

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at The Town Hall on Wednesday, 17th January 2001 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Bell, Clarke, Cosgrove, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Davies, Hart, Miss Hill, Newey, Mrs. Swash, Todd and Mrs. Walker.
Mr. D. Blakey (Clerk) and Mrs. J. Smith (Minute Secretary)

114/01 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Clinch and County Cllr. Matthews.

115/01 **Minutes**

Minute 103/00(d) was amended by deleting the words "too long", the minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December 2000 were then approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

116/01 **Matters Arising**

- a) Further to minute 98/00(c), it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Head of Housing at Cherwell DC concerning the allegation that the Parish Council had been approached regarding the relaxation of certain criteria when allocating one of the shared ownership properties. The letter would ask for details of this discussion or agreement.
- b) Further to minute 96/00, the Clerk confirmed that a letter has been sent to Mr. Nash. The Clerk also confirmed the Council's Solicitor has not yet received a reply from Mr. Nash.
- c) Further to minute 102/00, a letter of objection to the proposed plans to use the facilities at Deddington Health Centre will be sent to the District Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council have extreme concern over the workload of the practice and the associated problems including parking etc. Letters would also be sent to the Practice Manager and to South Eastern Housing.

117/01 **Urgent Business**

An item would be discussed in closed session at the end of the meeting.

118/01 **Open Forum**

No member of the public wished to speak.

119/01 **Election to fill vacancy**

- a) The Clerk reported that the Returning Officer has received two petitions requesting an election. A Notice of Election will be published on 1st February 2001 and should there be more than one nomination, an election will be held on 8th March 2001.
- b) The Deddington News Editor would be requested to publish details of the nomination dates. It was agreed that a sign on the village green, announcing the election, would be erected in plenty of time.
- c) It was confirmed that in accordance with minute 59/00(d) poll cards would be requested if a poll is held.

120/01 **Low Cost (Affordable) Housing**

The Clerk reported as follows: -

- a) When the site was designed the Architect's plans showed metal fencing along the boundary with the Hempton Road. The site is currently open plan and a decision is needed as to what, if anything, should be placed along the boundary. It was agreed that the residents of the properties should be consulted. The Clerk would also seek further advice from Thames Valley Police about the Secure by Design status of the site, as this may have implications.
- b) The Architect has also suggested the siting of some play equipment on the site. This would comprise of a wooden duck and a tunnel. It was agreed that this proposal would be included in the resident's consultation letter.
- c) The section 106 agreement states that the Housing Association will place two seats on the Castle Grounds site. It was agreed that a recommendation should be obtained from the Recreation and Grants Working Group as to where these could be sited. Cllr. Miss Hill will liaise with Cllr. Mrs. Davies on this matter and include in the proposals the siting of the Joan Fisher memorial bench.
- d) The Clerk will confirm with the Developers that the Time Capsule has now been buried on the site. It was agreed that the place should be marked.
- e) It was confirmed that the grassed areas over the sewers are the responsibility of the County Council. However, the Parish Council will mow the grass and be reimbursed by the County Council.

The Chairman reported that occupants have expressed their pleasure with the houses.

121/01 **Precept 2001/2002**

The Clerk presented a report; a copy of which is filed with these minutes. It was agreed as follows:

Item A – Amendment of Budget figures.

- (a) Agreed
- (b) It was agreed that donations of £200 each would be given to Victim Support, Macmillan Nurses and Katherine House Hospice. The budget in respect of Section 137 would be amended to reflect this.
- (c) Agreed
- (d) Agreed
- (e) Amended to read – Probable 2000/2001 - £14,292 Deficit for Year - £792
Budget 2001/2002 - £18,220

Item B – The Council Tax Base

- (a) Noted

Item C – Precept 2001/2002

- (a) – (d) Noted

Cllr. Todd reported that the recommendation on the Finance and General Purposes Group was that a precept should be set as capital funds were gradually eroding. It was felt that if a major project were to be undertaken the Parish Council would be forced to make a large increase in the amount of precept and the Group felt that this would be unfair to Council Tax payers of the Parish. By subsidising the precept all parishioners benefit from the Capital Funds. The Capital sum held by the Parish has fallen approximately £250,000 over the past 10 years. The Group also recommended that a precept should be set to raise £15,000, giving a levy of £17.75 at Band D, an increase of £2.18 on the current year. It was agreed (10 in favour, 2 abstentions) to levy a precept. It was agreed (10 in favour, 2 abstentions) to raise a precept of £15,000 for the year 2001/2002..

