

## DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 15 June 2005  
commencing at 7.45pm

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

- 19/05 **Apologies**  
Apologies were received from Cllrs Westley and Watts.
- 20/05 **Minutes of Last Meeting**  
The Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 May 2005 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 21/05 **Matters Arising**  
Cllr Haslam expressed concern regarding coverage of the meeting in Deddington News. It was agreed that this would be discussed under any other business.
- 22/05 **Declaration of Interests**  
  
08/05 (b): Cllr Todd declared an interest.  
10/05 (a): Cllr Putland declared an interest.  
15/05: Cllrs Flux and Todd declared an interest.
- 23/05 **10 Minute Open Forum**  
  
Two members of the public addressed the meeting expressing their concerns at proposals to hold a fair in Deddington in November. The Chairman thanked them for their comments and promised to take their concerns on board.
- 24/05 **Nominee/Sponsorship for Governorship of Parish School**  
  
The Clerk explained that in order to maintain links with the school, the Parish Council was eligible to nominate either a sponsor governor, or an associate member of the governors. It was noted that the latter would have no voting rights and would have to withdraw from confidential items of discussion. Cllr Wood reported that this had been discussed by the F&GP Group who had felt that it would be appropriate to nominate a sponsor governor, providing it was clear that this did involve the Parish Council in any financial commitment towards the school. **This was agreed. The Chairman nominated Cllr Watts to become the sponsor governor; there being no further nominations this was agreed. It was also agreed that the school would be informed that this post would not carry any financial responsibilities.**
- 25/05 **Deddington Festival**  
  
The programme for the Deddington Festival was noted.

26/05

### Planning Working Group

Cllr Swash reported as follows:

- (a) **Drawing Number 503214 Oxfordshire CC re Deddington CE School.** Relocation of existing school car park within existing school grounds and provision of replacement hard play area. It was noted that this now left room for parents to congregate in the play ground. **No objection.**
- (b) **05/00906/F The Old Butchery, St Thomas St, Deddington.** Conservatory to the rear. **No objection provided there was no objection from adjacent neighbours.**
- (c) **05/009987 TCA Johnson & Co, Chapel Square, Deddington.** Fell 1 sycamore tree. This was causing damage to a boundary wall. **No objection.**
- (d) **05/00817/LB Paper Mill House, Oxford Road.** Division of one room into two on first floor. **No objection.**
- (e) **05/00918/F Stoneleigh, Horse Fair, Deddington.** Erection of wooden shed. It was noted that the proposed shed was quite extensive. **No objection** unless there was any complaint from the neighbours.
- (f) **05/00593/F Land adjoining and east of the Barnstead, Hempton.** Resubmission of 04/0266/ F amended plans. Revised design of front porch and smaller windows to front of building. **No objection.**
- (g) **05/01032/F 15 St John's Way, Hempton.** Conservatory to rear. **No objection.**
- (h) **05/00978/LB Clydesdales, Market Place, Deddington.** Internal alterations to existing building and external alterations including replacement front door. Although there was no objection to the internal alterations, there was concern about the replacement door. No reason for replacing the door had been given. District Cllr O'Sullivan said that as it concerned a listed building, it was very likely that this application would have to go to committee, particularly if the Parish Council objected. **It was agreed that the Parish Council should oppose the replacement door; if a new one were required because the existing one was rotten, it should be replaced on a like for like basis.**
- (i) A list of applications approved since the last meeting was circulated and is attached to the minutes.
- (j) Cllr Wood reported that CDC had protocols and guidance for shop fronts and it was agreed that these would provide a useful resource for the working group. A copy will be retained in the Clerks office.

27/05

### Parish Plan

The final draft questionnaire together, with a separate business questionnaire, were circulated to Cllrs who were requested to pass any comments directly to Cllr Alton within the next week. Cllr Alton added that no specific question on grass cutting had been included as this would be included with the directed questions at the end of the questionnaire. The timeframe was very tight as it was anticipated that the complete questionnaire would be produced in mid July, printed in August and delivered in September.

28/05

### Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Squires reported as follows:

