

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall, Deddington on

Wednesday 18 March 2009 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Flux (Chair), Ince, Rudge, Privett, Squires, Todd, Watts, Westbury and Wood. The Parish Clerk was also in attendance.

In attendance: County Cllr Jelf

036/09	Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs Alton, Anderson, Collins, Ward and District Councillor O'Sullivan
037/09	Minutes of the last meeting: 020/09 Declaration of Interest, 026/09 08/02583/F Windmill Community Centre Cllr Todd personal and Prejudicial and Cllr Flux Personal Interest. 026/09 Planning Approvals, should have included 08/02525/F and 08/02526/LB Treholford, New Street Deddington. Cllr Flux then signed the minutes as a true record.
038/09	Declaration of Interests 042/09 (8) Windmill Centre , Cllr Flux personal interest. 043/09 R3-0079/09 and R3-0082/09 OCC Depot , Cllr Flux personal interest 044/09 (14) Vegetation on the bank south side of Deddington . Cllr Rudge personal interest 045/09 (2) Pitch Fees – Cllr Flux personal interest.
039/09	Matters Arising not referred to later on the Agenda: None
040/09	10 Minute Open Forum: None
041/09	County and District Councillors update: In the absence of DC O'Sullivan Cllr Flux brought it to the Parish Council's attention that Cherwell had moved from good to excellent in its rating receiving a score of 54 out of 60 on the five criteria they had been assessed on, which is in the top 10 in the country. Cllr Flux will congratulate the DC on behalf of the PC. County Cllr Jelf informed the Parish Council that Oxfordshire will be getting 8 new Social Workers (4 this year and 4 the next) as part of a County Council investment programme to ensure a "Baby P" incident does not happen in the County. Also trying to ensure that experienced personnel mentor the new recruits to ensure they operate effectually. Social workers are obliged to use a new and time-consuming government computer system which keeps them "off the front line" for hours at a time so OCC is trying to get permission to allow secretarial staff to transcribe their notes to maximise their time "front line". County Cllr Jelf stated the area they are now looking to improve is schools at secondary level as this has affected their previously excellent rating as a Council.
042/09	Finance & General Purposes Working Group 1. Summary cash flow to end February 2009. Doesn't quite reconcile, but will sort it in the final year end accounts preparation. 2. Cash at Building Societies. West Bromwich rate is down to 1.5% for amounts over £100,000. Otherwise 0.5%. 3. Forecast for the year to March 2009. Slightly higher shortfall than originally forecast due to lower interest rate from West Bromwich. Town Hall painting still shown in the forecast although unlikely to be in this year. It may be possible to charge some items to Capital Reserve, but need to take advice. The Satin Lane shed has been delivered and will be charged to Capital Reserve. 4. Budget 2009-2010. Now reflects the lower interest income expected from West Bromwich and Birmingham Midshires when the two year bond runs out. Environment and Special Projects shown separately from Recreation. Youth Club still shown as possible expense, although not definite. It was agreed that the Deddington News will be given a paragraph from the PC explaining the effect of the credit crunch. 5. Cemetery. Rules and fees. There was discussion regarding a possible deposit for headstone maintenance. However, it was suggested that the fees should include this. Cllr Ince suggested that financial records be kept for the yearly surplus/deficit of the cemeteries with fees being checked annually to ensure no financial burden to the Parish Council as it is run as self funding. 6. Insurance for new shed at Satin Lane. The contents will be insured by the users. 7. Allotments. Stone Pits title confirmed. Total cost appears to be £2,831.16. Chairman has suggested that this be capitalised as cost of acquiring an asset. Invoices for Satin Lane will go out when the new allotment agreement finalised. 8. Windmill Centre. AWC. The PC is owed £3,874 for Technical Services and has received £3,494.60 as PC share of takings. The difference will be carried forward as Windmill Centre expects to be able to pay out of future takings. The number of sweeps has been cut down for 2009/10. It was proposed by Cllr Wood that it be agreed to carry forward the £1,714 outstanding on the original loan. This was seconded by Cllr Todd and unanimously agreed. The cricket club is currently finalising what it owes the PC in respect of DesignGro. A schedule of current rent payments from Windmill Clubs was tabled. After much discussion Cllr Squires suggested that three way communication between the WMC the PC and the clubs was necessary. Cllr Flux confirmed that the fees had been set in 1995 and increased by inflation on an annual basis since then. Cllr Watts said that according to the Recreation WG's analysis the fees for pitch use

