

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 19 January 2005
commencing at 7.45pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Squires, Swash, Todd, Rollason, Wood, Watts, Westley, Alton, Mrs Spencer, Haslam, District Cllr O'Sullivan, Co Cllr Jelf (part), Graham Pitts (Clerk), Sue Gibbs (Minute Secretary).

107/04

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ellis and Mrs Cox

108/04

Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 December were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

109/04

Matters arising

- (a) The Chairman informed Councillors that Kate Harvey had now formally resigned from the Parish Council.
- (b) 99/04(e): Cllr Todd proposed that the short time scale given to respond to this should be taken up with both the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) and the National Association of Local Councils. **This was agreed;** Cllr Flux said that he would be attending a meeting of OALC the following Monday and would raise the matter.
- (c) It was agreed that a letter of congratulation should be sent to Vivienne Playdell Bouverie following her being awarded an MBE.

110/04

Declaration of Interests

113/04(b) Cllrs Flux and Rollason declared an interest

111/04

10 Minute Open Forum

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

112/04

Finance and General Purposes Working Group

Cllr Wood tabled the financial forecast for the current year and the draft budget for the 2005/06 and reported as follows. The anticipated deficit for this year was currently £3630. This took into account expenditure on the All Weather Court and traffic calming measures. Similar "one off" items of expenditure were included in next year's budget and it seemed likely that there would always be such items. The PC was therefore slightly overspending each year and it was necessary to look both at raising the precept and at how income was being spent. If the precept were increased by £1, (an increase of 3.5% and slightly above the cost of living index), this would generate an additional £870. However, the PC also needed to look at expenditure, and it was suggested that this should be done in a closed meeting where all possibilities could be thoroughly explored.

This was generally agreed; however, the Chairman reminded the PC that the precept needed to be agreed and notified to CDC by 28th January. Cllr Rollason argued that setting the precept was one of the most important things the PC did and should not be done before that meeting had been held; several councillors shared this view. However there was also concern that full preparation time should be allowed for such a meeting and it was feared that this would not be the case if it were held the following week. Furthermore diary constraints meant that not all councillors could attend a meeting before 28th January.

Cllr Westley asked whether the Village Plan would give an indication of what the village felt was an acceptable increase and what level of standards should be set. Cllr Todd was concerned that over the past 2 years the budgets that had been set had not been met and that it was necessary to look more closely at expenditure. Cllr Flux emphasized that savings could be achieved through cost effectiveness as well as cost cutting. He also reminded councillors that some of the reserves could be used. It was noted that at the 2004 precept meeting, the general consensus had been that reserves of around £450,000 were thought acceptable; they were currently considerably above that level. As far as income was concerned, it was noted that a change in interest rates would affect this considerably and there was concern as to how accurate the revenue forecasting could be. It was also likely that some items of expenditure included in the budget were not correct.

After lengthy discussion, Cllr Wood proposed a £1 increase in the precept for the forthcoming financial year and that a meeting in closed session be held over the next month where proper information would be available to enable the PC to look very carefully at how it would budget for the following year. This was seconded by Cllr Todd.

Cllr Rollason made a counter proposal that the precept should not be set until after this meeting had been held. This was seconded by Cllr Haslam. It was defeated by 7 votes to 5.

Cllr Rollason made a further counter proposal that the precept be increased by £2. This was seconded by Cllr Westley and passed by 7 votes to 4.

It was therefore agreed to raise the precept for the year 2005/06 by £2.

Cllr Squires proposed that the meeting to discuss the PC's finances be held immediately after the next Parish Council meeting. **This was agreed, the meeting would start at 7.30pm, with the first hour being for normal Parish Council business, and thereafter it would go into closed session.**

113/04

Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Squires reported as follows:

- (a) **Stonepit Allotments** – The Clerk reported that Aplin's had received a reply from the Land Registry requesting more detailed evidence of rents received for use of the land and a Statutory Declaration about the security of the site itself. The Clerk will follow up these matters as quickly as possible.
- (b) **Budget – CCTV**. There was concern as to what the police would do with CCTV footage and it was agreed that PC Middleton should be asked to come and talk to the PC about this. Further clarification on the CCTV was required. However, because as

members of the WMC Cllrs Flux and Rollason would be unable to speak on this at a full Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that they should be invited to a Working Group meeting to explain this more fully; the Working Group would then be able to report at the next full Council meeting.

- (c) **Grass Cutting.** A decision on this would be deferred to the next meeting.
- (d) **Cemetery – kerbstone request.** It was agreed that approval should be given for kerbstones around a headstone provided that it did not bridge 2 plots and did not exceed three feet in width.
- (e) **Biodiversity Action Plan** – CDC were making a presentation on this on 25th January at Bodicote.