122/01 **Planning and Property Working Group**

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

Applications

- 00/02503F - Fullers Farm Barn (revised plans) Agreement in principal but assume it will be entirely separate from the adjacent barn.
- 00/01989F - Rear of Hairdressers, Market Square (new drawings) – The Agents letter was not enclosed with the application and changes to the plans need clarification – suggest that this is referred back to the District Planners.

The above recommendations of the Group were agreed.

Approvals

- 00/02112/F – 1 The Daedings –two storey front extension
- 98/00598/F – 1 –4 Bachelors Row, Hempton – 2 new dwellings

a) Deddington Salerooms

The Clerk has sent several letters to the Planning Department and has not received a written reply. In a conversation with a Planning Officer he was told that the Officer is satisfied with the stonework, although the sills have not yet been seen. It was agreed, by a majority of 11 to 1, that the work is still not satisfactory. It was also agreed that the Parish Council should now go through the Ombudsman procedure regarding this matter.

b) Castle Grounds

A problem has been reported of children digging at the site to make bike ramps. This is also happening in the grounds of the Windmill Centre. It was agreed that the Deddington News should be asked to highlight this problem and point out that it is a criminal offence to dig at these locations.

c) Development at Upper Heyford

A letter has been received from Cherwell DC detailing the display of plans of the proposals at this site. The plans will be available for public inspection at the Windmill Centre at 7.00 pm on Thursday, 1st March, 2001.

A letter to a Parishioner from Mr Harrap has been passed to the Council for information. This states that the agreement made between the MOD and the North Oxon Consortium did not include any proposal for the use of hospital facilities on the site and there has been no suggestion that these hospitals should be retained.

It was agreed that the Clerk should send a response to SE Housing by 12 February.

123/01 Environmental and Highways Working Group

Cllr Mrs Cox reported as follows:

Environment

- a) Further to minute 103/00 (d) it was confirmed that the hedge has not been cut. The Clerk confirmed that the Highways Department have now been informed.
- b) A letter has been received from Mr. Helm at Cherwell DC stating that the District Council has terminated its agreement with Clinicale Ltd due to continuing service failure. From the 1 January 2001, Cherwell Direct Services will provide the dog bin emptying service. The unit charge will remain the same until the annual review on 31 March 2001. It was agreed that no payment should be made for the 2 weeks emptying that have not taken place.
- c) A letter has been received from Mr. Larnar, Landscape Services Officer at Cherwell DC. Mr. Larnar asks for the outcome of the Deddington Circular walk monitoring schedule he proposed. Mrs. Spenceley is monitoring the route and the Clerk will inform Mr. Larnar of this. He also asks for details of any errors, omissions or changes in respect of the walk leaflet. The Clerk will inform Mr. Larnar of the one error that has been noted before any further printing takes place. The whereabouts of the way mark discs are currently unknown, it is recommended that any order for new ones should be withheld until Mrs. Spenceley returns from holiday in February.
- d) The drains in Victoria Terrace are blocked. Mr Bowden will make arrangements to sort

this out.