	<p>were on a par with other local pitches especially when taking into account the maintenance of the pitches. Cllr Flux agreed to talk to the WMC with regard to the Tennis Club fees and the fact that the PC pays for the insurance on the pavilion, which is on land registered to the WMC.</p> <p>9. Cricket Club. The PC has received a business plan for 2009 which shows the extra income from the proposed new facilities. This was considered to be a worthwhile additional facility for the parish that the PC should support. Cllr Wood proposed that the PC make a loan of £4,000 to be paid back in four equal annual instalments of £1,000 each, with earlier repayment if the club can afford it. This was unanimously agreed. Cllr Watts suggested that vandalism needed to be considered as the proposed Astro Turf could be easily damaged. The Cricket Club will be asked to confirm that the new equipment will be properly insured.</p> <p>10. Thames Valley Primary Care Agency (TVPCA). Deddington has been confirmed as rural by TVPCA, which enables the pharmacy to continue at the Health Centre.</p> <p>11. Grass Cutting. The clerk was granted authority to place the grass cutting contracts on Monday (as cleared with the Chairman).</p>
043/09	<p>Planning Group Applications 09/00028/TCA - Treholford, New Street, Deddington. Remove 1 no. walnut tree. No objection. 09/00038/TCA – Ithaca, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington. Fell nine Leylandii. No objection. 09/00044/TCA – 2 St Thomas Street, Deddington. Fell 1 very old Elder tree and replace with Silver Birch. No objection. 09/00229/TPO – Sentry House, Castle Street, Deddington. Works to 5 no. oak trees to maintain shape and remove dead or dangerous branches subject to TPO 19/89. No objection. R3-0079/09 – OCC Depot, Banbury Road, Deddington. Outline application to demolish existing transportable office buildings, erect a 2 storey permanent office building and formalise existing parking to provide 10 dedicated spaces. The site is on the brow of a hill in a rural location and can be seen from the housing on the northern boundary of Deddington and Hempton as well as other areas and sites. In developing the site it is important that consideration be given to screening it from view and the sympathetic use of materials and colouring. Light pollution could be an issue if not well designed. The PC appreciates the importance of the work carried out from the depot and the fact it is to be tidied up but the final design should be sympathetic to its prominent position in a rural location in an area of a high landscape value. R3-0082/09 – OCC Depot, Banbury Road, Deddington. Alterations and improvements to existing highways maintenance depot. This follows a proposal approved in 2006 for an extension to the depot. The current application includes extension of depot to the north, security fencing, lighting columns, etc. and erection of an 8.5 metre (27.5 ft) high curved canopy over the existing salt storage area. Any impact must be minimised. Proper screening of the site is necessary. The height of the cover is of concern. It must be an appropriate colour and should not reflect the sun. No objection subject to the PCs reservations being taken on board. County Cllr Jelf will be visiting the site prior to a formal decision being reached and will report the PC's views/concerns. Approvals 08/02532/F – Ithaca, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington (Retrospective) Withdrawal 08/02583/F – Windmill Community Centre, Hempton Road, Deddington. Wind turbine installation. Official notification received from CDC. Other matters OCC and a resident fencing issue. This refers to a fence erected on highway property at Hempton. The matter has yet to be resolved.</p>
