

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 17 November 2004
commencing at 7.45pm

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

77/04 **Apologies**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Todd and Rollason.

78/04 **Regionalisation of Fire Services**
Co Cllr Jelf reported that following a meeting held to discuss the regionalisation of Fire Services, it was clear that there was widespread opposition to this. A motion opposing it been passed through OCC and it also appeared that Northamptonshire County Council were refusing to take part.

79/04 **Minutes of Last Meeting**
The following changes were agreed:
a. 69/04, line 20: Cllr Swash's name should be inserted in place of Cllr Watts.
b. 71/04(j): The sentence "*An objection had been made on social grounds only*" should be inserted.

Subject to these changes the Minutes were then approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

80/04 **Matters arising**
(a) It was agreed that all relevant papers relating to August should be accepted and filed in the Minutes book.
(b) **Parish Liaison Meeting.** The Chairman reported that he had attended the Annual Parish Liaison Meeting. Amongst the matters discussed was the provision of 'affordable' or 'social' housing. He had subsequently spoken to James Alcock from ORCC who was working with CDC on this, and invited him to address the PC in February to look at ways in which Deddington PC might become involved. Other issues discussed included ASBO's, Road Safety show for recycling and a Community Safety Audit which had been sent to the Parish Council.
(c) **OALG:** The Chairman also reported that he had also attended a meeting of OALG and been informed that it had been agreed nationally to produce guidance for parish councils on the preparation and completion of risk assessments.

81/04 **Declaration of Interests**

89/04: Cllr Spencer declared an interest.

82/04 **10 Minute Open Forum**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

83/04 **Planning Working Group**

Cllr Swash reported as follows:

- (a) A list of approvals was circulated
- (b) **04/01908/F Russett Cottage, The Stile, Deddington**. Demolition of existing kitchen and bathroom and erection of single storey and two storey extension to the rear (as amended plans 11.10.04). **No objection**
- (c) 04/02094/F Roseville, Chapel Close, Clifton. Single storey extension to the rear. **No objection.**
- (d) **04/02250/F Sylvan Cottage, Clifton**. Proposed Garden Room, covered walk and pergola extension. **No objection**
- (e) **04/01678/LB Holcombe Hotel, Deddington**. Demolition of existing lean-to, erection of oak framed single storey pavilion for admin, staff use. Conversion and alteration of existing rear outbuildings to provide hotel staff accommodation on ground floor and alterations to first floor letting bedrooms. Erection of single storey wooden extension (as amended by plans received 25 October 2004). **No objection.**
- (f) Cllr Haslam enquired asked planning permission had been requested for the new sign saying "The Village Pub". **It was agreed that the Clerk would find out from CDC whether planning permission were necessary for this.**

84/04 **Finance and General Purposes Working Group**

Cllr Wood reported that no meeting had taken place. However, having spoken with other members of the Working Group he was able to report as follows:

- (a) Accounts to the end of October were tabled. The presentation had been amended and a number of adjustments made. The Clerk was reconciling all accounts every month. The budget to the end of the year was included and it appeared that there would be a likely shortfall of about £2,500, although this would be increased by whatever was agreed with OCC for traffic calming.
- (b) It appeared that the Alliance and Leicester were opening a new community deposit account. This was a 30-day account, paying gross interest of 4.6%. Given concerns raised previously that all the PC's deposits were with one building society, **Cllr Wood proposed that the Clerk should apply for the Parish Council to open an account and if the Working Group's understanding of this account was correct, a sum of say £250,000 should be transferred. This was seconded by Cllr Alton and unanimously agreed.**
- (c) The Internal Auditor's report was tabled. This showed that where there had been queries and that these had been satisfactorily answered. This report would now be

undertaken every three months. The Internal Auditor was thanked for all her work in preparing the report.

- (d) **Youth Club.** The committee would be meeting at the end of November and would report back in due course.
- (e) **Bequest to Deddington Library.** A letter had been received from Johnson Gaunt, Solicitors, informing the PC that a bequest had been made by the late Mrs MKM Brearley-Kersley to Deddington Library. However, the library is part of OCC and following discussions with them, it was agreed that this money would be held in a Trust Fund for the Library, which would receive 10% of the capital and accumulated interest for 10 years. OCC had promised that this money would be supplemental to existing funding and District Cllr O'Sullivan emphasized the importance of ensuring that this money was ring fenced. **It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mrs Brearley-Kersley's children and the Executors of her estate expressing the PC's gratitude for this bequest. It was also agreed that a note should be made to check with the library in 12 months time that this additional money had been received.**

85/04

Environment and Recreation Working Group

Cllr Squires reported as follows:

- (a) **Stonepits Allotments.** The solicitors had reported that the Land Registry's response would be delayed. The reason for this was not clear and it was hoped that there would not be any problems.
- (b) **Circular Walk.** Andre Tansley had reported that all was in order with the Circular Walk. A letter of thanks had been sent to Mr Tansley.
- (c) **Budget.** Preliminary discussions for next year's budget had taken place. Cllr Rollason had agreed to approach the Windmill Management Committee regarding any additional expenditure, eg CCTV. The Clerk confirmed that CDC charged £2.32 a week for emptying each dog bin. It was not clear whether they were able to empty any additional bins **and it was agreed that the Clerk should look into this.**
- (d) **BMX Track.** It was agreed that this was working well and was very popular. Consideration had previously been given to grass seeding some of the area to try and prevent stones being thrown onto the All Weather Pitch. The Clerk confirmed that grass seed had already been purchased for this. **It was felt that some areas could be seeded although it was important to ensure that the BMX track was maintained.**
- (e) **Christmas Tree.** The Clerk had found someone who would both supply and erect a Christmas tree at a much more reasonable cost than quoted by CDC. The lights would be erected by the usual electrician.
- (f) **Youth Club.** Following the resignation of Cllr Swash as the PC's representative for the Youth Club, the need for a replacement was discussed. **It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Chairman of the Youth Club saying that if further input were required, the PC would be happy to provide it. (Since the meeting Cllr Wood has agreed to represent the PC on the Management Committee but he will have no responsibilities for the running of the club on Mondays)**
- (g) **Transport Consultation Campaign.** In view of the high profile of traffic/transport in the initial Village Plan consultation exercise, **it was agreed that parishioners who were concerned about this should contact OCC direct and that the Clerk should obtain copies of the consultation questionnaire to be placed in the Library. It was also felt that the PC should complete a questionnaire.**

- (h) **OALC discussion on Links between Local Councils and Principal Authorities.**
The pilot scheme to develop some District Council functions to local councils in Faringdon, Carterton and Didcot was noted. It was felt that this was something more applicable to small towns, and unlikely to be relevant to Deddington, even if properly funded.
- (i) **Vandalism in Adderbury. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Adderbury PC and request information on measures that had been taken following incidents of vandalism at Adderbury Lakes.** It was felt that this might be relevant for the Windmill Centre. PC Clive Middleton, who was present was asked to comment. He confirmed that there had been no significant vandalism at the Windmill Centre recently but promised to look into a particular incident raised by Cllr Spencer. He also confirmed that there was evidence of some low-level drug abuse. He emphasized the need for all information, however small, to be passed to him.

86/04

Parish Plan Working Group

Cllr Squires reported that the open meetings had now been completed and had been very successful. The responses to the initial questionnaire would be circulated with the Minutes. The Working Group was now approaching the various organizations in the village to obtain their views, before moving on to local businesses. The anticipated budget was £1,000, and it was hoped that half of this could be obtained through grants.

The Chairman added at a recent meeting, CDC had confirmed that comments on planning applications from those Parishes that had a village plan would carry more weight.

87/04

Highways Working Group

Cllr Haslam reported that a meeting had taken place with Steve Bowden of OCC on 16th November to discuss the following:

- (a) **Hempton.** The Working Group confirmed that they were happy with the progress that had been made with issues in Hempton.
- (b) **Clifton.** The Working Group was disappointed that work on the build out and path had not yet started. Steve Bowden had confirmed that this would be completed by the end of March 2005. The PC would be invoiced £7,000 for this (as previously agreed).
- (c) **Deddington.** The Working Group had reaffirmed exactly what was required and Steve Bowden had committed to this work being completed in the current financial year. He had stated that OCC would not be responsible for maintaining the gates. The PC felt that while they could undertake the painting, OCC should be responsible for other maintenance. **It was agreed that this needed to be clarified.**
- (d) **Invoice No 2206002746.** It had been confirmed that this related to interim work for the traffic calming completed. **It was agreed that this should be paid.**
- (e) **Traffic Calming.** It appeared that the full £14,000 set aside for traffic calming would not be spent in full. The total bill was likely to be nearer to £10,000. Cllr Cox questioned why Deddington appeared to be paying for traffic calming measures when other villages had had these installed. Steve Bowden had confirmed that where these were installed as a result of a specific recommendation from a Parish Council, the costs were split on a 50/50 basis.

- (f) **Hempton Road.** The traffic calming proposals near the Windmill Centre on the Hempton Road were outside the original proposals and OCC were creating several options for the Working Group to present to the PC. (It has since been learnt that OCC are seeking funding through the Community Safety Works Programme.
- (g) **Co-op. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the regional manager regarding the grass areas outside the Co-op.**
- (h) **Parking Issues.** The information from the parking survey had been collated. The Working Group would be reporting in due course and was looking at providing 2 or 3 alternative proposals which could provide long-term solutions.
- (i) **Lime Cottage.** The possibility of using the bus stop to create additional parking spaces had been raised with Steve Bowden and he had promised to review this.
- (j) **Better Ways to School. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the four suggested improvements proposed by the school:** coloured patches on Earls Lane, new footpath outside Castle House; improved footpath on north side of Hempton Road opposite Geggs Cottage; and improved position of signs and updated sign on Banbury Road. **It was also agreed that the possibility of providing an additional pelican crossing at the cross roads, linked with the existing one, should be considered.**
- (k) A letter had been received from Mr Hall regarding the number of old signs in the Parish.
- (l) Concern had also been expressed regarding the grass verge outside the Church. **It was agreed that this would also be raised with the Co-op.**
- (m) Bus Services. The Working Group was awaiting a consultation letter regarding the use and options of the services supporting the parish.

87/04

Invoices for Payment

A schedule of invoices totaling £ 18788.49 was tabled, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, was approved for payment.

88/04

Investment of Councils Funds

At the close of business on 17 November 2004 the balances were as follows:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE	INTEREST	NOTICE
70708526	1495.19	.1%	Imprest
70708542	3309.88	.1%	Current
TOTAL	4805.07		
Bradford & Bingley	1000.00	2.85%	120 Days
W. Bromwich Building Soc.	556759.85	4.0%	Overnight
TOTAL	562564.92		

89/04

Correspondence

A list of correspondence was circulated at the meeting.

- (a) **Letter from Tony Baldry.** This related to anticipated legislation affecting the powers of Parish Councils in the forthcoming Queen's speech. It was felt that consideration needed to be given as to how this was taken forward and that the Parish Council needed more time to review the various options before committing itself to any particular action. **It was agreed that a response should be sent to Tony Baldry accordingly.**
- (b) **17/11/04: Roadside Memorial – email from OCC.** Contradictory information had been given by OCC as to their position regarding the roadside memorial garden which had been planted opposite the Leys. Whilst some members of the PC felt that such planting should be allowed, concern was also expressed that a precedent was being set and that the PC would have no control over such features in the future. **It was agreed that clarification as to OCC's position was needed before the Parish Council could take this further.**

90/04

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 15th December at the Town Hall commencing at 7.45pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.