going on the shelves. It was hoped that the Friends of the Library and the Library staff can continue to work together in the interests of the parishioners. Cr Matthews also voiced his thanks for the support the Council was giving to the Library Service.
- (b) A letter of thanks from North and West Oxfordshire Carers for the recent donation from this Council.
- (c) Letter from Deddington Online updating the position in regard to the website which is growing quickly, receiving 'hits' from the other side of the world and stating how grateful they are for the starting up grant. They are now receiving requests from commercial firms to provide more space for their Index entries. "This is feasible, but the work goes beyond that which the Website Editorial Group can devote on a voluntary basis. The suggested solution is to licence the current site hosts - Granary Publications - to offer a service to Deddington businesses to create larger entries on the site at well below the rates that are normally charged. Granary see this as an investment in image building. The businesses will be enhancing their image at about half the normal market price Granary will also continue to absorb the costs of hosting our site until further notice". The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored very closely and reviewed on a yearly basis. A computer terminal will shortly be located in the library which will be loaded on a monthly basis with the latest issue of the website so that everyone in the Parish has an opportunity to view it. A small opening ceremony will be held to mark the occasion.
- Resolved that the present success of the Group be welcomed and the proposed arrangement with Granary Publications be supported subject to the Council having prior sight of the intended agreement.
- (d) Letter from ORCC regarding the establishment of a Rural Transport Partnership in the County. It will be concerned with seeking solutions to transport problems which cannot be tackled through an increase in conventional bus services, such solutions including Community Mini-buses and Taxibuses, Dial-a-ride etc. Membership of the partnership will include representatives from the County, District and Parish Councils and the Voluntary Sector and a request was made for anyone wishing to become a member. No Councillor volunteered to become a member of the Partnership..
- (e) Letter from Mrs P Baker, a copy of which she had circulated to each Member, requesting that the Council reconsider its decision to charge for the use of the Town Hall for Oxfordshire Art Week. It was resolved that the decision to charge should not be amended but the offer of a grant from the Council's grants budget, subject to the completion of the requisite form, be restated.

134/98 Date of next meeting - Wednesday, 17th March, 1999 at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

 17 March.