044/09	<p>Highways Working Group (HWG)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OCC, Homes 2 School newsletter. Walk to School Week will be 18 to 22 May this year. 2. Disabled Parking Space. There has been an application for a Disabled Parking Space in Victoria Terrace. 3. Speedwatch Posters – Cllr Watts suggested the campaign be during Walk 2 School week. Cllr Privett to investigate Speedwatch stickers for the Wheelie bins. 4. Upgrade of 59 Bus Service Oxford/Banbury – HWG suggested the PC investigate the indicator and information signs on offer. A replacement was mentioned when the PC met with OCC transport people some time ago. 5. 7.5 tonne weight restrictions. A parishioner is in discussion with OCC regarding abuse of the 7.5 tonne weight restrictions, the 'give way' points and the pinchpoint at the southern end of Deddington on the way to Clifton. OCC will look at signage and see if it can be improved. 6. Pinchpoint at Southgate. Cllr Collins will advise the above parishioner of the comments made in Point 5 above. County Cllr Jelf also agreed to follow this up. 7. High Street Crossing Point. The use of the east/west crossing on the south side of the traffic lights was surveyed by OCC. They noted that no one using it but this was probably because it was surveyed mid-morning so the main usage by parishioners going to School and the early visits to the market place during peak rush hour was obviously missed. Cllr Collins understands

	<p>a parishioner is willing to start a petition and will discuss this with them. It was suggested that individual letters are usually better received. Cllr Privett said that a petition would assess current feelings prior to further action.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Earls Lane & Speeding. Cllr Privett spoke with PC Gerry Doyle about the SID (speed indicator device) who advised that they will be using it in 35 villages. The A4260 and Hempton Rd have already been identified as obvious places but Cllr Privett requested that it also be implemented in Earls Lane. HWG will also be undertaking surveillance with regard to speeding and in particular breaking of the 7.5 tonne limit. County Cllr Jelf said that the Police Neighbourhood group would be in and around Deddington and Hempton on Saturday 4 April and in Clifton on 26 April for residential consultation. 9. Street Lighting Switch Off. Correspondence received from OCC regarding potential switch off of certain street lights between 00.30am and 05.30am. The through routes would be unsuitable and have therefore not been included on the plans for consideration. In Walnut Close, Clifton, residents have already prepared a statement requesting this be considered, as there are some 6 lights for 11 properties. HWG asked all Councillors to engage with their local neighbourhood to ascertain support or gather comments and report back. Deddington News and Deddington Online will also be used to invite residents to direct their comments to the Parish Office. The findings can then be provided to OCC. Cllr Squires said that it was his experience that once lighting restrictions are put in place it is extremely hard to get the lights turned back on, despite demand, and that often the burden of cost falls on the Parish Council in question. Cllr Rudge suggested that opinions/suggestions be sought from other locations that have 'switched off'. Cllr Westbury said that in the long term street lighting bulbs will probably be overhauled which will vastly reduce cost. 10. Parking. Cllr Wood's paper circulated for consideration by Council in May. Cllr Collins is sourcing a definitive statement of the legal position of parking and rights of parking on Highways for the PC to hold on file and refer to Parishioners as and when required. This will hopefully assist with some ongoing matters and issues within the Parish. 11. Bus Shelter Grant Scheme. Cllr Privett mentioned that due to changes in OCC grant scheme the parish has been lucky to have our new traditionally styled shelter. 12. St Thomas Street. Cllr Rudge mentioned that she would like the working group to investigate the use of signage to show that oncoming vehicle are in the middle of the road due to parking. 13. Vegetation on the bank south side of Deddington. Since the trees have been felled to repair the wall on the main road the vision entering in the village has been vastly improved. Cllr Rudge asked that HWG investigate getting the other vegetation cut back so as to finish resolving the visual impairment.