Transport

- a) A letter has been received from Mr. Witton, Assistant Public Transport Officer at the County Council. A review of financially supported bus services in the Banbury area is taking place. Current contracts expire on 30 June 2001. A meeting to be held in April/May will determine the future of these contracts. Cllr. Mrs. Cox has spoken to Mr Witton and he suggests that the importance of the 499 bus should be documented as it provides the first bus service to Banbury. Although this is a commercial bus, Northants may be docking the route and therefore it may be lost. The importance of the Heyfordian 90 service, which serves Hempton on Thursday and Saturday, also needs to be stressed. Hempton is poorly served with buses. Mr. Witton suggested that the need for the Hempton service to be improved should also be stressed. There could be a possibility of this service being included in the Middle Barton loop service, which operates more regularly. The need for a late night Oxford bus service should be highlighted along with the need for a Sunday bus service. However, he pointed out that no tenders were submitted last year in response to requests. The Rural bus challenge fund would be the most likely source of additional funding for these two new services. It has been suggested that subsidised school buses could, in future, be able to pick up paying passengers on route. The only bus able to travel from Deddington to Banbury is the Ed. 1203 bus serving the RC schools; if there is a demand for extending this service to the Town Centre, this could be done. Some children could lose their school bus and be asked to travel on the X59 service. The Parish Council's views are sought regarding this. The Group felt that they need to know how many children this concerns, what age groups are involved and who would be contacted if their behaviour was unacceptable on the transport before any comments could be made. This could be a useful service for the rural children providing that their bus pass allowed them to use the bus service until 18.30. This would mean that they could attend after school activities.
- b) A letter has been received from the Babtie Group who are responsible for running a national Taxi bus Service. Babtie have been asked by OCC to implement a Taxi bus service providing regular connections at a number of interchanges with the X59 Banbury to Oxford service. There is a government grant of £415,000, ring fenced for 3 years, called the Rural Bus Challenge Fund specifically given to improve public transport accessibility and travel options for people living in the Cherwell area. The Group felt that Clifton and Hempton might have a need for this type of link especially on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (Banbury and Oxford market days) even if it is just in the morning. Babtie are also willing to consider setting up an evening and Sunday service but need to know the level and nature of the demand, the times and the days on which the bus would be needed. Cllr. Mrs Cox has spoken to Paul Kirkam who is the Transport Planner dealing with this project and pointed out that the 31 January deadline for bids is extremely tight. The Group recommended that a bid should be submitted to request a link bus service to Hempton and Clifton and also a Sunday and late evening service. This was agreed. It was also agreed that C. Cllr. Matthews should be informed of the short consultation period.
- c) A letter received from Tim Darch, Public Transport Assistant at the OCC states that from April 2001 a Rural Bus Subsidy Grant will be available. This is a Government grant of approximately £400,000 to be used for new local bus services. It was agreed that an application should be made in respect of funds for the evening and Sunday bus service to Oxford.
- d) It was suggested that a Bus Users Group should be formed.

Highways

- a) Further to minute 103/00(a) it was confirmed that OCC would look into the provision of White lines on the road edges. If completed the whole length of the B3061 from Clifton to the junction of the A361 would be included.

- b) The Deddington Arms A board is now doubly chained with the second chain nailed to the pole. It was agreed that the Clerk would again write to the Manager.
- c) At the last meeting it was agreed that all posters should be removed from the traffic lights immediately. This has not happened. Cllr. Mrs. Cox confirmed that she had removed advertisements from the poles 3 days after they were attached. The Group felt this was disappointing. It was agreed that the Clerk would pass this request on to the Village Steward once again.
- d) It was proposed that a strong letter of complaint should be sent to Mr. Carritt at OCC about the length of time taken to start the traffic calming measures. This was agreed.
- e) It has been suggested that the OCC have now decided to re phase the traffic lights instead of erecting barriers. The Clerk confirmed that OCC have stated that barriers may be dangerous and that the footpath is too narrow to erect them. The Clerk will obtain more details regarding this.
- f) Two complaints have been received about the dangerous state of the footpath at the traffic lights. It was agreed to inform Highways about this.
- g) Part of the footpath between Hempton and Deddington is strewn with hedgerow debris making walking potentially unsafe. This matter will be reported to Highways.
- h) A letter has been received from Mr. Mortimer informing of a potential road accident situation he was involved in, when a car turned into the wrong side of the dual carriageway at the Duns Tew junction. He has informed TVP and Highways. It was agreed that Mr. Mortimer's letter should be passed to the appropriate parish council and that he should be informed that this has been done.
- i) The footpath outside the new development on Earls Lane leads to a dead end and is dangerous. It was suggested that a request is made for Highways to extend the pavement across the entrance to the Health centre. There is a small amount of money for this sort of work in the community safety budget. Mr. Bowden will also mention this to Mr. Carritt. He will also raise the construction of the Clifton pavements on safety grounds. It was noted that the footpath at the entrance of the new development in Earls Lane is not in line and this should be rectified.
- j) Cllr Miss Hill asked if the painting of "keep clear" on the tarmac outside Clydesdales was permissible. It has been confirmed by OCC that it is bone fide to do this to maintain access to property.

Parking Sub Group

The dates of the parking audit will be Wednesday 21 March and Saturday 24 March, beginning at 0700 hours and ending at 1900 hours. Volunteers are still needed.

The Relief parking group have met with both Mr Paine and Mr. Bowden from Highways who have been helpful in guiding them in consideration of possible new parking areas. Mr. Pain suggested that Mr. Yeatman from Cherwell DC Planning is contacted to give further guidance. With Chairman's approval the PC has sent a letter requesting a meeting.

124/01 Recreation and Grants Working Group

Cllr. Mrs. Davies had nothing to report.

