

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 17 March 2004
commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Squires, Mrs Cox, Alton, Wood, Todd, Haslam, Westley Watts, Ellis, Graham Pitts (Clerk), Sue Gibbs (Minute Secretary).

31 /04 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Swash, Harvey, Rollason, Mrs Spencer, Co Cllr Jelf, District Councillor O'Sullivan.

32/04 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 18 February were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

33/04 **Matters Arising**

- a. **Royal British Legion:** Responding to Cllr Squires, the Chairman said that he understood that the matter was still with the solicitors and there were no further developments.
- b. **Travellers Site:** Cllr Haslam commented on the recent item in the Banbury Guardian. The Chairman said there had not yet been an official response on the matter from OCC but Co Cllr Jelf had indicated that he felt current thinking was moving towards a different type of site from that originally proposed for Deddington – ie bigger sites and fewer of them. Cllr Squires and his working group were again thanked for putting together such comprehensive arguments opposing the original scheme.

34/04 **Declaration of Interests**

Councillors declared an interest as follows:

- a. Cllr Flux in respect of 38(e)
- b. Alton, Westley, Todd in respect of 39(d)

35/04 **10 Minute Open Forum**

A member of the public addressed the Parish Council on the subject of car parking within the village. He highlighted the difficulties of parking and gave some suggestions for improving the situation. The Chairman thanked him for his presentation and assured him that his comments would be taken on board by the Highways Working Group.

36/04 **Highways Working Group**

Cllr Haslam reported as follows

- a. **Reinstatement of green areas.** The manager of the Co-op had confirmed that they will reinstate the green areas and it was hoped that this would include the posts to surround the area. Installing posts on the second green area was discussed. The money for this

had already been allocated and it was agreed that the timing of this was important in case any further damage were inflicted. The type of posts to be installed was also discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should take advice from OCC as to what they would recommend: something robust enough to prevent it being knocked over was required, but also which would not stop people from opening their car doors or inflict damage. Meanwhile the work should be scheduled to take place at the end of May, when the work on the Co-op had been completed.

- b. **White Lines.** Some work had been done on this. Cllr Todd pointed out that there were still no white lines either at the end of Earls Lane or at the junction of St Thomas St and Philcote St. These had all been agreed by the Parish Council. The Clerk said he had already emailed Steve Bowden about Earls Lane, **but would chase up regarding St Thomas St. and Philcote Street.**
- c. **Better Ways to School.** Cllr Westley had attended the meeting. The main point to note that been that although grant money had been allocated for this project, it had not yet been formally ratified and could take as much as two years to be released.
- d. **Clifton Footpath.** It was proposed that letters should be sent to all those who had responded to the questionnaire thanking them for their feedback. It was proposed to go ahead with option one, half way down the hill, with rumble strips and new signage.
- e. **Hempton.** Cllr Wood would chase Steve Bowden of OCC on this
- f. **Traffic Calming.** The Clerk confirmed no response had been received to his latest letter
- g. **Parking on Grass Verges.** The Clerk reported that he had not yet contacted those who were using the grass verge for car parking; Cllr Haslam said he would let the Clerk know who should be contacted. The Chairman advised caution on this as there were certain areas where parking had been approved and bricks had been installed in to the grass. **It was agreed that it was important for the Parish Council to be consistent in its approach which was that it would preserve green areas within the Parish and that it would like these not to be used for parking, although it had now power to enforce this.**
- h. **Reflective Posts in Earls Lane.** It was noted that these had now been removed by OCC.
- i. **Parking near the Health Centre.** The Working Group was in discussion with OCC about this ongoing problem.

37/04

Planning Working Group

Cllr Wood reported as follows:

- a. A list of approvals since the last meeting was circulated.
- b. **04/00034/F 43 The Daedings, Deddington.** Two-storey side extension to form granny annexe and erection of front porch. **It was agreed that the previous objections, which were that this was an over development of the site, that the property could be divided into separate properties and concerns about the sewerage system still stood.**
- c. **04/00387/F Boulderdyke Farmhouse, Clifton.** Two storey link extension and alterations to main house. Change of use of storage unit (Unit 3) to domestic garage. **No objection.**
- d. **04/00456/F 13 Gaveston Gardens, Deddington.** Two storey extension to side (East) and conservatory to side (West). **No objection.**
- e. **04/00234/F Featherston House, Chapel Square, Deddington.** Remove existing Stonesfield roof, felt and battens and replace with existing slate and second hand slate of the same type and size as required. **No objection.**

- f. 04/00180/F Manor Farm, Clifton.** Relaxation of conditions 1 and 2 of CHNLB 847/88 to allow the Manor Farm House to lease the unit known as Castle Antiques Ltd. Change of use of that unit to office (B1 Use). **No objection.**
- g. 04/00425/ADV Co-op Food Store, Market Place, Deddington.** 1 No Co-op fascia sign externally illuminated by 5 No swan neck lights; 1 No Post Office fascia sign externally illuminated by 2 No swan neck lights. Cllr Wood explained that when approval had been given for the cottage adjacent to the store to be turned into the post office it had been on the condition that it continued to look like a cottage. Now it was proposed that a sign be erected over the cottage, which would contravene this condition, (although it was noted that it would not if it were placed above the shop). It was also felt that illumination of the signs for a village shop on the scale being proposed were not necessary. **It was therefore agreed that although there was no objection to the Co-op fascia sign, but there was to the Post Office sign and to the illumination of both signs.**
- h. 04/00421/TCA Rushall House, Earls Lane, Deddington.** Fell one fir tree. **No objection.**
- i. 04/00200F Rushall House, Earls Lane, Deddington.** Remove conifer hedge and increase height of existing boundary wall to 2.5 metres together with new access gate. **No objection**
- j. 04/00007/F Holcombe Hotel, High St, Deddington.** Erection of 1 No dwelling with leisure building and garaging (as amended by plans received 17/2/04). **No objection.**
- k. 04.00011/F Lane adjacent and North East of 1 The Maunds High St, Deddington.** Erection of 1 No dwelling (as additional plans received 27.02.04). Insufficient information had been provided as to where the building was to be, and further information had been requested.
- 1. **Procedure for applications received between meetings. It was agreed that where time constraints did not allow for an application to be considered at a full Parish Council meeting, it would be sufficient for the Clerk to email all councillors (or telephone if email were not available), setting out the Working Group's proposed course of action and seeking their approval. It was also agreed that where applications were received after a Working Group meeting, the plans should be brought to the next Parish Council meeting for consideration by the full Council.**

38/04

Finance and General Purposes Working Group

Cllr Wood reported as follows:

- a. Income and expenditure accounts to the end of February were tabled, with forecast expenditure to the end of March. These had been prepared by the Clerk.
- b. **Town Hall.** CDC had confirmed that a grant should be available towards the cost of disability access improvements. It had appeared however that the provision of disability access was more complicated than had originally been thought. Any decisions on this needed to be deferred for now.
- c. **Internal Audit.** The internal audit programme had been prepared and given to Pamela Ward.
- d. **Oxfordshire Community Foundation.** This was a grant making organisation and details had been passed to the Clerk to be passed on to any village organisations wishing to apply for a grant.
- e. **Oxfordshire Compact.** Support had been registered for this local version of the National Compact aiming to promote better working arrangements between government and the voluntary and community sectors.

- f. **Boundary Commission.** Their draft proposals for county council boundaries were noted; these would have no significant impact on Deddington.

39/04

Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Squires reported as follows:

- a. **Hempton Allotments.** A letter had now been received from the solicitors saying they were giving the matter their urgent attention; however, it now looked most unlikely that the question of land registration would be resolved to enable water to be installed before the summer. **It was agreed that the Clerk should inform the “leader” of the allotment holders regarding this.** Consideration was given to approaching the local farmer again over the temporary provision of water from neighbouring land; however, it was felt that as he had been unwilling to do so in the past, it was unlikely that this would have changed. There were water butts on site, which the Parish Council had purchased last year; these would have to be sufficient for the time being.
- b. **Best Kept Village.** After some discussion, and although a number of Councillors would not be available to assist, **it was agreed that 17 April would be the most appropriate date for the next village clean up. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the various village youth groups and that Deddington News be requested to include a notice publicizing this.**
- c. **Village Plan.** **It was agreed that Oxfordshire Rural Community Council should be invited to address the Parish Annual Meeting on preparing a village plan. It was also agreed that the Clerk should contact Aynho Parish Council and request a copy of their plan which had recently been awarded a national prize.**
- d. **Cricket Club.** A request had been received from the Cricket Club asking the Parish Council to arrange for the cricket pavilion to be painted and the southern boundary wire fence replaced. It was noted that the wire fence had been erected to protect new tree growth, which was now complete, and not as a ball stop. The Working Group thought that under the terms of the lease, the Windmill Centre was responsible for all buildings on this land and therefore Cllr Squires proposed that all users of parish facilities should look more to their own clubs/resources to maintain existing facilities to prevent higher charges or local precepts in the future. The Chairman pointed out however that in September 2001 the Parish Council had passed a resolution stating that the Parish Council would take over external repairs and maintenance of the pavilions, whereas the agreement with the Windmill gave responsibility of the pavilions to the individual clubs. The way forward was discussed; the financial constraints facing the Parish Council in the wake of reduced interest rates, was acknowledged, as was the general principle that users should contribute towards the upkeep and maintenance of the village facilities. However, it was also felt that having passed a resolution as recently as 2001 stating that the Parish Council would take over repairs and maintenance of the pavilions they could not at this stage go back on this and that some kind of transition period was needed. Cllr Cox pointed out that with the Bowls Club, the Parish Council had bought the paint but the users of the Bowls Club had done the work. Whilst it was acknowledged that if the right materials were used, such jobs only needed to be done every 10 years or so, there was also concern that if the work were undertaken by amateurs it might not be done correctly. **As a general principle, in view of the tighter financial situation, it was agreed that the Parish Council should work with all users to identify the best way forward and that in the meantime the Clerk should try and reach some kind of accommodation with the Cricket Club.**

- e. **Annual Playground Inspections.** CDC would not longer arrange these. The Clerk reported that he had already diarised that this needed to be done.
- f. **Deddington Circular Walk.** The Clerk confirmed that about 12 months ago the PC had been asked to walk the route and check it was okay. This had been done by Mr Spenceley but he no longer wished to continue. The Working Group had volunteered to take on responsibility for this. **It was agreed that people generally in the village should be asked via Deddington News to let the Clerk know if they had any observations to make on the Walk.**
- g. **Cherwell Environmental Forum.** Cllr Squires would attend the next meeting on 28 April on renewable energy.
- h. **Oxfordshire Special Conservation Award.** A £5000 cash prize was available to the best environmental projects in the area. **It was agreed that Cllr Todd would contact Walter Meagher regarding this.**

40/04 **Invoices for Payment**

Invoices totaling £3000.58 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment.

41/04 **Investment of Councils Funds**

BANK BALANCES AS AT 17th March 2004

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
70708526	366.29	.1%	Imprest
70708542	4792.14	.1%	Current
TOTAL	5158.43		
Bradford & Bingley	1000.00	3.4%	120 Days
W. Bromwich Building Soc.	515373.97	3.4%	Overnight
TOTAL	521532.40		

42/04 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence was circulated at the meeting.

- a. 15 March: An Email had been received from the Planning Investigator confirming that the signage at Centrepont had not breached any regulations.

43/04 **Future Meeting Days**

Following previous requests from Councillors the possibility of changing meeting days was discussed, as was the possibility of changing the time to 8.00pm. **It was agreed that the Clerk would canvas all Councillors to see what the preferences were.**

44/04 **Date of Next Meeting**
Wednesday 21 April at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

45/04 **Annual Parish Meeting**
It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held on 5 May 2004.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.