- (a) **Funfair.** Following concerns raised at the last PC meeting, a meeting had been held with Mr Hatwell who had put forward revised proposals for the fair. The main concerns previously identified had been parking, the space taken up by the fair, the length of time it would be in the village and the parking of caravans in the Bullring. Mr Hatwell therefore now proposed that the fair would arrive after 6pm on Thursday evening (17/11/05) and be open to the public on Friday evening until 10pm and on Saturday afternoon and evening, also until 10pm. It would depart by 12 noon on Sunday. It would occupy the same space as the Farmers Market, plus the area of the road and bus bays immediately adjacent. Associated vehicles would be parked either at the Windmill Centre or down the side of Earls Lane. It was estimated that the same number of parking spaces would be lost as when the Farmers Market was on, but because of the road closures an extra new parking bay could be created at one end of the closed road. The traditional fair rides would be aimed primarily at 5-12 year olds. The two larger traditional rides would be either dodgems/waltzer/twister and the smaller traditional rides would be of 'toy train/car/spinning teacup' variety, as well as there being traditional fair side stalls. Health and safety considerations prevented the fair being sited at the Windmill Centre or in a field because the likelihood of rain in November meant it could not be held on grass at that time of year. As far as costs were concerned, it had been suggested that Hatwell's should be charged a rental of £150. It was estimated that the only costs to the PC were likely to be signs for road closure, and charges of around £100 for road closure/bus diversion. There would be no extra costs either for policing as the fair policed itself and had a working arrangement for calling for extra police back up if required in an emergency, or for litter as this would be cleared up by the fair.

The draft proposals were then discussed. It was noted that there had been a number of objections to the plans from villagers, their concerns largely echoing those previously expressed by councillors. It was also suggested, however, that there was probably quite a large silent majority who would be in favour of the fair returning to Deddington. It was felt that while the revised proposals answered a number of the concerns which had been raised, some reservations remained, including the following:

- (i). Buses. It was agreed that the need to divert the buses was potentially a major problem and should be investigated further;
- (ii). The risk of attracting potential trouble makers from outside the village. Cllr Squires reported that it had been Mr Hatwell's view that any trouble which occurred at small, local fairs such as was being envisaged tended to be caused by people from within the village and that they did not attract huge crowds from outside. It was suggested that if the fair were to go ahead, the police station should be open. It was also suggested that the fair could be toned down still further; however, Cllr Squires thought that Mr Hatwell had indicated that it would not be economic if only one large ride were brought.
- (iii). Access. This could still be difficult, although Mr Hatwell had reassured the working group that access would be available to all residents and businesses affected by the fair and for the emergency services.
- (iv). First Aid. Provision would need to be made for this.
- (v). Costs. Further research would be needed to ensure that costs were no more than had been estimated and also as to whether the proposed rental fee were correct. . It was felt that the Parish Council should not subsidise the fair in any way, and it was suggested that Hatwells might be asked for an indemnity if other unforeseen costs

arose.

After lengthy discussions, **it was agreed there was still a number of questions to be answered and that the Working Group should undertake further research. Meanwhile, the Clerk was asked to obtain more details regarding likely costs from CDC. A final proposal could then be put before the next meeting in July and a decision taken.** This would also give the village a chance to comment further on what was being proposed. **It was agreed that the concerns expressed by a number of villagers needed to be allayed and that the fair would need to be promoted on a very positive way.**

- (b) **Stonepits Allotments.** Water was being connected on Monday 20 June.
- (c) **Fire Service.** **It was agreed that Deddington News should be asked to re-publish that the Fire Service would undertake free household risk assessments.**
- (d) **Hempton Phone Box.** BT had requested that the cash pay facility at this phone box be removed. **It was agreed this should be raised by the Hempton correspondent in the next Deddington News before a response was sent to BT.**
- (e) **Circular Walk.** The bull was back in the field on this path and the alternative path had been blocked by an electric fence. The Clerk reported that this matter had been referred to the relevant department at CDC.
- (f) **Vandalism at the Windmill Centre.** The Chairman reported that this had been an increased problem recently and there had also been incidents of under age drinking there. As the alcohol appeared to have come from the Co-op, the management had been informed. There had also been a problem with someone tampering with the temporary traffic lights. It was important for the village to work together to reduce these incidents as far as possible. Where culprits were identified, the police would be informed and the matter dealt with quickly, as had been the case with a recent incident. Cllr Rollason said that at the last meeting of the WMC an alcohol ban for that area had been suggested. The Chairman confirmed that this had been considered but any further action was being postponed until the new licensing laws came into effect.
- (g) **Unclaimed Scooters.** The Clerk reported that 2 unclaimed scooters had been left in the play area.

29/05

### **Finance & General Purposes Working Group**

Cllr Wood reported as follows:

- (a). **Accounts to 31 March 2005.** The draft accounts for the year were circulated which had been audited by the internal auditor. Cllr Wood explained that the accounts tied in with the forecasts and the deficit of £3440.44 was as anticipated. The Chairman asked for any questions on the accounts to be addressed directly to Cllr Wood. In the absence of any further points it was agreed that the accounts and Statement of Assurance be approved and forwarded to the external auditors for their examination. In the meantime, Cllr Wood and the Clerk were thanked for all their work in preparing these and on the accounts throughout the year.
- (b). A cashflow statement for the first two months of the financial year was circulated. It was noted that many figures included on this related to the previous year and there were also a number of “one off” items. As the year progressed an actual and forecast budget would be produced.
- (c). It was noted that Strutt and Parker had used a picture of Deddington Market Square to

promote a competition they were holding to find England's favourite market town. In the light of this, **it was agreed that Cllr Wood should follow this up.**

(d). **Town Hall.** Cllr Wood confirmed that Charles Newey was drawing up draft proposals for the future of the Town Hall. The Chairman reported that the deadline for compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act had already passed. Many other organizations had also not complied with the Act, but it was felt that providing it could be shown that the Parish Council was aware of the problems and was trying to resolve them, this was acceptable. The Chairman also confirmed that the PC's lease on the Town Hall would expire on 2006.