125/01 Clifton to Deddington Footpath

Further to minute 99/00 Cllr. Mrs. Davies reported that the Working Group met on 20 December 2000. It was agreed that the priority should be to extend the footpath through the village. OCC will be lobbied about this. A speed trap will be requested from TVP. A questionnaire will be sent to all villagers to gain views.

126/01 Finance and General Purposes Working Group

Cllr. Todd reported as follows:

- a) As The District Auditor still holds some of the account books, a partial examination of the accounts has been carried out and all is in order.

- b) A reply to a CDC consultation document on Tourism is being put together.
- c) The Clerks letter of appointment has been checked and updated.
- d) A positive response has been received from a number of neighbouring Parish Councils in respect of the contributions to the Library improvements. £200 has been received and it is hoped more will follow.
- e) The FoL are working with Oxfordshire Libraries to get a bid for monies from the District Council in by the end of the month.
- f) Cllr. Bell reported that, following the Cultural Strategy meeting, Cherwell DC has produced a document. This is available in the Clerks office. The District Council has requested that the Parish Council endorse the document.

127/01 **Windmill Management Committee**

Cllr. Hart reported as follows:

- a) Mrs. Harper has now passed on all relevant files.
- b) A meeting will take place on 23 January with representatives of Deddington Town FC and Deddington Colts
- c) Mr. M. Ryland has asked to have sight of the maintenance tender. It was confirmed that this would go out in February.
- d) It was confirmed that the new door would be fitted in the main hall. Complaints were received about draughts whilst the repairs were being carried out.
- e) The fact that there are at least three different colours on the main hall walls was queried. The Management Committee will look into this matter.

128/01 **Invoices for payment**

Invoices totalling £5,048.45 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment.

129/01 **Investment of the Councils Funds**

At close of business on 16 January 2001 the balances were as follows: -

Account No	Balance	Rate of interest%	Notice
60858471	4,638.18	3.5	14 days
60708569	9,384.91	2.3	Overnight
60830488	<u>741.05</u>	2.1	Overnight
	14,764.14		
Bradford & Bingley BS	19,970.00	6.25	120 days
West Bromwich BS	450,000.00	6.25	Overnight
Treasury Deposit	25,000.00	4.9175	Fixed to 19.02.01
Treasury Deposit	30,000.00	4.7975	Fixed to 05.02.01
Total	<u>540,251.65</u>		

130/01 **Capital Investment**

The Clerk reported that the £30,000 in the Treasury Deposit would be placed in the West Bromwich BS at maturity on 5th February. Initial advice from the Building Society was that the 6.25% rate of interest would be available on a 12 month fixed account. This offer was withdrawn, as the advice was incorrect. However, arrangements for the Treasury Deposit had already been completed.

131/01 **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that the minutes of the Parish Liaison Meeting held at Bodicote House are available for inspection in his office.

132/01 **Deddington Web Site**

Cllr. Newey reported that a discussion forum is being developed for the web site. Users will be free to raise any issues of community interest by e-mail. Cllr. Newey pointed out that this could be a useful way to gain the views of the parish on different matters. The forum should be running within a month.

133/01 **Date of next meeting**

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

MATTERS OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE

134/01 **Housing Complaints**

D. Cllr. O'Sullivan was requested to stay for the closed session.

Complaints have been received and passed on to D. Cllr. O'Sullivan regarding properties in The Paddocks and Mackley Close.

- a) Complaints have been received about the owners of 1 The Paddocks. There are often up to 13 vehicles parked in the garden and the surrounding area. It is alleged that some kind of business is being conducted from the premises. D. Cllr. O'Sullivan has asked Cherwell DC to investigate but had not received any feedback. He will chase up the matter.
- b) It was agreed that a letter should be sent stating the Parish Council's concerns about the rise in this type of activity taking place from residential property.
- c) Complaints have been received about the activities of residents of a property in Mackley Close. Elderly tenants mainly occupy the surrounding bungalows. However, the tenant of one of the properties appears to be living at another property in the village whilst 2 young persons occupy the bungalow. The police have already "raided" the house, which distressed neighbours. The bungalow in question has been adapted for disabled persons. It is felt that this type of property should be let to someone who would benefit from the adaptations. A number of years ago a bungalow in Mackley Close was attacked by an arsonist. At the time the Parish Council asked the Housing Department to select the tenants for these particular properties carefully. The Parish Council requested that D. Cllr. O'Sullivan investigate this with Cherwell Housing Department and reports back.