

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Town Hall, Deddington on Wednesday, 17th July, 1996 at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Councillors Todd (Chairman), Mrs Brewer, Clarke, Clinch, Colley, Drake, Mrs Fisher, Flux, Miss Hill, Mrs Lee, Oddy, Mrs Stevens and Mrs Swash. County Councillor N Matthews in attendance.

24/96 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Cr Cosgrove and District Councillor P O'Sullivan.

25/96 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th June, 1996.

Subject to the following addition to Minute 12/96 the Minutes were agreed unanimously as a true record and were signed by the Chairman. "Cr Oddy declared a non-pecuniary interest and queried how Crs Miss Hill and Flux could speak against the changes to the staircase at The Deddington Arms when neither had seen it".

✓26/96 Matters arising from the Minutes.

The Clerk reported that, other than himself, no-one had attended the meeting, called by this Council, to discuss the future of the Health Service in Banbury and its surrounding area. A member of the Review Team and the Chief Executive of the Community Health Council had travelled a considerable distance to address the meeting and were obviously very disappointed with the outcome. Agreed that a letter of apology be forwarded to the Review Body. Details of future meetings were distributed to Members.

27/96 Recreation Committee.

Cr Mrs Lee reported (a) that the Annual Inspection of the play equipment had taken place and apart from the need to tighten a few nuts and bolts (already effected) the equipment was in a satisfactory condition.

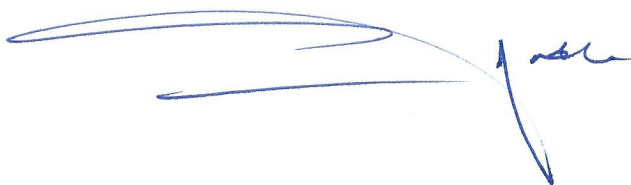
(b) the Play Area at Clifton had now been ploughed and would be maintained through the summer prior to autumn reseeding.

(c) it was agreed that the allotments competition referred to in Minute 13/96(a) should be in respect of Council owned allotments only.

28/96 Environment Committee.

Cr Mrs Stevens reported as follows:-

(a) Referring to Minute 170/95 the cost of the wire enclosure for the Cemetery was found to be considerably in excess of the £50 allocated. It was agreed that the village steward should construct one from posts provided at £2 each and wire donated by Cr Miss Hill. From the initial allocation of £50 it was suggested and agreed that evergreens be planted around the area in order that it would be screened.



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(b) Complaints had been made that the skip in its new location was too high for parishioners to reach. It was suggested that if persons mounted the grass, the skip would be no higher than in its former position.

✓(c) The recycling station in the Banbury Road layby had been in a disgusting state, both the newspaper and can banks had been full and surplus materials were strewn alongside. The Clerk was asked to contact Dr Knowland at the District Council requesting that he ensure that the site is regularly inspected and suggesting that a receptacle is installed for the receipt of cardboard boxes which parishioners use to convey their recyclable materials.

(d) Cr Mrs Stevens had attended the meeting in Bloxham concerning Parish Conservation Plans. A very interesting circular walk of the village was undertaken led by Mr P Sheasby during which botanical specimen were described and ways of determining the age of the hedgerows. 24 volunteers were involved at Bloxham in the preparation of their Conservation Plan and she hoped that a similar group could be set up in this Parish.

(e) A letter had been received from Mrs Brownlea complaining that advertising boards on the Greens were obstructing the vision of motorists. It was agreed that the Committee would investigate the possibility of centralising, in the Market Place, the advertising of Deddington businesses.

(f) An account had been received from the Traditional Clock Company in the sum of £1,076.37 of which all but £212.62 was in respect of labour 'at a reduced rate'. Subject to it being verified that the whole of the labour cost was incurred following this Council's agreement to accept such costs viz 5th January, 1995 and production of copy invoices for materials it was resolved that the invoice be paid.

(g) The Best Kept Village judges had made their preliminary assessment of villages and have included Deddington in their final round of judging.

(h) No information had been forthcoming from Thames Water regarding their survey of Water Pressures in the village. The Clerk was requested to write to Thames Water for information.

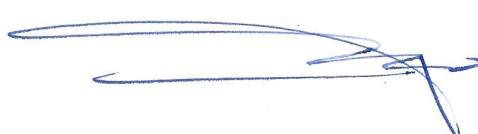
(i) A complaint had been received from Hempton regarding the fact that push chairs cannot negotiate the area between the bus shelter and the grit bin. The Clerk was asked to investigate the best way of correcting this matter.

(j) The recently published response of the Association of Local Councils to the Government's Rural White Paper was commended to each member of the Council and a copy was to be circulated to each Committee Chairman.

29/96 Highways Committee.

✓ Cr Mrs Brewer reported that ; -

(a) as a result of the laying of the fibre optic cabling through the village the meeting with the County Council to discuss road and footpath repairs would be postponed until the Autumn. Parishioners who had forwarded details of repairs





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required were thanked for their interest.

✓(b) Regarding the laying of the above cables through the village centre instead of along the A4260, the Clerk was asked to write to National Grid to establish the reason why and who took the decision as conflicting statements were being made. The whole matter showed an abysmal lack of communication between the County Council and this Parish. It was proposed by Cr Flux and seconded by Cr Clinch that a press release be made coincidentally with the laying scheme reaching the Market Place - Chapel Square pinch point. This motion was approved unanimously.

