

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 16 July 2003
commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Mrs Harvey (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Swash, Todd, Alton, Squires, Wood, Rollason, Westley, Cox, Haslam, Co Cllr Jelf, Graham Pitts (Clerk), Sue Gibbs (Minute Secretary).

34/03

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Watts, Ellis and District Councillor O'Sullivan

35/03

Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

36/03

Declaration of Interests

Cllr Todd declared an interest in an item to be discussed on planning and one item of correspondence.

37/03

10 Minute Open Forum

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

38/03

Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Spender reported as follows:

- a. **BMX Track.** Cllr Spencer declared an interest because of work undertaken by Richard Spencer. Free topsoil had been obtained from Bryant Homes by Richard Spencer and Walkers of Deddington had agreed to move this free of charge. Soil delivery had now begun. Richard Spencer was also providing the hire of a digger. It was proposed that the construction work would begin on 26 July. No children would be required at the site that day as it was too dangerous, but it was agreed that volunteers to help with the compaction of the soil and other works would be asked to come the following Saturday, 3 August. **It was agreed that the school would be asked to notify pupils before they broke up, and posters would be put up. It was also agreed that letters of thanks would be sent to Richard Spencer, Walkers of Deddington and any others who had contributed.** New signage for the site was under production, but fencing surrounding the site required further discussions, particularly in the light of required wheelchair access.
- b. **Stewards Responsibilities.** The Chairman had raised concerns about the questionnaire circulated at the previous meeting and after some discussion it had been agreed that the Clerk should prepare a paper to be presented to the Parish Council in October. In response to Cllr Cox, Cllr Swash confirmed that the need to look at the Stewards responsibilities had not arisen from a specific complaint, although some parishioners had been asking for clarification. Cllr Squires added that when discussing the budgetary constraints facing the Parish Council, the two key areas had been employment and grass cutting. Declaring his interest as a member of the Windmill Management Committee, Cllr Rollason asked if the Clerk's report could clarify the extent of work undertaken by

- the Stewards at the Windmill Centre, for which the Parish Council was reimbursed. **It was agreed that this should be included.**
- c. **Open Access/Right to Roam.** The draft maps had been received. Cllr Squires was reviewing them and would be reporting back at the next meeting.
 - d. **Vandalism** This was currently of particular concern, following the new attack at the Cemetery. PC Middleton had been to see the parents and the youths involved and given them an informal warning, making it clear that if there were any further incidents to which they could be linked formal proceedings would be taken.
 - e. **New Disability Discrimination Act Legislation October 2004.** Councillor Spencer had attended a meeting outlining the changes the previous day and will report in detail at the next meeting. It was noted that the Clerk had already initiated an Access Audit for the Play Areas and had some recommendations following this.
 - f. **Budget Update.** Details of the existing budget were tabled. The Working Group was able to confirm to the Parish Council that with grant aid and changes in BMX track plans, its budget surplus would be at least £2000, which would provide the funds for the installation of water at Stonepits allotments. The Chairman stated that it was the usual practice that a budgetary surplus would be put before the whole Council before making a decision as to how it should be spent. Cllr Squires pointed out that at the previous meeting the installation of water had already been agreed “in principle”, providing funding could be found and the question of ownership resolved. On this latter point, the Clerk confirmed that he had spoken to the senior partner of the solicitors and the matter was in hand. **It was agreed that he should also look into availability of grants to contribute to the cost of installing water at the site.**
 - g. **Satin Lane.** Cllr Squires declared an interest as an allotment holder. The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Lane Fox and asked for confirmation as to whether a formal offer to purchase the site would be welcome.
 - h. **Recycling Road Show.** This would be coming to Deddington on 30 July from 10am to 4pm.
 - i. **Play Area.** The Clerk was thanked for getting the swings replaced so quickly.
 - j. **Summer Energize.** CDC was bringing this to the Windmill Centre every Wednesday for 5 weeks between 1-3pm.
 - k. **All Weather Pitch.** Cllr Haslam raised concerns about the sweeping of the All Weather Pitch. The Clerk confirmed that this had already been raised and the Stewards would be keeping the area clear. Responding to Cllr Rollason, the Chairman confirmed that any repairs that were needed to the All Weather pitch would be the Parish Council’s responsibility.

39/03

Planning and Property Working Group

Cllr Harvey reported as follows:

- a. A list of approvals, subject to conditions was read out. There had been one refusal.
- b. **03/01327/F Sylvan Cottage.** Install egress door to North elevation roof slope to garage. **No objection**
- c. **03/01339/F 31 The Daedings, Deddington.** First floor extension to rear. **No objection**
- d. **03/01339/F Woolgrove House, Duns Tew Road, Hempton** Erection of detached garage/workshop/store. **No objection**.
- e. **03/01364/LB Unicorn Hotel, Market Place, Deddington.** Repairs comprising of insertion of a steel lintel and replacement of a timber framed sash window to match

- existing in rear elevation. **No objection**.
- f. 03/01380/F 2 County View, Clifton** Two storey rear extension. **No objection**
 - g. 03/013339/F 65 St Johns Way, Hempton** Single Storey rear extension. **No objection**
 - h. 03/01329/F Windmill Stores, Hempton Road, Deddington** Change of use of A3 use (hot food take away) and erection of external extraction ducting. Cllr Todd declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting. The Working Group had no objection to the change of use, but there were concerns which had been raised by residents about the ducting system, both because of its appearance and siting, whether there would be sufficient parking and likely opening hours. After some discussion **it was agreed that the Parish Council would respond saying it had no objection in principle, but did have concerns about the matters listed above and asking that these be taken into consideration.**
 - i. Upper Heyford.** The Environment Secretary, John Prescott, had rejected an appeal by NOC to build up to 5000 homes.
 - j. Proposed Large Scale Voluntary Transfer of the Council's Housing Stock.** Following reporting of this in April, CDC was now seeking views of tenants. In Deddington this is restricted to the small piece of land to the rear of Windmill Close used for garaging/parking by the residents of the Close. The Parish Council has no objection. The Environment Secretary has to give his consent if the transfer is to proceed and by law, may not do so if the majority of tenants do not wish the transfer to proceed.

40/03

Highways Working Group

Cllr Haslam reported as follows:

- a. Effectiveness of Working Group.** As stated at the previous meeting, the Working Group had discussed how it could be more effective and agreed that it should work closely with the Clerk to ensure that the Council's views regarding key safety issues was heard loud and clear.
- b. Key Responsibilities.** It was agreed that the Working Group should focus on 3 key areas, namely Hempton Road safety and speeding; Clifton Road safety and pedestrian path; and Deddington Parish – completion of the traffic calming programme. It was important that the Parish was aware of these areas and that other matters would be dealt with once these had been completed. Co Cllr Jelf confirmed that there had recently been a change of personnel at the Highways Department and promised to keep the Parish Council informed.
- c. Correspondence.** Various correspondence had been reviewed including letters from parishioners regarding speeding in Hempton and along Earls Lane. The Clerk was asked to respond informing parishioners that the Working Group was focusing on 3 key areas but would keep these issues on file to consider at a later date.

40/03

Finance and General Purposes Working Group

Cllr Todd reported as follows:

- a. It had been agreed that he would continue to chair the working group for the current year.
- b. School Governor.** The Parish Council nomination would last until January 2005. **It was agreed that Linda Davies would be asked to provide the Parish Council with feedback on any pertinent points.**

- c. **Jubilee Celebration.** The final accounts were being prepared.
- d. **Church Lighting.** It was agreed that the Parish Council should accept the PCC's offer to 50/50 for the cost of the church lighting (electricity and maintenance).
- e. **Chairman's Allowance.** Further information was awaited before a revised resolution could be put to Council.
- f. **Student Grants.** The Clerk had placed an item in the Deddington News.
- g. **Noticeboards.** The noticeboard at the school would be erected once the school had broken up. The Clerk would also be meeting with the new Practice Manager at the Health Centre to progress this there. It was agreed that the Noticeboards should be used to promote community events only, not commercial activities, and that a notice to this effect should be placed on each board. After some discussion it was also agreed that the large board on the Green could now be removed.
- h. **Deddington PC Accounts 200203.** Draft accounts were tabled. It was agreed that these should be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr Wood, together with the Clerk, was thanked for his work in preparing these so quickly.
- i. **Internal Auditor.** A suitable candidate had expressed interest and the F&GP would report further at the next meeting.
- j. **Banking.** This was now in hand. It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chairman of F&GP and the Parish Clerk should be authorized to access the accounts and be given the password. The password would be changed annually at the AGM or in the interim if personnel changed.
- k. **OCC – Periodic Electoral Review.** The changes proposed do not affect the parish of Deddington, although there are minor amendments to the Deddington Division suggested for future CC elections, in order to even up the number of electors each CC member represented.

41/03

Invoices for Payment

Invoices totaling £4768.19 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment.

42/03

Investment of Councils Funds

At the close of business on 16 July 2003 the balances were as follows:

BANK BALANCES AS AT 21/05/03

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
70708526	1590.00	.1%	Imprest
70708542	5933.72	.1%	Current
TOTAL	7523.72		
Bradford & Bingley	1000.00	3.4%	120 Days
W. Bromwich Building Soc	526373.97	3.75%	Overnight
TOTAL	534897.69		

43/03

Correspondence

A list of correspondence was circulated at the meeting.

- a. **Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association.** Letter from Roger Davies regarding concerns over the safety of the goalposts. The Chairman confirmed that this was being taken care of by both the Parish Council and Deddington Colts.
- b. **Royal British Legion.** It was noted that the hearing on the Licence had been adjourned for another month. The Chairman confirmed that he was keeping in touch with Rodney Hayward (a Trustee) regarding this and would report any relevant developments.
- c. **OCC.** The Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2001-2016 would be published in September.

44/03

Cherwell Annual Review and Performance Booklet

The Chairman reported that he had received a copy of this, which would be available for any Parish Councillors.

45/03

New Licensing Bill

In view of the new Licensing Bill which was shortly to receive Royal Assent, **Cllr Rollason proposed that a representative from CDC be asked to come and speak at a Parish Council meeting, outlining the changes and their implications. This was agreed.**

46/03

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 20 August 2003 at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Given that a number of Councillors were likely to be away, **it was agreed that if it were felt that there was insufficient business, this meeting could be cancelled nearer the time.**