045/09	<p>Recreation Working Group (RWG)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fitness Trail: Location. The WG thought that the Police might oppose the scheme for the same reasons as the teen scene notably that it is secluded, and at risk of vandalism but that the Castle Grounds should be the location as it would improve usage of this area and parish resource. The WG considered that some car parking would be required to enable this facility to be enjoyed by the whole parish. Type of equipment. Equipment and particularly signs should be vandal proof. Concern was expressed over the signage (particularly its estimated cost) and the use of wooden equipment in the quotes already obtained. A potential user survey should be undertaken (as per the teen scene) to evaluate which type of equipment would be best to install. Financing. The group asked the chair to confirm his understanding of the Cherwell grant available. He confirmed that it is his understanding that up to 50% funding may be possible. This should be looked into as well as other grant opportunities. The WG wanted the PC to confirm that it remains happy in principal to allocate some money from capital reserves towards this project in the current financial situation. It was felt that as a decision is not imminent the fact-finding should continue despite the current economic climate, as it would improve the parish services. Overall. The group wondered whether the establishment of a volunteer group e.g. "Friends of the Castle Grounds", might aid the whole process and whether the Deddington News could be used to assess interest in starting such a group. Cllr Westbury suggested that if the PC received a planning application to have a residential tree removed a request for a sapling for the Castle Grounds be made. Cllr Todd suggested that this was not enforceable. The idea of sponsoring trees will be investigated further. 2. Pitch Fees at the Windmill Centre. Reported under Finance 0424/09 (8). 3. Fair. Cllrs Flux, Squires and the Clerk met with Perry Hartwell. In line with PC wishes, the annual charge was increased by £10. The PC will limit its involvement this year but the Clerk will action the road closure, the weekday steward will work for 3 hrs (paid by Perry) to leaflet cars in the run up to the fair and Cllr Squires will leaflet the properties on the square. Perry will sort out everything else including the collection and return of the road closures signs from CDC. It was agreed that Perry might extent the fair footprint slightly northwards to avoid blocking shop fronts. Cllr Todd noted that an indentation left by one of last years rides needs rectifying. 4. Clearance of Castle Grounds Roadway. Cllr Flux confirmed that the clearance to the entrance

	<p>of the castle grounds has been approved by the landlords. Cllr Westbury to action.</p> <p>5. Colts use of Castle Grounds. Cllr Squires will contact the Colts to confirm if they intend to use the Castle Grounds this season</p>																												
046/09	<p>Environment & Special Projects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Environment. Rod d'Ayala looked at the proposed wildflower sites in February and was very enthusiastic about the cemetery. The WG are awaiting his report prior to developing a plan. Planters. Nicholson's of North Aston have started to measure up the planters prior to planting. Sight of their "Sponsored by" plaques is still be awaited. Hanging Baskets. The Unicorn Inn has generously offered to sponsor the Hanging Baskets this year subject to agreeing details. Litter/Dog Bins. The Dog bin on the Hempton Road is now being emptied. After review the location is considered appropriate to needs. The Dog Bin in Clifton has been relocated to the junction of Main Road and Chapel Lane after being hit by a car in its previous location. Notice Boards The WG is still trying to find a cheap repair for curling backings. War Memorial Cemetery. Work has started on clearing the thorns, ivy and over hanging trees. A chipper may be required to dispose of the resulting pile of branches. Cllr Westbury asked that hire/borrowing should tie in with work to be undertaken at the Castle Grounds. The cost of installing an "Edged" gravel path from gate and around memorial will be investigated. Hempton Road Cemetery. Revised Cemetery costs and regulations submitted for PC approval and approved. These will be sent to the usual Funeral Directors. The Funeral Directors will also be contacted to establish whether a more robust headstone mounting system could be specified to reduce the possibility of headstone movement. A Risk Assessment is being developed to cover H&S needs. In conjunction with the Risk Assessment all memorials in the Cemetery will be reviewed once a year to check status. First review 10am 8th April 2009. The possible implications of future requests for the internment of believers of other faiths is being investigated. The cost of hard standing for the water trough and waste bins to be established. The notice board for Cemetery will be repaired. Litter Pick Up. It was discussed whether a litter pick should be organised for this year as turn out had been poor in previous years and the main areas for litter collection are the pathways adjoining the villages and this has safety implication for young litter pickers. Annual review. Cllr Squires also suggested that a topic should be decided on for the annual parish meeting with inclusion into the PC newsletter. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Wildlife meadows. It was suggested that the area that would be left undeveloped to the North of the OCC depot be considered for a wildflower meadow if planning permission is granted for the current planning proposals. Cllr Rudge to investigate further. 																												