114/04

Highways Working Group

Cllr Haslam reported as follows:

- (a). **Co-op.** The turf on the green and by the church still needed restoring. This had been ongoing for 9 months now and it was felt that the Parish Council should not just let it go. **It was agreed that the Clerk would continue to chase the Head Office Property Manager.**
- (b). **Lime Cottage.** An update from OCC had still not been received.
- (d). **OCC.** Co Cllr Jelf had forwarded an email received from Ralph Grant, Area Engineer north at OCC on the various issues within the Parish. Co Cllr Jelf said that he had had a meeting on 6th January at which the various proposed improvements had been raised and he had asked for an update; however, no further information had been received. It was agreed that the Clerk should try and set up a meeting as soon as possible with the new head of OCC Highways at which Co Cllr Jelf should also be present. Co Cllr Jelf was thanked for all his support in trying to progress the various issues.
- (e). **Crossing on the Hempton Road.** There was conflicting information as to where this was to be sited and objections had been raised by residents on each side of the road at the various proposed sites. It was agreed the PC should continue to push for some kind of crossing at this point and that this should also be raised at the meeting with OCC.
- (h). **Parking Task Force.** The Working Party's report had been tabled at the previous meeting. Cllr Flux said that although long stay parking had been identified as the main problem, there was no clear solution as even if alternative parking were provide outside the village centre, without introducing restricted parking in the village, there was no way of getting people to use it. Cllr Westley said that all those on the Parking Task Force had put a lot of energy and intellect at looking at this issue and had gone into it desperate to find a solution; every option had been looked at in depth but there was no answer. **It was agreed that the report was a public document and should be posted on the village website. It was also okay to pass it to a journalist from the Banbury Guardian who had contacted Cllr Haslam. It was agreed that the managers of market place businesses should be contacted and made aware of the problems and appealed to for their help.** It was also recognized that although the problem had not escalated following opening of Eagles Butchers, as had been feared, parking was an issue to be included when considering further planning applications. District Cllr O'Sullivan said that this was something with the Council was very aware of; however, it was unlikely that policies would change. Cllr Todd reported that the Market Group had conducted a survey which showed that 2100 people had come to the village for the last Farmers Market and he would pass on any information when it had been completed.

(i). **Roadside Memorial.** OCC had confirmed to Co Cllr Jelf that such memorials would not be allowed in future. Concern was expressed about the article which had appeared about this in the Banbury Guardian, although the editorial, which had commented on the matter, had been very fair. It was agreed that the Parish Council should respond to the Banbury Guardian correcting the article.

(i) **Parish Plan.** The Working Group would be writing to Cllr Squires with their requests.

115/04

Planning Working Group

Cllr Swash reported as follows:

- (a) A list of approvals was circulated
- (b) **04/02625/F 22 The Deadings, Deddington.** Erection of two storey side extension and new front porch. **No objection.**
- (c) **04/02363/F Hempton House, Hempton.** Re-roofing of existing garage with pitched roof. **No objection.**
- (d) **04/02703/LB Cromwell House, Market Place, Deddington.** Installation of satellite mini dish to rear. **No objection.**
- (e) **04/02622/F Home Farm Cottage, Clifton.** Two storey extension and erection of garage to rear, erection of front porch. **No objection.**
- (f) **02722/REM The Vicarage, Earls Lane, Deddington. Reserved Matters (04/01713/OUT)** Demolition of existing Vicarage and erection of new vicarage, 2 No building plots and new access to highway. Cllr Swash reported that requests regarding the existing school playground had now been met. District O'Sullivan reported that the planning office was recommending that the new building should be moved forward 4/5 meters towards the road. **It was agreed that there should be no objection providing this recommendation were met.**
- (g) **04/02730/TCA The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Deddington.** To remove dead branches from a walnut tree and overhanging ones to neighbours' back wall. No objection.
- (h) **05/00015/F OS Parcel 8556 East of council Depot and Banbury Road, Deddington.** Development of 20m lattice tower, 3 antennae, 4 transmission dishes, 6 equipment cabinets and ancillary equipment. This was an application by Orange for a phone mast; Cllr Squires confirmed that this was not a tetra mask, which was the main source of concern regarding safety issues. District Cllr O'Sullivan reported that the officers had wanted it put in the Council yard, but the council had preferred the other side of the road as it would be better screened by trees there. It was felt that there was no point opposing the application but it was important to get the mast positioned as suitably as possible. It was felt that as there was already urbanization on the west side of the road, this would be preferable. **It was agreed that a letter should be sent accordingly, suggesting that the mast were positioned on the west side of the road, just north of the Council depot.**
- (i) **04/02666/F Land adjoining and East of the Barnstead, The Lane, Hempton.** Erection of one dwelling with access. The Working Group felt that the site was large enough to take two houses. However, a letter of objection had been received from one of the neighbours because of the proximity of the proposed new dwelling to his garden and because his property would be overshadowed by a much larger property. District Cllr O'Sullivan said that objections could only be made on planning grounds. These could be its proximity to a listed building; also two little cottages would be in

keeping with the site. **Cllr Haslam proposed that the Parish Council should oppose the application; this was seconded by Cllr Watt and agreed**

116/04 **Invoices for Payment**

A schedule of invoices totaling £2927.66 was tabled, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, was approved for payment.

117/04 **Investment of Councils Funds**

BANK BALANCES AS AT 19th January 2005

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
70708526	1367.57	.1%	Imprest
70708542	3578.07	.1%	Current
TOTAL	4945.64		
Bradford & Bingley	1000.00	2.85%	120 Days
W. Bromwich Building Soc.	537659.85	4.0%	Overnight
TOTAL	543605.49		

118/04 **Correspondence**

(a) It was noted that the Grant money from CDC for the All Weather Court had been received on 5 January.

119/04 **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 19 January at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.