30/05

### Highways Working Committee

Cllr Haslam reported:

(a). **Hempton.** This has now been resolved.

(b). **Clifton Footpath.** A letter had been received from David Robertson, OCC Cabinet member for transport, confirming that Deddington would not receive any additional funding other than the £7,000 already allocated. The Parish Council needed to try and increase this and **it was agreed that as Cllr Putland had now joined the committee, this provided an opportunity respond to David Robertson, requesting a meeting to introduce the new committee member and cataloguing the sequence of events leading up to this point.** It was noted that although David Robertson had titled his letter 'traffic calming', the original proposals had started out as a pedestrian safety issue. It was felt important to exert some political pressure to make Deddington a priority for OCC. **It was agreed that a decision on whether the Parish Council should fund the additional £7,000 or whether it should agree to the original spending of £14,000 (of which Deddington would fund 50%) would be taken at the next meeting.**

(c). **Traffic Calming.** The gates had still not been installed. **It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Grant reminding him of this and seeking a meeting. It was also agreed that Cllr Haslam would circulate a map of Hempton Road indicating suggested sites where cars might be parked to act as chicanes.**

(d). **Better Ways to School.** It was proposed that the Clerk should write to the school expressing the Parish Council's continuing support for this. Co Cllr Jelf suggested that the school could make an application for funding which could assist our efforts in respect of Clifton.

(e). **Buses.** A response to the survey on the 159 and 259 needed to be drafted by 9 July. It was noted that the electronic timetable was no longer working and the Clerk was asked to look into this.

(f). **Traffic Lights.** The Clerk was asked to write to OCC regarding the delays and the installation of the new pelican crossing.

(g). **Re-surfacing of Hempton Road.** The Hempton Road would be closed for 24 hours for resurfacing on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Emergency access had been confirmed.

(h). Cllr Todd said that he had reported to Ralph Grant at OCC problems in Philcote Street where the kerbing was tilting towards the highway causing dangerous gaps between the bricks. It was also noted that cars were cutting the corner from St Thomas St up into the entrance to Philcote Street and the Clerk was asked to chase OCC about getting the white line reinstated. **It was also agreed that the Clerk should forward a note of these problems to Co Cllr Jelf.**

31/05 **Invoices for Payment**

A schedule of invoices totaling £6478.27 was tabled, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, and was approved for payment. The Clerk confirmed that the cost for the hire of the skip had been divided between the Parish Council, the Feoffees and Deddington Charity Estates.

32/05 **Investment of Councils Funds**

At the close of business on 15 June 2005 the balances were as follows:

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>INTEREST</b>	<b>NOTICE</b>
70708526	1133.73	.1%	Imprest
70708542	6904.91	.1%	Current
W. Bromwich Building Soc.	307221.39	4.7%	Overnight
Alliance & Leicester	250000.00	4.6%	30 Day Notice
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>565260.03</b>		

33/05 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence since the last meeting was circulated. The following points were raised:

- (a) Lord Lt of Oxford. An invitation had been received to a Service and Tea Party to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2 on 9 July. As no parish councillors were able to attend it was suggested that the invitation be passed to the RBL.
- (b) Any Questions. Tickets for Any Questions on 8<sup>th</sup> July had been forwarded by the BBC and were available from the Clerk.

34/05 **August Meeting**

**It was agreed that no meeting would be held in August unless the Chairman felt that there was urgent business needing to be discussed before September.** This is in line with usual practice.

35/05 **Coverage of Parish Council Meetings in Deddington News**

Cllr Haslam expressed concern regarding representation of the last Parish Council meeting in the Deddington News. Although he was aware that the Parish Council had no control over what was written, he was concerned that many parishioners did not read the full, official minutes and that meetings therefore needed to be reported responsibly. The Chairman emphasised that the Parish Council meetings were open meetings and that the Deddington News was independent of the Parish Council. Furthermore, it was very difficult to condense

the report of the meeting into one side of A4 paper. However, he would raise the matter with the editor. Cllr Rollason asked whether the Parish Council did enough to ensure the official minutes were publicized and the Chairman confirmed that they were posted on all the parish noticeboards, in the Library and in Deddington on Line.

36/05

**Date of Next Meeting**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July at the Town Hall commencing at 7.45pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm