

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 19 May 2004
commencing at 7.45pm

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

1 /04 **Apologies**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Cox, Mrs Spencer, Co Councillor Jelf.

2/04 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

(a) Cllr Harvey stated that she had declared an interest in respect of 52/04(d), and asked that this be added to paragraph 49/04.

Subject to this change, the Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 21 April were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

3/04 **Declaration of Interests**

Councillors declared an interest as follows:

- a. 66/04 (c) Cllrs Flux and Rollason declared an interest
- b. 66/04 (d) Cllr Wood declared an interest
- c. 68/04(b) Cllr Ellis had left the meeting, but his interest was noted
- d. 78/04(a) Cllr Alton declared an interest

4/04 **10 Minute Open Forum**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

5/04 **Finance and General Purposes Working Group**

Cllr Wood reported as follows:

- a. A letter from CDC relating to grants for sports and youth activities had been passed to the environment working group.
- b. It was noted that, in future, CDC would be charging the Parish Council VAT, which the Parish Council would then have to claim back.
- c. The £31,000 in relation to Wimborn Close had now been received from CDC.
- d. A cashflow report was tabled, showing actual figures for April and budget figures for the rest of the year.
- e. The accounts for the year to March 2004 had been produced and passed to the internal Auditor. The Annual Return had been drafted. A copy of the accounts would be tabled at the next meeting and in the meantime anyone wanting a copy was asked to let him know. The deficit for the year was just under £3000, less than had been estimated. This was because interest received had been a little more than expected.

- f. The Chairman thanked Cllr Wood and the Clerk for their continuing work in producing these accounts.

6/04

Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Squires reported as follows:

- a. **Stonepits Allotments.** There was concern, particularly amongst the allotment holders, that the question of land registration had still not been resolved and this was delaying the installation of water. The Chairman said he had written two months ago and had been assured that although the person dealing with it was on holiday, it would be their first priority on their return. Cllr Ellis proposed that the Parish Council should approach a different firm of solicitors. Cllr Todd warned however that this might delay the process as new solicitors would inevitably take time to familiarise themselves with the case. As an alternative **he proposed that the Parish Council should go through the various solicitors complaints procedures to investigate if there had been any undue delay. This was seconded by Cllr Watts and agreed.** Meanwhile the Chairman would go back to the solicitors in strong terms and if there is no response action will be taken accordingly. **It was also agreed that the allotment holders be informed as to the course of action which had been agreed.**
- b. **Village Plan.** Following the presentations at the Annual Meeting it was recommended that a new survey of residents' views be carried out and that this should be as inclusive as possible. It was recommended that a new Working Group should be set up, including participants from outside the Parish Council, with a view to completing its work within a calendar year. **This was agreed. It was also agreed that the Deddington News should be asked to include a notice asking for participants on the Working Group which should have no more than 7 members, the majority of whom would not be members of the Parish Council. In the meantime, Cllrs Squires, Watts and Alton agreed to participate in the Working Group.**
- c. **Hard Play Area.** It was reported that CDC would be unable to provide a 50% grant because the area would not be open for 24 hours a day. However, they will provide a grant of 25%. The Police had emphasized the importance of the facility being secured and the ability to charge rent also depended on this. This change had only come to light at the last minute after the figures had been submitted. The total estimated cost of the project was £13,500 excluding VAT. **The Working Group proposed that in order to progress the project the 25% grant from CDC, together with £1000 which the Windmill Management Committee had committed, should be topped by a donation of £3,400 from the Parish Council and an interest free loan of £5,725 over a period of 6 years** (the calculations had originally been based on an estimated cost of £16,000 excluding VAT, which proposed a donation of £4,000 and loan of £7,000 and amended accordingly). This was seconded by Cllr Westley. **Cllr Todd then proposed that the loan be kept to the original proposed sum of £7,000 and the donation reduced to £2125. This amendment was seconded by Cllr Swash and agreed by 6 votes to 4.** Cllr Todd asked if there were any further grants available. The Chairman confirmed that the Windmill Management Committee had looked into this and no others had so far appeared, but they would continue to explore possibilities. Cllr Rollason confirmed

- that the demand for such a facility was high and there would be several groups interested in using the area. He emphasized that this was an all weather surface and use would not be restricted to football, hockey, netball etc. could also be played.
- d. **CPRE.** A letter had been received from the CPRE outlining draft planning policy for the countryside whereby the government was seeking to loosen the controls councils had to limit building development. Cllr Wood explained that currently, councils could use the designation of an area as being “of high landscape value” as a reason for refusing an application if it felt it were inappropriate, and the CPRE felt that councils should be allowed to keep these designations.
 - e. **Grass Cutting.** The Clerk confirmed that the OCC grant for this had been factored into the budget. Cllr Swash raised concerns over the grass at the Castle Grounds which was very long, and some of the grass verges which were very overgrown and potentially dangerous. The Chairman reported that the Clerk had now arranged for some of those areas which were giving concern to be cut. Castle Grounds had previously been mown as a playing field but the Council had subsequently decided that it should be left more as a meadow. Cllr Squires said that the PC had agreed to reduce the mowing budget by £2,000 in order to save an increase of between £1 and £2 per person on the precept. Cllr Westley said it was important for the Parish Council to look at its objectives in the way that it spent its money. He suggested that there might be those in the parish who were prepared to pay more on the precept to receive better services; this was an important principle and related both to grass cutting and other expenditure more generally. **It was agreed that this was something that should be reflected in the village plan.** As far as grass cutting was concerned it was felt that this needed to be monitored and, particularly in view of recent weather conditions, a few more weeks needed to elapse before a proper assessment could be made.
 - f. **Goal Posts** **It was agreed that the Colts should be asked to remove the goal posts which had been left at Castle Ground.**

7/04

Highways Working Group

- a. **Grass Verge outside Co-op.** **It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to the Co-op about getting this area properly re-seeded and protected to prevent cars parking on the verge.** Cllr Alton commented that there had been much praise for the contractors who had undertaken this work at the village meeting and **it was agreed that the Parish Council should write to the Co-op reflecting this, and thanking them for their commitment to the village.**
- b. **Meeting with OCC.** A meeting was scheduled with OCC for 25 May to discuss the Clifton Footpath, Hempton pinch point and traffic calming and Better Ways to School project in Deddington.
- c. **Parking Issues** Following the issues raised at the March meeting, the Working Group recommended that a new project team should be established to build on the work already collated in 2000. Its goal would be to examine how the parish can improve the quality of the local environment via a socially responsible, environmentally friendly and commercial transport and parking plan, with a view to reporting within 6 months. It was proposed that the team would be led by the Working Group and Deddington News was asked to include an advert asking any interested parties to contact the Clerk.
- d. **Lime Cottage** Following correspondence relating to parking on the grass verge outside Lime Cottage, it was agreed that a member of the Working Group should

meet with the current occupier and establish the exact situation before coming to a decision as to the best way forward. It was also agreed that Co Cllr Jelf should be kept informed of all developments. The need for the Parish Council to balance its responsibilities to individual parishioners with fairness to all was noted.

8/04

Planning Working Group

Cllr Harvey reported as per the attached schedule:

- a. A list of approvals since the last meeting was circulated. Cllr Harvey drew attention to the approval given to the non-illuminated Post Office sign at the Co-op. Apparently CDC had not received any letters of concern about this, although Cllr Harvey knew a number had been sent. **It was agreed that the Parish Council would go back to CDC regarding this.** Cllr Harvey also highlighted the approval given to the erection of 1 dwelling at Land adjacent to and North East of 1 The Maunds, High St, Deddington, to which the Parish Council had previously raised an objection because there had been insufficient information available. Although CDC said that they had faxed through more detailed plans, these had not been received. It would be helpful if, when the Parish Council had made particularly strong objections which were then ignored, some feedback could be received as to why this had occurred. This had been promised but it was not happening. **It was agreed that a list of such instances should be kept and that the Chairman would take these up at the next Council Liaison meeting. It was agreed that District Cllr O'Sullivan should be kept informed.**
- b. 04/00129/LB (Retrospective) The Olive Restaurant, Market Place, Deddington. Erection of two externally illuminated signs. **No objection**
- c. 04/00790/F Little Hardres Cottage, High St, Deddington. Removal of existing extension and erection of single story extension to side. **No objection**
- d. 04/00891/F Featherton House, Chapel Square, Deddington. Replace existing window with emergency fire escape door to North elevation. **No objection**
- e. 04/00986/F Dragon House, Bullring, Deddington. Erection of detached double garage. **No objection**
- f. 04/00942/F Tawney Cottage, High St, Deddington. Erection of conservatory to rear. **No objection**
- g. Cllr Todd reported that he had been approached by the management of the Co-op asking if they could leave some containers outside the shop, for newspapers etc. He had said he would put this request to the Parish Council, and **it was agreed that this was a matter for OCC.**

9/04

Invoices for Payment

Invoices totaling £7918.49 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment.

10/04 **Investment of Councils Funds**

At the close of business on 19th May 2004 the balances were as follows:

BANK BALANCES AS AT 19th May 2004

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
70708526	951.64	.1%	Imprest
70708542	14102.70	.1%	Current
TOTAL	15054.34		
Bradford & Bingley	1000.00	2.35%	120 Days
W. Bromwich Building Soc.	564259.85	4.0%	Overnight
TOTAL	579314.19		

11/04 **Attendance record of members for 2003-2004**

The attendance record of members was circulated.

12/04 **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Clerk took the Chair and asked for nominations for the Chairmanship of the Council for 2003/04.

13/04 **Election of Chairman for 2003/2004**

Cllr Swash proposed Cllr Flux. This was seconded by Cllr Harvey. There being no other nominations, Cllr Flux was duly re-elected and took the Chair. Cllr Flux thanked all members of the PC for their support over the previous year.

14/04 **Election of Vice-Chairman for 2003/2004**

Cllr Flux proposed Cllr Squires; this was seconded by Cllr Alton. There being no other nominations Cllr Squires was re-elected.

15/04 **Working Group Structure and Membership**

It was agreed that the same Working Group structure should continue for the next year. Cllr Harvey asked to come off the Environment Working Group. Apart from this change **it was agreed that the membership would continue as for last year, and that each**

Working Group would elect their own chairman for the year.

16/04 **Dates of Council Meetings for 2003-2004**

As previously agreed, Council meetings would continue to be held on the third Wednesday over every month, at the new later time of 7.45pm

17/04 **Grants for Students**

It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue with the annual allowance for students. The F&GP would continue to look at ways in which it could be financed.

18/04 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence was circulated at the meeting.

- a. 17 May, estimate from GJ Neat for repairs to the Cricket Pavilion. The Clerk reported that the estimated cost of repairing the damage caused by vandalism to the cricket pavilion was £600. The damage included broken guttering and 100 broken tiles. The police were now recommending that CCTV should be installed.
- b. 26 April: Oxford Structure Plan 2016. Cllr Wood confirmed that this did not relate to Deddington but to the proposals for building houses north of Oxford.
- c. 28 April, CDC – RAF Upper Heyford – Review of comprehensive Planning Brief. Cllr Wood reported that NOC had now accepted that only 1000 houses could be built and were intending to lease the top end of the air base to CDC for a country park and another area was to be developed for sporting purposes.

19/04 **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 15 June at the Town Hall commencing at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.