

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 16 June 2004
commencing at 7.45pm

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

20/04

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ellis, Spencer, Swash, Harvey, and Westley.

21/04

Minutes of Last Meeting

- a. Cllr Haslam reported that he had been asked by Cllr Westley to ensure that to his comments relating to the precept and the need to look at this in relation the village plan were included in the Minutes. It was confirmed that these comments had been included in paragraph 66/04 (e).
- b. Cllr Todd requested that the words "*would put this request to*" be deleted from paragraph 68/04 (g) and replaced with "*this was not a matter for*" and the rest of the sentence from "*and it was agreed that this was a matter for OCC*" should be deleted.

Subject to these changes, the Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 19 May were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

22/04

Declaration of Interests

Councillors declared an interest as follows:

- a. 25/04 (c) Cllrs Flux and Rollason declared an interest
- b. 27/04(b) Cllr Flux declared an interest

23/04

10 Minute Open Forum

Charles Barker spoke on the new Parking Working Group.

24/04

Finance and General Purposes Working Group

Cllr Wood reported as follows:

- a. The Accounts to 31 March had been passed by the Internal Auditor. **It was agreed that the Accounts should be accepted and now submitted to the External Auditor.**
- b. The monthly statement was circulated, showing two months of actual spending and cash flow for the rest of the year. The forecast was as budgeted at the moment.
- c. **Town Hall.** Cllrs. Wood and Flux had met with Charles Newey and Terry Clinch of Deddington Estates to discuss what should happen after the Parish Council's lease on the Town Hall expired in 2006. The Town Hall needed major alterations in order to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act involving significant cost implications. Currently the Parish Council had a full repairing lease and Deddington Estates believe

the most viable way forward would be for this to be renewed on the same terms, although another alternative would be that Deddington Estates did not lease the building but that the Parish Council should just rent it for meetings. Following the meeting Cllr Wood and Charles Newey suggested that a letter should be sent to parishioners via the Deddington News canvassing opinion as to how they would like the building used. There was some concern amongst Councillors that because of the cost implications, this letter should not come from the Parish Council although **it was agreed that it would be useful to canvas opinion** and that there was nothing to stop such a letter being written by Deddington Estates. **It was also agreed that questions on the Town Hall could be included in the Village Plan questionnaire. It was agreed that the issue needed more thought and could not be readily resolved.**

25/04

Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Squires reported as follows:

- a. **Stonepits Allotments.** Cllr Flux would be meeting the solicitors the following Tuesday.
- b. **Village Plan.** It was hoped that more volunteers for the working group would come forward; in the meantime the existing working group would start to move things forward. **It was agreed that an article should be placed in Deddington News to further publicise the group.** The other Working Groups were also asked to consider subjects relevant to their areas for the questionnaire.
- c. **Hard Play Area.** The Chairman confirmed that a letter had been received that day from Cherwell confirming that they would fund 25% of the costs of the project. He had also met with a representative from the proposed contractors and it was anticipated that the work would be completed within 2 to 3 months. Now that confirmation regarding funding had been received from CDC, the work could officially be commissioned. Cllr Rollason suggested that before this was done it would be useful to look at work undertaken by this contractor.
- d. **Grass Cutting.** Further complaints had been received, particularly in relation to the Cemetery. The position was being monitored and more cuts being undertaken for the moment, although these would be spaced out further later in the year. The Chairman apologized to anyone in the village who felt that graves had been desecrated by grass being dropped on them.
- e. **Regional Planning.** There was generally agreement with the concern expressed by Co Cllr Jelf and OCC at shift of planning policy away from an elected body. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council would write to OCC supporting these concerns with a copy to the local MP.
- f. **Playing Fields Association.** Cllr Watts had attended a meeting with the Playing Fields Association. One of the main issues had been the question of liability. It is essential that equipment is checked regularly and that this is recorded, and that accidents were recorded, not just in an accident book, but also in the Parish Council minutes. The Clerk confirmed that the stewards did check the equipment regularly and that this would be recorded.
- g. **Annual Playground Inspection.** Following the annual playground inspection it was noted that the gate at Wimborne Close needed a stay. The question of whether a ramp to the raised area at the Windmill Centre should be installed was discussed, but because it is difficult to push a wheelchair on the bark it was not considered to be essential. The Clerk confirmed that he had discussed this with a ROSPA approved

inspector previously when it was felt that it was acceptable to go with what was reasonable and the situation was probably okay as it was. There was also some concern regarding stones on the BMX track and the fact that the children using the track were continually changing its layout. The Clerk had talked to Roger Davies of OFPA who had confirmed that this was very common with such tracks and that it was important to keep an eye on what was happening – for example the stakes which had been put in the middle of the track had been removed. **It was decided therefore not to seed this area.** Cllr Haslam reported that during the previous week a child had broken his arm whilst playing on the monkey bars - it was noted that the drop from the bars was quite high.

- h. **OALC - Quality PC Status.** The Chairman did not think that Deddington could apply because it had co-opted members. **It was agreed that more should be found out about this, in particular what were the benefits.** An invitation had been received to attend a meeting on 6 October to cover procedural matters. Cllr Flux confirmed that he would be attending this.
- i. **Complaints Procedure.** The Clerk confirmed that a formal complaints procedure is being drafted.
- j. Hedge trimming. It was noted that the hedge at Manor Farm needed trimming as pedestrians were being pushed into the road at a dangerous junction. **It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the owners asking them to do this.**
- k. **Fire Control - Regionalisation.** **It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the local fire office supporting their opposition to this.**
- l. **Community Police Officer of the Year Award.** It was felt that this could only be recommended for something in particular, over and above the normal course of duty.

26/04

Highways Working Group

Cllr Haslam reported as follows:

- a. **Grass Verge outside Co-op.** The Clerk confirmed that he had spoken to the manager of the Co-op and also written to the Property Manager of the Co-op but had not yet had a reply.
- b. **Meeting with OCC.** A very productive meeting had been held with OCC:
 - (i) Clifton Footpath: The build out on the Clifton Footpath is to be completed by the end of August
 - (ii) Hempton: The sign had been moved already and a new “Give Way” sign would be installed on the Deddington side by the end of July;
 - (iii) Deddington: All traffic calming is to be completed by the end of August.
- c. **Parking Issues.** Deddington News was thanked for including a notice regarding the Working Group. 7 responses had been received and a filtering process was being undertaken in order to try and create a group that is representative of most of the village. Cllr Haslam would then speak to each person individually and try and ensure that the group was ready by the next meeting.
- d. **Lime Cottage.** Cllr Wood had completed an independent fact finding review and tabled a report to provide information, not putting a case one way or the other. After examining all of this thoroughly the Working Group was of the opinion that the OCC decision should not be changed and that parking should not be authorized outside the cottage. The Working Group is very aware of the strong feeling surrounding this issue and of the needs of the owner, who has three young children and of the potential

dangers involved. **It was agreed that efforts should be made to find some other way around the problem and that the Parish Council should go back and continue to work closely with the owner and the neighbours and Co Cllr Jelf to try and find a sensible solution.** One suggestion for example was whether there might be potential parking bays in the bus stop now that the local buses were smaller. It was also felt that this decision could have an impact on the work to improve parking throughout the village.

- e. **Signs in the Village** Correspondence had been received complaining about signs in the village square, particularly for Deddington Antiques Centre. Cllr Flux reported that several people had also complained that cars were parking very close to the Co-op which, combined with the Co-op putting things on the pavement, made the path quite inaccessible at times
- f. **Bus Accident** **It was agreed that following the accident involving a school bus at Aynho, a letter should be sent to both OCC and Northants County Council asking what measures were in place or being implemented to ensure that this stretch of road is made safer for all road users.** Co Cllr Jelf also agreed to look into this.
- g. **Grass Verge outside Church.** Cllr Todd said he was not happy with the way this had been reinstated. It was also agreed an eye should be kept on Featherton House as the work here appeared to be nearly completed. The same precedents that had been applied to the Co-op should be applied here.

27/04

Planning Working Group

Cllr Mrs Cox reported as per the attached schedule:

- a. A list of approvals since the last meeting was circulated.
- b. 04/01078/F 15 The Deadings, Deddington. A number of concerns were raised regarding this application. It was felt that this application potentially exceeded the 40% rule, and was an over-development of the plot, as it would mean the building would extend the whole width of the plot, leaving only a small path at the side. It would become a 5-bedroom property with no garage and although Highways had recommended that the rockery at the front be turned into a parking bay, access to the neighbours' garages would potentially be blocked. There was also concern that the extension might be turned into a self-contained unit or, if the front room were used as an office it might then become business use. **It was recommended that the application should be opposed and a request be put to CDC that it should go to the Planning Committee. It was also proposed that if the application were approved, it should be with conditions that it should be used as a single domestic property only. The motion was carried with 5 votes in favour and one abstention.** Cllr. Flux declared an interest and did not participate.

28/04

Invoices for Payment

Invoices totaling £6143.44 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment.

29/04

Investment of Councils Funds

At the close of business on 16 June 2004 the balances were as follows:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
70708526	1338.79	.1%	Imprest
70708542	8264.65	.1%	Current
TOTAL	9603.44		
Bradford & Bingley	1000.00	2.35%	120 Days
W. Bromwich Building Soc.	564259.85	4.0%	Overnight
TOTAL	574863.29		

30/04 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence was circulated at the meeting.

31/04 **Deddington News**

The Chairman reported that Norman Stone would be no longer taking the minutes for Deddington News in future. The Parish Council thanked Mr Stone for all his work in reporting the meetings for Deddington News and wished him well in the future.

32/04 **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 21 July in the Town Hall commencing at 7.45pm.

It was agreed that consideration would be given at this meeting as to whether it would be necessary to hold a meeting in August.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.