

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 18 June 2003
commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Mrs Harvey (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Swash, Todd, Alton, Squires, Wood, Ellis, Watts, Rollason, Haslam, District Cllr O'Sullivan, Graham Pitts (Clerk), Sue Gibbs (Minute Secretary).

21/03 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Westley, Mrs Cox, Mrs Spencer and County Councillor Jelf

22/03 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

17/03: Cllr Haslam queried the vote which had taken place to decide future meeting dates. The Chairman confirmed that he had made a casting vote in favour of continuing to meet on a Wednesday. Cllr Todd confirmed that he had abstained from the vote. **It was agreed that the second paragraph should be amended to read:**

“It was agreed that before the end of the calendar year, consideration be given to changing parish council meetings from Wednesdays to Mondays. An agenda item will be made for the November meeting”

Subject to this change, the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

23/03 **Matters arising**

No 44, Mill Close, Deddington. The Clerk confirmed that the planning department had visited the site but the proposals had not been to the planning committee yet.

24/03 **Declaration of Interests**

Cllrs Ellis and Harvey declared an interest in the item relating to Deddington Royal British Legion Club.

25/03 **10 Minute Open Forum**

Guy Fairclough spoke on behalf of the Hempton residents who were using the Stonepits allotments. He said these were now working well and were providing an important addition to the community. However, the need for water was becoming more pressing and he and fellow allotment holders were asking the Parish Council to come to some decision regarding the installation of water for the plot. There were volunteers who would be able to put in the pipes on the allotments themselves; the main issue was the cost of the initial connection which had to be supplied by Thames Water.

The Clerk confirmed that Thames Water had quoted £1300 to provide water from the mains to the allotments gate. Other costs amounting to a further £700 related to bringing the water inside the allotments.

26/03

Planning and Property Working Group

Cllr Harvey reported as follows:

- a. A list of approvals, subject to conditions was read out.
- b. 03/01031/LB Market Place Cottage, Market Place, Deddington. Replace existing roof covering the new natural slate to match existing installation of a roof light to rear slope. **No objection**
- c. 03/00781/LB The Cottage, Goose Green, Deddington. Alterations to front door. **No objection.**
- d. 03/00954/F Stone Lea, Hempton. Proposed new natural slate roof and repair of existing stone walls to existing barn. **No objection**
- e. 03/01162/F Co-op, Market Place, Deddington. Single storey rear extension to food store and internal alterations on first floor for staff room. Alterations and improvements to external yard. The Working Group was concerned at the loss of retail space but noted that the applicants had stated that the additional storage would result in improved distribution of deliveries. It was also noted that the applicants had undertaken that deliveries would only take place between 7.00am and 7.00pm, and would take account of funerals and weddings. Cllr Harvey had checked with the residents immediately next to the Co-op and those she had been able to speak to (Mourné Cottage, Hendon Cottage and 1 The Market Place) had no objection. Cllr Squires stated that the residents of No 2 had been concerned that the times of deliveries were not being adhered to; it was confirmed that the delivery times would be a condition of planning approval. The Chairman said that this application was a new submission which took account of all the objections which had been raised to a previous application. **It was agreed that the Council would not object to the current proposal with the conditions attached.**

27/03

Highways Working Group

- a. Cllr Haslem reported that the Highways Working Group had not met since the previous Parish Council meeting because no progress had been made on the various issues it was working on. Referring to the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting he reported as follows:
- b. 7/03a: No response had been received and the Clerk was asked to chase again
- c. 7/03b: OCC had confirmed that this would be put forward as a bid for their future works programme
- d.** 7/03i, j, k: Letters had been sent but no response had yet been received.
- e.** 7/03g: The Working Group was increasingly concerned at the time it was taking to get a response to the issues it raised. At their next meeting on 16 July, which they had asked the Chairman to attend, the Working Group would be looking at ways in which this could be rectified.