(c) In connection with the pipe laying scheme underground junction boxes are to be laid at specified intervals 2 of which would be situated in St Thomas Street and in the Horsefair. The contractor had offered to place a third box at a site to be determined by this Council and it was agreed that this should be in the Market Place.

(d) The Clerk was asked to enquire of the County Council whether large 30 mph signs could be erected on the entrances to the three settlements.

(e) P C Donahue had agreed to assist with any parking scheme which the Council wished to initiate.

(h) Cr Colley again raised the question of the condition of the Clifton Footpath. Cr Mrs Brewer stated that the County Council had applied weedkiller and rolled the path as promised and in her view the path was now in a more useable condition. The Council will continue to exert pressure on the County Council to bring the path up to a reasonable standard and it will be inspected at the forthcoming meeting. (See (a) above).

30/96 Planning and Property Committee.

Cr Miss Hill reported the recommendations of her Committee as follows:-

Applications

✓96/284F Duke of Cumberlands Head, Clifton - Internal and External Alterations - No objection.

✓96/943F and 944CAC - Merrybower Cottage, Philcote Street - Demolition of single storey building and barn and construction of 2 storey extension and garage - No objection.

✓96/989F West of St John's Church, Hempton - Conversion, alteration and extension to 2 existing cottages to form 1 dwelling and conversion of outbuildings to detached garage and store - No observations. (Subsequently the Parochial Church Council met and recommended that the attention of the LPA be drawn to the bedroom window on the east elevation which looks directly into the Church and is unsatisfactory)

✓96/991F - Land east of Batchelors Row, Hempton - Erection of 2 detached stone cottage style dwellings, construction of 6 parking bays for existing cottages and setting out of vehicle turning area - Objection on basis that (a) inadequate access, (b) no footpaths, (c) general road safety,

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(d) partially outside the limits of the hamlet. Cr Oddy moved Cr Mrs Swash seconded and it was resolved unanimously.

Approvals

96/284F and 285LB - Duke of Cumberlands Head, Clifton -

Alterations

96/760F - Geggs Lodge, Hempton Road - Restoration of north facing boundary wall

Refusal

96/578F - Boulderdyke Farm, Clifton - Parking area for anglers cars.

31/96 Windmill Committee.

Cr Flux reported that a considerable number of items on the internal maintenance survey had now been rectified including the key electrical ones. Discussions with DesignGro in order to tighten up the outside maintenance contract were to take place.

32/96 Accounts for Payment.

Accounts totalling £5,558.17 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment.

33/96 Investment of the Council's Funds.

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

£

450,000.00 Bradford & Bingley b s Bonus 120 Account at 6.5%

58,000.00 Treasury Deposit at 5.125%

30,058.62 at 14 days notice at 4.375%

46,857.12 overnight at 3%

584,915.74

Following consultation with financial advisors and the District Auditor the Clerk recommended that £200,000 be invested in Sun Life Discretionary Management Service Trustee Income Portfolio with Protected Value. The aim would be, over a reasonable period of time (10 years), to achieve capital growth, with protection of the value of the investment, which would be revalued in an upward direction only, every 3 years. The funds are currently invested as to 30% in Fixed Interest Securities, 14% Overseas, 55% UK companies and 1% Cash. It was resolved that members, though in agreement with the principle of such an investment, would like more time to consider the proposals, the details of which were to be circulated.

34/96 Security in the Parish.

Cr Oddy circulated a report upon a meeting held with Techtrix Ltd with the police also in attendance, at which details of a security camera system to be shortly installed in Chalgrove at the company's expense as a trial site were exemplified. He asked for the Parish Council's approval for a free survey of this Parish to be undertaken by the Company, who would then





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advise upon a suitable system with its estimated cost. Should this be acceptable to this Council it would be necessary to carry out a referendum in the village to assess the response of Parishioners. Council agreed to proceed to the stage of requesting a free survey and pricing to follow a visit to the Chalgrove 'test' site.

35/96 Low Cost Housing.

Cr. Oddy reported that the new architect was at an early stage in his discussions with the LPA and that whilst the Housing Association is conscious of the need to draw down the Housing Association Grant for the scheme they are also aware of the need to gain the support of the planners.

36/96 Correspondence.

(a) Letter from the Headteacher of the Primary School thanking the Council for their generosity in allowing the Parish Steward to undertake work in the school gardens.' He did a very good job for which we are very grateful.'

(b) A Communications Survey from the O C C which it was agreed the Chairman and Clerk should complete.

(c) Letters from the Director of the newly formed Environmental Services Department of the County Council and the Area Engineer describing the amalgamation of the County Engineer's and County Planning Departments. This could be beneficial to this Council in that several services are being moved to Area Office at Bicester.

(d) Notification from the County Council that the Earls Lane Traffic Management Scheme had been approved subject to a detailed 1/200 detailed drawing being submitted by this Council's agents.

(e) Copy of a petition from residents of Earls Lane, addressed to Cr Matthews, complaining about the lack of progress with the Earls Lane Scheme.

✓ (f) Letter from the Victim Support Scheme - North Oxfordshire requesting a contribution to their work. Resolved that a donation of £100 be made.

✓ (g) Letter from the Banbury & District Citizens Advice Bureau requesting the renewal of the Council's contribution to their work. Resolved that a donation of £150 be made.

(h) Details of the revised services to be run by Cherwell Villager which will include a stop at Hempton on a Monday service to Banbury and at Deddington on a Saturday service to Banbury.

37/96 Date of Next Meeting.

It was agreed to not have a meeting in August and the next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday, 18th September at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