047/09	<p>Rules and Regulations 2009 Review</p> <p>Cemetery. Revised rules and regulations passed by the Parish Council.</p> <p>Allotments. Rules and regulations to follow next meeting.</p>																												
048/09	<p>Report upon the Play Areas</p> <p>The broken springer has been removed from the Windmill Centre and part of the Wimborn Play Area surface has been repaired.</p>																												
049/09	<p>Invoices for Payment</p> <p>A schedule of invoices totalling £3,189.14 were tabled and approved for payment.</p>																												
050/09	<p>Investment of Council Funds</p> <p>At the close of business on 18 March 2009 the balances were as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>ACCOUNT</th> <th>BALANCE</th> <th>INTEREST</th> <th>NOTICE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Barclays Imprest Acct</td> <td>735.46</td> <td>0.1%</td> <td>Imprest</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barclays Current Acct</td> <td>8,062.93</td> <td>0.1%</td> <td>Current</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W. Bromwich Building Soc.</td> <td>124,270.48</td> <td>1.5%</td> <td>Overnight</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birmingham Midshires</td> <td>200,000.00</td> <td>6.12%</td> <td>1 year fixed (June 09)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anglo Irish Bank</td> <td>200,000.00</td> <td>3.25%</td> <td>2 year fixed (Jan 11)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>533,068.87</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ACCOUNT	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE	Barclays Imprest Acct	735.46	0.1%	Imprest	Barclays Current Acct	8,062.93	0.1%	Current	W. Bromwich Building Soc.	124,270.48	1.5%	Overnight	Birmingham Midshires	200,000.00	6.12%	1 year fixed (June 09)	Anglo Irish Bank	200,000.00	3.25%	2 year fixed (Jan 11)	TOTAL	533,068.87		
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051/09	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Cllr Spencer has resigned from the PC. Cherwell did not receive a request for an election therefore the position will be co-opted. Deddington News will advise parishioners' wishing to stand to contact the Parish Clerk. The Clerk will ask Molly Neild to include something in the Banbury Guardian. Nominations to be received by Wednesday 13th May.</p> <p>Cllr Flux has discovered that the Deddington Parish is part of the NAG that comes under Hook Norton and the Barfords. The named representative is Dave Keats. Cllr Flux will contact to assess involvement with PC.</p>																												
052/09	<p>AOB</p> <p>Draft Parish Council Newsletter. Cllr Squires reminded council that a newsletter is usually produced prior to the parish meeting. He offered to oversee the draft version and would like WGs to forward articles/photos by 5 April.</p>																												

	<p>Vandalism. There has been some vandalism inside the Windmill Centre including toilet roll blocking toilets, defacing of photographs of the Tuesday and Thursday club. Some curtains have also been damaged. The groups responsible have been recognised and it is hoped deterred from further damage. It was suggested by Cllr Ince that CCTV could be used if further damage was made. The Clerk reported that tags had been made in Clifton on Lighting Company and the Bus Shelter. The weekday steward has removed the one on the bus Shelter.</p> <p>Christmas Lights. The Clerk told the PC that some misplaced Christmas lights have been found.</p> <p>Concerts. Cllr Rudge asked why there were few touring concerts in the Parish. Cllr Flux reported that this is often because no-one is organising them, however one is coming in September.</p> <p>Dog bags. Dog waste bags are available from the Clerk. Cllr Watts will hold stock for Hempton residents.</p> <p>Church Clock Maintenance. Cllr Flux informed that the Church clock will be serviced w/c 23 March.</p>
053/09	<p>Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 15 April 2009 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Deddington.</p>