

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 16 March 2005
commencing at 7.45pm

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

132/04

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Swash, Ellis Mrs Spencer, and Co Cllr Jelf.

133/04

Minutes of Last Meeting

121/04 – line 3: It was agreed that “idea of” should be deleted.

Subject to these changes, the Minutes of the last meeting held on 16 February were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

134/04

Notes of Closed Meeting

Notes of the closed meeting held on 16 February were circulated. It was agreed that this had been a very useful and productive meeting and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

135/04

Matters arising

(a). Windmill Centre. Mrs Cox asked that when improved security lighting was installed, consideration should be given to the effects of light pollution, particularly on the immediate neighbours. The Chairman reported that the rear staircase had been bricked in and a new fire door installed. Quotes were being obtained for lights and for security cameras.

(b). Stewards. Following the meeting, the Clerk had spoken to the stewards. It now appeared likely that Gary would be off work for some time and the Clerk was looking into alternatives as to how his workload might be carried if this were the case, and how he would handle the additional jobs. Any Councillors knowing of any contacts were asked to forward these to the Clerk.

(c). Co-option. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council needed to find a replacement for Kate Harvey and it was hoped that someone could be co-opted until the next elections in 2006. It was agreed that it would be good if someone from Clifton could be co-opted and any suggestions were to be passed to the Clerk.

136/04

Declaration of Interests

135/04(a) – Cllrs Flux and Rollason

139/04(a) – Cllrs Flux and Todd. Cllr Squires took over the chair for this item; Mrs Cox reported on the Working Group.

139/04(c) – Cllr Westley.

145/04 (b) – Cllrs Rollason and Alton

137/04

10 Minute Open Forum

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

138/04

Highways Working Group

Cllr Haslam reported as follows:

(a). **Parking Task Force**. The Parking Task Force was holding a meeting on 31 March at 5.30pm in the Town Hall to which all major businesses in the Square and Hudson Street were invited. The purpose was to go through the findings of the survey and explain the proposed next steps and seek their support. The two proposed options would be outlined. Either that up to 10 spaces could be found elsewhere for a period of 3 months for all day users. This would reduce occupancy of the Square from 80% to 70%. Alternatively a 'business free' car park area could be identified, which could be left free for people coming and going throughout the day. This was all very much being proposed as a trial and it was not known how local businesses would react. However, it was hoped that they would appreciate the voluntary angle in searching for a solution and would recognize that any change which would be of benefit to the Parish as a whole would benefit businesses as well. The Chairman thanked the Parking Task Force for all their work and looked forward to hearing the outcome of this meeting.

(b). **Meetings with Oxfordshire County Council**. A meeting had been held with Ralph Grant, the new head of Highways Division at OCC and Mr Johnson, also of Highways. The ball was now in their court to come back to the Parish Council on the 3 main issues, the white gates, the Clifton Footpath and the Hempton Road crossing. The Working Group was hopeful that there would be a positive response and that policies would be put into place which would prevent a similar situation occurring in the future.

(c). **New Crossing by Library**. This was raised with OCC and **it was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr Grant confirming that the Parish Council agreed with the proposal for a new pedestrian crossing across Horsefair from the Library to the Holly Tree Club.**

(d). **Bus Service**. It was noted that due to the low take up, the Monday bus service from Hempton to Banbury was to be discontinued.

(e). **Grass outside the Co-op**. The Clerk was thanked for pushing the Co-op to replace the grass on the green, which had now been done.

(f). **Hempton Road and Horsefair**. Cllr Mrs Cox reported that although some work had been done on the potholes on the Hempton Road and Horsefair, this had not been to a good standard and the road was still very bumpy and potentially dangerous. **It was agreed that the Clerk should press Highways for these to be fixed as a high priority.**

139/04

Planning Working Group

Cllr Cox reported as follows:

(a). **05/00167/F The Holly Tree Club, Deddington**. Erection of timber shed, change of use of existing timber shed for storage of market equipment, and fell 2 hazel trees. **No objection**. It was noted however that the tree officers had inspected these as there was some concern at the number of trees which were being felled. **It was agreed that the Environment Working Group should be asked to look round the Parish and identify trees which might be regarded as valuable. It was also agreed that this should be**

included in the Parish Plan

Cllr Todd reported as follows:

- (b). **05/00305/F Caldicote House, Clifton**. Demolition of existing house and construction of 2 dwellings. **No objection provided adjoining neighbours had no objections.**
- (c). **05/00032/ F Merrybower Cottage, Philcote Street, Deddington**. Insert 2 dormer windows to rear elevation and removal of chimney stack, insertion of one dormer window to front elevation as amended plans 20.01.05. **No objection.**
- (d). **05/00166/F Featherton House, Chapel Square, Deddington**. 1 Conservation roof light to Castle Street Elevation. **No objection.**
- (e). **05/000353/F 43 The Deadings**. Rear Conservatory. There was some concern as to whether this might be overloading the site as the house had already been substantially extended. However, **it was agreed that there should be no objection, unless any was forthcoming from the neighbours.**
- (f). **05/00344.F Sylvan Cottage, Clifton**. Change of use from dwelling to Bed and Breakfast home and two storey side extension. **No objection.**
- (g). **05/00266/F Land adjoining Home Farm, Clifton**. Erection of one detached stone house and double garage – construction of new vehicular access to highway. **No objection;** however it was noted that a footpath proposed by OCC would pass along the front of the proposed site for the house and it was **agreed that there might be a case for implementing a section 106 agreement.**
- (f). A list of approvals since the last meeting was circulated.

140/04

Finance and General Purposes Working Group

Cllr Wood reported as follows:

- (a). Accounts to date for the current financial year and budget for the next were circulated. These figures took into account the payment to the Steward, but did not include the recent bill received from the Highways Department. Cllr Wood emphasized the difficulty of forecasting the budget because of the difficulty of calculating interest payments. In order to ensure that interest payments were maximized the Clerk was looking into whether the accounts should be changed from Barclays to the Alliance and Leicester and would report at the next meeting.
- (b). Following the discussions held in the closed meeting, **the budget for the next year was agreed. It was also agreed that the notes of this meeting should be passed to the Deddington News.** It was noted that the anticipated savings of £2,000 on grass-cutting would lead to a surplus of about that amount. It was also noted that £1,000 remained in the Bradford and Bingley Account **and it was agreed that that account should be closed.**

141/04

Parish Plan

Cllr Squires reported that the Working Group was now putting together the questionnaires which would be sent out in June. **It was agreed that the Grant application for CDC should be signed and submitted before the end of the current financial year.**

Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Squires reported as follows:

- (a) **Stonepit Allotments.** Aplins had returned the Statutory Declaration with a couple more questions to be answered relating to security and the vacancy of the land. This information had been supplied. The Clerk had written to the allotment holders informing them of progress to date. He had also received a revised estimate from Thames Water for the connection charges.
- (b) **Funfair.** An offer had been received from Perry Hatwell Funfairs to provide a fair in November, reviving the custom of a 'Pudding n Pie' Fair. It was felt that this could be beneficial for the village, although the possibility of attracting some undesirable elements was also recognized. It was felt important to ensure it was aimed at the younger end of the market and this would be dependent on what type of rides were offered. After some discussion **it was agreed that the Working Group should investigate this further**, and the weekend of 18th/19th November was identified as a possible date.
- (c) **War Memorial.** A number of residents had proposed moving the War Memorial to the marketplace. This was recognized as a sensitive issue which aroused many strong feelings. However, after some discussion it was **felt that the view of predecessors over its location, which had led to the existing site being used, should be upheld and that it should remain where it was. It was agreed however that a new 'brown sign' should be erected in Castle Street, pointing to its location.**
- (d) **Village Spring Clean** After some discussion it was that rather than having one clean up day, it should be spread over a week, to give more people a chance to participate. **April 15th to 22nd was identified as a suitable time** and it was hoped that parishioners would be encouraged to look at their immediate surroundings. **It was agreed that the activities would co-ordinated via the Clerks office.** It was also suggested that the Holly Tree could be used as a collection point.
- (e) **Local Transport Needs. It was agreed that a survey support pack should be obtained and this could be incorporated into the Parish Plan.**
- (f) **Britain in Bloom.** Although the PC had decided not to enter this year, **it was agreed that parishioners should be encouraged to have window boxes, baskets and tubs etc.**
- (g) **Community Policing.** The letter from Tony Baldry was noted. The Chairman reported a conversation with PC Middleton that if the village wanted community support officers would have to fund half the cost, which would be in the region of £12,000. This was obviously not in the budget for this year. It was also noted that under the terms of the Neighbourhood Bill, local authorities would be able to force a clean-up of litter etc on private land, and charge the costs to the land owner.

Invoices for Payment

A schedule of invoices totaling £4129.58 was tabled, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, and was approved for payment.

144/04

Investment of Councils Funds

At the close of business on 16 March 2005 the balances were as follows:

BANK BALANCES AS AT 16th March 2005

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
70708526	1457.48	.1%	Imprest
70708542	3222.12	.1%	Current
TOTAL	4679.60		
Bradford & Bingley	1000.00	2.85%	120 Days
W. Bromwich Building Soc.	284659.85	4.7%	Overnight
Alliance & Leicester	250000.00	4.55%	30 Day Notice
TOTAL	540339.45		

145/04

Correspondence

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

- (a) **21.02.05: Survey of Burial Grounds.** The Clerk confirmed that this was a questionnaire circulated by the Home Office as part of a national survey.
- (b) **9.03.05: Letter from Deddington Colts confirming they had no further interest in the Castle Grounds.** Concern was expressed as to whether the Colts had given due notice under the terms of the agreement they had had with the Parish council. After some discussion it was agreed that Cllrs Alton and Rollason informally should go back to the Deddington Colts and look into this.
- (c) 14.03.05: **Letter from Deddington School PTA** seeking the PC's support for a sponsored walk around the Deddington Circular Walk was noted and approved.
- (d) 14.03.05: **Letter from CDC relating to Street nameplates in the villages.** This revived the question of signage in the village and Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know if any signs were missing in the village.

146/04

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 20th April at the Town Hall commencing at 7.45pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm