

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at The Town Hall on Wednesday, 21st March 2001 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Bell, Clarke, Mrs. Davies, Haslam, Hart, Miss Hill, Newey, Mrs. Swash, Todd and Mrs. Walker.
D. Cllr. O'Sullivan, Mr. D. Blakey (Clerk) and Mrs. J. Smith (Minute Secretary)

159/01 Welcome

Councillor Rick Haslam was welcomed to the Council following his election on 8th March 2001. The Clerk confirmed that Cllr. Haslam had signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

160/01 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clinch, Cosgrove, Mrs. Cox and C. Councillor Matthews.

161/01 Minutes – Meeting held on 21st February 2001

The minutes of the Meeting held on 21st February 2001 were amended as follows: -

145/01 (a) “would” replaced with “could”

145/01 (b) the words “Council would write” replaced with “Cllrs. Mrs. Cox and Flux would draft a letter on behalf of the Council”

The minutes were then approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

162/01 Minutes – Extraordinary Meeting held on 7th March 2001

Cllr. Newey stated that he felt the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 7th March 2001 did not reflect the feeling of Council at that meeting. It was proposed by Cllr. Newey and seconded by Cllr. Clarke that the following amendment be made: -

157/01 insert after “...notice to quit.” The sentence “At this point Cllr. Clinch intervened and asked that Councillors be allowed to express their concerns.”

The minutes were also amended as follows: -

157/01 “was” replaced with “were”

Amend the sentence “It was agreed that the land should be valued.” To “It was **then** agreed that the land should be valued.”

The minutes were then approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

163/01 Matters Arising

a) Further to minute 144/01(d), which refers to the lamppost in The Paddocks, Cllr. Mrs. Davies asked if it had been ascertained whether the light is in the correct position. The Clerk explained that the light was requested by the Council following a complaint from the resident of 7 The Paddocks about darkness outside the property. The light was put on an existing post in liaison with the Police. The Clerk was under the impression that the Police were satisfied with the position of the lamp, although it was not put outside no 7 it did light up the property as requested. Cllr. Mrs. Walker queried this, as the local policeman is still saying the area needs additional lighting. The Clerk will contact the Police and the tenant of no 7 The Paddocks and find out what is required.

b) Further to minute 144/01(g), the Clerk confirmed to Cllr. Mrs. Davies that he has written to Mr. Carritt, OCC, regarding the Clifton footpath. He also confirmed that a quote has been requested for providing a footpath at the lower end of Clifton.

c) Further to minute 157/01, Cllr. Clarke asked if the copy of the letter sent to Mr. Middleditch had been found since the meeting on 7th March 2001. The Clerk confirmed that it had not.

164/01 Urgent Business

Two items raised by Cllr. Newey, to be discussed at the end of the agenda.

165/01 **10 Minute Forum**

No member of the public wished to speak.

166/01 **Affordable Housing**

The Clerk reported as follows: -

- a) A letter was sent to Housing Services, Cherwell DC on 7th February 2001, about various matters. No reply had been received and the Clerk will follow this up.
- b) Discussions are still taking place with the Architect and CDC Solicitor regarding the landscaping. The Clerk is requesting details of the commuted sum payable in respect of what is actually on the site and not what is shown on the plans.
- c) Only 6 replies had been received from the resident's consultation on the boundary and play equipment. The Clerk felt that more replies should be sought, as the few that have been returned are divided in their views.
- d) Notice of a meeting on "Affordable Housing and the future of your village" has been received. The meeting is on 28th April 2001, at Hambledon.

167/01 **Deddington Map**

Cllr. Newey reported on behalf of the group investigating the public display of the map. The first print of the map is displayed in the parish church. Suggestions have been made regarding a second print being produced, which could be displayed under the Town Hall. Peter Terry holds the original of the map. The Council have to decide what to do with the first, and possibly second, prints of the map and, therefore, the group looked at the options. The group felt that the parish church is a good location for the first print. Feedback from the public also suggests that it is in a good place and should remain. However, additional support and lighting may need to be provided. If a second print is obtained, the group suggest that the south-facing wall of the Town Hall would be a suitable site. It may be an opportunity for the whole of the area under the premises to be re designed and special thought could be given to the display of the map, the Discovering Deddington booklet and the leaflets produced by the map group. The Millennium Map Group is still promoting these products and once all production costs are met, profits go to the Parish Council. It may also be possible to re design the Council notice board as part of the scheme. Norman Stone, on behalf of the Map Group, agreed with this approach. It was proposed by Cllr. Flux and seconded by Cllr. Clarke, that a budget of £200 be made available to obtain a specification, without commitment. This was agreed.

168/01 **Planning and Property Working Group**

Cllr Miss Hill reported the recommendations of her Group as follows:

a) Deddington Salerooms

Cherwell DC Planners have confirmed in writing that the works have been carried out to the satisfaction of the District Council and that no action will be taken regarding the pointing or the stonework. The Group felt that a precedent has now been set in the conservation of Deddington and that there is no longer a requirement to match the existing stone works. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Planners stating this observation and re stating objections. A copy of the letter will be sent to the Chief Executive.

b) Applications

01/00499/F – Sunnyside, Hopcraft Lane – retrospective planning. Single storey extension to existing garage with two roof lights – Objection a) totally opposed to retrospective planning b) North side windows should be removed, as they are obtrusive.

01/0041/F – 1 Mill Close – single storey rear extension – no objection unless any neighbour objections

Cllr. Newey declared an interest in the next item.

01/326/F & 01/327 LB – Bull Ring Cottage, Bull Ring – ground floor extension, inset new window above front door, internal alterations and new pedestrian access in Tays Gateway – objection regarding pedestrian access in Tays Gateway. It was also pointed out that a previous planning condition was that Bull Ring Cottage and Tays Cottage should be in one ownership. If this is the

case there is no need for a second access. This should be queried.

01/00396/F – 34 Mill Close – two storey extension to side – no objection but would query the bedroom window in case of neighbours being overlooked.

01/00245/F – Walnut tree workshops – relaxation of condition 9 if planning application CHN130/81 to fell walnut tree – object – suggest supporting the original condition which was place on the 23 February 1981 stating “that the existing walnut tree on the site be preserved and properly maintained and that in the event of the tree dying or getting damaged or destroyed a new tree of a species first approved by the CDC be planted and properly maintained in a position first approved by the said Council.”

01/00459/TCA – Holly Tree Cottages – to fell Lawson cypress and reduce crown and trim 2 no holly trees by 25% and 1 no holly tree by 30% - no objection

01/00501/F – Holly Tree Cottages – alterations to outbuildings to provide an enclosed store area – no objections

01/0077/F – Grove Lodge Barn – revised plans, alterations to bedroom 1 and bathroom – no objection

01/00372/F – The Field House, Chapmans Lane – internal alteration to create an annexe and conservatory – no objection

The above recommendations of the Group were agreed.

c) Approvals

01/00179/F - 43 Gaveston Gardens – alteration of existing porch

01/00122/LB – Orchard House, Hopcraft Lane – erection of NFU sign

d) Appeal

The Inspector turned down the appeal by the occupiers of Orchard House against the decision on opening hours.

e) Other matters

- The trees in the Bullring have still not been pollarded. The Clerk to remind.
- Joan Fishers memorial bench has been placed at the Castle Grounds.

Environment and Highways Working Group

Cllr Mrs Walker reported as follows:

169/01 Environment

- a) Oxfordshire Best Kept Village – the group felt that no entry should be made this year. The village had not been successful for many years and the environment of the village has not changed. The village steward is already overloaded with work and to expect him to put in extra effort for the competition is not justified. Local support and assistance is not forthcoming and without this there can be no expectation of being placed. However, other councillors felt that the competition should be entered, the entry cost is only £8.00 and publicity would encourage people to be tidy. Projects like the proposed display area all gain extra points when villages are judged. Cherwell DC have promised that two litter blitzes will take place each year and an attempt could be made to get one done just before judging takes place. With all these points taken into consideration, it was agreed to enter Deddington in the competition. Hempton and Clifton could also enter if the residents wish.
- b) Cllr. Swash pointed out that the refuse men are not emptying all litterbins on the route, as promised. The Clerk to send a list of locations and a reminder to Cherwell DC.
- c) A foot and mouth update from OCC. Cllr. Mrs. Cox was informed in a telephone conversation on 20th March 2001 that the infected area runs through the village of Deddington along the A4260 through to the B4031. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek clarification of this.
- d) A letter had been received from OCC detailing an award of £5,000 to the Best Environment Project. It was agreed that this should be passed to the school.
- e) The schedule for the Village Skip Service 2000/2001 had been received. Laminated schedules are available and the group suggested obtaining copies for each parish notice board. However, a previous decision had been made by the Council not to publish dates due to the number of persons from outside the village using the facility. It was agreed that this was still the case and that the dates should only be published in the Deddington News. Cllr. Bell has noted a number

of builders vans are regularly waiting for the skip; as the facility is not for trade refuse, the registration numbers of the offending vehicles should be given to the Police.

- f) The Countryside agency has produced a guide entitled “New Rights, New Responsibilities” and free copies are available. The group suggested obtaining copies for distribution to all councillors, the school, the library and the parish-pump. It was agreed that the Clerk obtains a sufficient number of copies.

170/01 Highways

- a) It has been reported that two mounds of earth have been left on the Earls Lane grass verge following the construction of the link pavement. The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported by telephone and it was confirmed that it would be moved. However, he will follow up the matter.
- b) The group’s Chairman requested that discussion regarding A frames be held over until the next meeting due to ill health. This was agreed.

171/01 Parking

- a) Cllr. Bell reported that the traffic survey was cancelled on 21st March 2001; although some attempts were made to carry out the survey it was not possible due to snowy conditions. No further date has yet been fixed. A decision regarding the survey on 24th March 2001 will be made by Friday morning. It was agreed that thanks should be given on behalf of the Council to all persons who turned out to help in the snow!
- b) Cllr. Bell reported that of the 336 parking questionnaires issued, 146 have been returned. This amounts to 43.14%. A request was made that the Deddington News asks again for completed questionnaires to be returned. A further report will then be made at the next meeting.
- c) Cllr. Newey reported that, along with Cllrs. Mrs. Cox and Cosgrove, he had been looking at finding additional parking sites. There had not been a lot of progress since the last meeting, although the group felt that the tarmacing of Earls Lane (south side) was a good idea. As this was not an area which would affect the village centre parking but would help the Health Centre parking problems, if the Council agreed the group could proceed with the costing of this part of the project. Councillors felt that the whole picture should be obtained and evaluated before any decisions or action is taken. It was also pointed out that the County Council should be approached to assist with parking in the vicinity of the Health Centre if more houses are built at Upper Heyford. It was agreed that all information should be obtained and reported to the Council before any action is taken.

172/01 Recreation and Grants Working Group

Cllr. Mrs. Davies reported as follows:

BMX Track

A meeting was held on 19th March 2001 at the Windmill Centre, to discuss the possibility of providing a BMX facility. Three councillors, two mothers and seven boys attended the meeting. The outcome was that the preferred facility would be a skateboard area. It was felt that although provision of a skateboarding area would be more costly, boys and girls would use the facility, whereas BMX tracks are mainly boy dominated. The suggested site at the rear of the Windmill would not be suitable for a skateboarding area and, therefore, the Group will investigate potential sites, view the ramps already provided in Banbury and report further.

The suggestion of providing a “teenagers shelter” was met with approval at the meeting. The Group will now investigate potential sites.

173/01 Finance and General Purposes Working Group

Cllr. Todd reported as follows:

- a) The group had investigated induction courses for new parish councillors. Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils run courses in May of each year, when there are parish council elections. The group suggested that the Chairman of each working group could produce information to help inform new councillors. The Clerk could give a briefing on parish finances and his duties. The group recommended that this information pack should be in place by 2002 when all seats become vacant. It had been discussed with the Clerk and he would let Cllr.

Haslam and anyone else who is interested have as much information as possible. The Clerk would also find out when the next OALC courses are to take place, as Cllr. Hart would like to attend. Cllr. Newey suggested that the County Council publication list is circulated with the agenda each month so that councillors can request any of the listed publications. The list also includes detail of the various workshop sessions, which are available. This was agreed.

- b) A consultation paper on member's interests has been received from OALC. Cllr. Todd has a copy for view.
- c) A paper on Standards Committee was received too late to comment. However, comments were made on the original consultation.
- d) A copy of the rural white paper was circulated at the meeting. Cllr. Todd advised that this would not apply to Deddington.
- e) Cllr. Bell had been contacted as part of an audit on CDC cultural strategy. The audit is to ensure that the DC is liaising with parish councils and that stated actions are in place. Cllr. Flux stated that this is an ongoing project and so the council must remain flexible.

174/01 **Windmill Management Committee**

Cllr. Hart reported as follows:

- a) The Users meeting held on 20th March 2001 was well attended.
- b) The hedge at the front of the centre cannot be cut until autumn. It must be ensured that the hedge is not cut too far back as it provides security for the football pitch.
- c) A meeting had been held with Deddington Colts FC. The Colts were established in 1996/97 with 2 teams and an agreement for the use of one pitch at the Windmill Site. There are now 6 teams although there are no additional pitches. The notes of the meeting were circulated, a copy of which are attached to these minutes. Following the meeting a letter was received from DCFC dated 22nd February 2001, copy attached. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to DCFC answering the questions raised in the letter of 1st December 2000 and that further discussion should take place with a view to finding a way forward and solving the problems.

175/01 **Stonepit, Hempton**

At the last meeting it was agreed to set up a working group in respect of this piece of land. The Clerk circulated a site plan, copy attached. The Clerk reported that the land is not registered to anyone in the land Registry. As the site has been in the possession of the parish council for a number of years, and there is proof of this, it was agreed that the Clerk should write and register the land in the name of the Parish Council. It was agreed that a working group would be formed once formal ownership has been settled.

176/01 **Invoices for payment**

Invoices totalling £2,982.17 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment

177/01 **(a) Investment of the councils funds**

At close of business on 20th March 2001 the balances were as follows: -

Account No	Balance	Rate of interest %	Notice
60858471	4,638.18	3.25	14 days
60708569	4,467.14	2.05	Overnight
60830488	741.05	1.85	Overnight
70708542	<u>500.00</u>	Nil	Current
	10,346.37		
Bradford & Bingley BS	19,970.00	5.35	120 days
West Bromwich BS	500,000.00	5.85	Overnight
Total	<u>530,316.37</u>		

- b) **Quotations for Grounds Maintenance 2001/2002.** A report from the Clerk was circulated, copy attached. It was agreed to accept the quotations from Mr. Boss in respect of verge grass cutting and DesignGro in respect of the maintenance of the Castle Grounds and the maintenance of the Windmill Sports field.

178/01 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence was circulated at the meeting, copy attached. Queries were raised in respect of the following:

- a) Complete Weed Control – OCC will spray for weeds in certain areas. It may be they will be able to do more. Clerk to write and obtain quote.
- b) The Clerk confirmed that nothing more has been heard from Mr. Nash's solicitor.
- c) Grave reservations – Cllr. Newey queried the procedure – the Clerk confirmed that a map is shown to the owner of the reserved plot clearly identifying the site.
- d) OCC Tays Gateway – this letter discussed a site meeting regarding the possibility of Tays Gateway being made a no through road. It was pointed out that all correspondence should be via the Clerk and not individual councillors.

179/01 **Any other business**

- a) Cllr. Newey reported that Deddington Web Site now has a forum, which gives people the opportunity to raise issues relevant to the parish on the site. A print out of the forum board was circulated at the meeting, copy attached. Cllr. Newey proposed that the Clerk circulates a copy of the forum board with the agenda for each council meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Haslam. It was agreed to do this for a trial period.
- b) Martin Reed who works for Macintosh computers has offered to donate a computer. Cllr. Newey suggested that this is placed in the library for access to the Internet. He suggested the Council might be prepared to contribute to the cost of providing free Internet access as opposed to the access provided by OCC, who charge users. The group would be prepared to investigate the cost of this proposal. It was agreed that a survey of potential users would be carried out and that Cllr. Newey would obtain costs for consideration.
- c) Cllr. Clarke reported that further incidents had taken place regarding neighbours. D.Cllr. O'Sullivan will look into the matter.

180/01 **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 18th April 2001 at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

Dates for diaries: 2nd May 2001 – Parish Meeting

16th May 2001 – Annual General Meeting