28/03

Finance and General Purposes Working Group

No meeting had been held since the last Parish Council meeting. Cllr Todd reported the following:

- a. **Chairmans Allowance.** Cllr Flux had been informed by Peter Rooke at CDC that the best way to deal with student grants was through Section 137. Using the Chairman's allowance was illegal. **It was agreed that this would formally be put to the PC once this information had been received in writing.**
- b. **Members Allowances.** Cllr Todd proposed that the Council should pay its members an allowance and in respect of travel and subsistence where appropriate in respect of business approved by Council out of the area. **This was seconded by Cllr Squires and approved.**
- c. **Internal Auditor.** A name had been put forward and F&GP would be looking at this.
- d. **Banking.** It was possible that the Clerk would no longer be able to obtain the account balances by telephone. H was therefore looking into Internet banking, solely in order to be able to do this.
- e. A letter had been received to from OCC to Cllr Todd both as Parish Councillor and representing Friends of Deddington Library, to attend a meeting on 1 July at which the Audit Commission would be running through the rules governing culture groups.

29/03

Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Swash reported as follows:

- a. Cllr Spencer would be taking over as Chairman from July.
- b. **BMX Track.** The site had been inspected by CDC and the Stewards would be marking out the proposed area with white lines. The Clerk was in the process of obtaining quotes from contractors for diggers, topsoil etc. It was important now to ensure that there were volunteers to help with the work and Deddington News was asked to make the appropriate appeal for this.
- c. **Best Kept Village.** Judging should have taken place by now.
- d. **Stewards.** The schedule of work carried out by the stewards was discussed by the working group (and needs to be discussed further with the clerk). A questionnaire was presented but this has since been withdrawn.
- e. **Play Areas.** More bark was required and the area needed raking; this was necessary to comply with safety regulations. The Clerk reported that the "Rospa" inspection had taken place last week and the report was awaited. Two new swings had arrived to replace those in the toddlers play area which had been vandalized.
- f. **Recycling Road Show.** This would be coming to Deddington on 30 July from 10am to 4.00pm and Deddington News was requested to publicise this. It was anticipated that the parish would be provided with new types of bins/containers by the end of the year.
- g. **Satin Lane.** Following a visit, Lane Fox had expressed concern regarding the uncultivated area which was reverting to scrub and asked that this be cut back on a regular basis. They had also been concerned about the hedge. Unofficially, Lane Fox had indicated that it might be possible for the Council to purchase this site. **It was agreed that official confirmation of this was needed before it could be investigated further.**

- h. **Stonepits.** The allotment holders had indicated the need for water on this site; however the cost of installation would be in the region of £2,000, although this could be reduced if some of the work were undertaken by allotment holders themselves. Whilst recognizing the importance of installing water, it was felt that this sum should not be spent until the ownership of the land had been clarified. There was also concern at the budgetary implications, particularly in the current year. It was thought that the provision of water butts could provide at least a short-term solution. After some discussion **it was agreed that in the short term, water butts should be installed. In the longer term, the Council agreed in principle to the installation of a water supply once ownership had been resolved, and the Working Group would revert with accurate figures and budgetary implications. The possibility of grants would also be explored.**
- i. **Cemetery.** The Clerk had met Mr Fox and clarified the areas to be cut.

30/03 **Invoices for Payment**

Invoices totaling £5840.74 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment.

31/03 **Investment of Councils Funds**

At the close of business on 18 June 2003 the balances were as follows:

BANK BALANCES AS AT 16/06/03

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
70708526	1519.82	.1%	Imprest
70708542	12785.37	.1%	Current
TOTAL	14305.19		
Bradford & Bingley	1000.00	3.4%	120 Days
W. Bromwich Building Soc.	526373.97	3.75%	Overnight
TOTAL	<u>540679.16</u>		

32/03 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence was circulated at the meeting.

- a. **D Webb:** Letter from Deddington Cricket club – this had been passed on to the Windmill Management Committee
- b. **Wesleyan Reform Church** The Clerk confirmed that it had been agreed that the photocopier should be given to a “worthy home”.

- c. **Royal British Legion.** Cllrs Ellis and Mrs Harvey declared an interest. The Chairman confirmed that he and Cllr Wood had met the Trustees of the RBL. A proposal had been put forward but it was not necessary for the Parish Council to be involved at this stage, although they had written to the Trustees saying that the Parish Council hoped that any change would be for the better. As far as a change of licence was concerned, a letter had been sent to the Magistrates stating that if the proposals were only for a change of name, the Parish council would have no objections, but would be concerned about any other proposals. The hearing had been adjourned, as there had been a number of objections. Cllr Todd expressed concern that the Parish Council should be aware of the dates for the adjournment in order to have the chance to forward its view to the Clerk to the Justices. **It was agreed that the Clerk would find out the relevant dates.**

33/03

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 16th July 2003 at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm.