DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 22nd October, 1997 at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Councillors Flux (Chairman), Mrs Brewer, Clarke, Clinch, Colley, Cosgrove, Drake, Mrs Fisher, Miss Hill, Mrs Lee, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Swash and Todd. District Councillor P O'Sullivan in attendance.

53/97 Apologies for Absence.
Apologies were received from Cr Oddy and County Councillor Matthews.

54/97 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th September, 1997.
The Minutes were unanimously approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

55/97 Possible Closure of Deddington Public Library.
This matter was placed on the Agenda as a result of the County Council 'hit list' for the possible closure of libraries, to reduce expenditure in order to meet the Government's capping limits, having been increased from 10 to 30 and now including Deddington. Mrs Y MacDonald of the Library Service and the Local Librarian Mrs R Arnold attended at the invitation of the Chairman. Mrs MacDonald stated that the requirement was how to make cuts of £½m. in the overall budget in addition to the cuts of £315,000 already made mainly on new books, newspapers etc..To make such reductions it was clear that the current library network could not be sustained and a criteria for closure of libraries had been devised in which they served a population of less than 10,000 people and were within 4 miles from a retained library. This list contained 10 libraries including Adderbury. It had now been decided to change the criteria to serving a similar population or were within 5 miles of a retained library which now included among 30 libraries, Deddington. She stated that it was not practicable to further reduce the new book purchases and the matter was now open to public consultation. A questionaire was being produced which would be available in libraries and a wide take-up of views on the cut backs was anticipated. Members asked many questions - How was a catchment area calculated? - better to look at registrations? - Effect upon school children? - not possible to obtain a lottery grant.
A decision on the matter would be discussed at the Museums, Archives and Libraries Committee of the County Council on 8th December and Mrs MacDonald suggested that voices be heard as soon as possible.Itwas moved and unanimously agreed that Mrs MacDonald be thanked for her attendance, the need for a library in Deddington be strongly supported and Parishioners be urged to complete the questionnaires and write to the County Council as soon as possible.

56/97 Low Cost Housing.
The Clerk reported upon a reply he had received from

Prudential Portfolio Managers Ltd who are acting as agents for Swiss Life and Health, the current site owners. They state that the terms of the Section 106 agreement have not been finalised and placed the blame for the delay upon the Housing Association. 'OCHA have, I believe, acknowledged that the draft Section 106 Agreement would not achieve a number of fundamental requirements agreed with them when discussions with them commenced but which appear to have been overlooked at the planning application stage'.The Association's Head of Development has now taken over the scheme and has undertaken to give it her full attention to achieve a start on site at the earliest possible time. The Clerk stated that he would obtain regular updates as to progress.

57/97 Draft Revised Conservation Statement for Deddington.
It was agreed that the District Council be advised of the following amendments to the draft.
(a) an extension to the Conservation Area to take in a strip of the field to the north of Earls Lane between 'Stonecourt' and 'Earls Court' thus complementing the text regarding the maintenance of views into the village and particularly that of the Church.
(b) consideration be given to a small Conservation Area in Hempton and possibly Clifton.
(c) paragraph 4.2 - Chapel Square - refers to 'sympathetic restoration to increase harmony within the square' and Council would be pleased to learn precisely which buildings were being referred to.

58/97 Meeting with Deddington Online Steering Group.
Cr Todd reported that the Group's objectives were to
(a) create a computer website for the benefit of the Parish and
(b) encourage interest in the use of computers within the village.
The first objective would benefit individuals, organisatioins, businesses, services, Parish Council etc. and would place Deddington on the map and provide a Parish-wide service and facility. The second would pool the talents of those with computer skills into a resource encouraging the growth of computer skills at all levels within the local community and provide a training facility readily available for those living, studying and working within the Parish. To this end a Computer Fun Day on 29th November is being planned.
A Deddington firm, Akita Ltd, has offered to host the web site and to service it from accurate word-processed material and other items eg photographs, supplied by those parties wishing to utilise it. In suggesting that the Parish Council supports this project it does raise the question of our ability to fully participate. Currently in the clerk's office we have old (in computer terms) equipment which is already in need of replacement. I recommend that we should budget to replace the current word processor with a modern terminal able to give the clerk additional facilities to assist him in his duties.

Together with the new equipment it would appear sensible to purchase a modem allowing e.mail access and the ability to participate fully in the On-Line project at an estimated capital cost of £2K and future revenue costs of £250 per annum. Members were of the view that this Council should have control of the web site and unanimously approved investigations into the upgrading of the office equipment within the aforementioned estimated sums.

59/97 Open Space Provision within the Parish.

Mr John Lee had prepared a report comparing the actual open space provision within the Parish with the recommended standards set by the National Playing Fields Association, as requested by the District Council.The report showed that actual provision was in excess of the recommendations as follows:-

	Actual	Recommendation
Formal Outdoor Sport Facilities/ Grounds	3.25 ha.	3.3 ha.
Informal Open Space/Childrens Play Areas	4.40 ha.	1.4 ha.

The end result of this assessment is that in respect of any future housing developments there will not be a planning requirement for the provision of an on-site open space but a contribution towards equipment on existing open spaces may be required.
It was resolved that Mr Lee be thanked for his efforts in the production of the report.

60/97 Recreation Committee.

Cr Mrs Lee reported as follows:-

(a) Grant Application - Deddington On-Line Group.
The Group had requested a grant to cover start up expenses estimated at £313 to cover stationery and cartridges for the Website and the outgoings to run the FunDay on 29th November - details on a copy of application filed with these minutes.
It was recommended that the grant be approved on the basis of the Council paying the accounts as rendered up to the sum of £313.

(b) Grant Application - Deddington Netball Club.
Past year' accounts were still awaited from the Club.

(c) Gaveston Gardens Open Space.
A letter had been received from Persimmon Homes stating that they will immediately action the relocation of the seats following the agreement of the District Council, which is expected to be in the affirmative.

(d)Tots Play Area - Clifton.
Full quotations had been received from 2 companies and one giving equipment costs as follows:-

	£	
Park Leisure of Ruckinge, Kent.		
Supply and Install 2 seat Cradle Swings	709.00	
Supply and Install 1.25m Slide & Steps	1,449.00	
Black Rubber Wet Pour inc. Basework	4,366.00	
	6,524.00	+VAT
Parkplay Ltd of Arundel, West Sussex.		
Supply 2 seat Cradle Swing	688.00	
Supply 1 1.5m. Slide and Steps	1,208.00	
Install Equipment, Excavate, Lay Black Rubber Tiles etc.	3,994.03	
Carriage	70.00	
	5,960.03	+VAT
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd of Kettering		
Supply Double Arch Cradle Swing	619.00	
Supply Toddlers 1m. Slide	271.00	
Estimate (subject to onsite inspection) of Installation, Excavation, Laying Rubber Tiles	2,853.00	
Carriage	42.00	
	3,785.00	+ VAT

It was unanimously resolved that the quotation of Wicksteed Leisure Ltd be accepted subject to the overall cost (excluding VAT) not exceeding £5,000.
(e) Notification of the AGM of the Banbury Branch of the CPRE at the St John's Parish Rooms, South Bar, Banbury on Monday, 3rd November commencing at 7.30 pm.

61/97 Environmental Committee.
Cr Mrs Stevens reported:-
(a) Best Kept Village Competition.
The Judges reported as follows - The Market Square gave a good impression when we entered it with the flowers around the trees and the hanging baskets on the Town Hall. The residential areas on the western side of the Main Road, though tidy and clean, gave the appearance of neglect due to grass in the curbs, which was not the fault of the village. There were good play areas for the children and good facilities for sport. We noted the Daedas Wood, but it was too young to really appreciate.

62/97 Highways Committee.
Cr Mrs Brewer stated
(a) Earls Lane Traffic Management Scheme.
Ageement had at last been reached with the County Council and the approved plans were displayed. Tenders would be invited in the near future.
(b) Road Safety Posters.
Following the OCC agreement they were now being displayed for a fortnight on the B 4031 including Clifton and Hempton.
(c) Cars were parking on the edge of Goose Green ruining the grass and it was suggested that posts be erected,. It was agreed nem con that subject to the agreement of the County Council, posts be erected at a cost not exceeding £60.

(d) Mr Potter, the OCC Footpaths Officer, had inspected the footpaths at Hempton and has given his approval to the sign 'Footpath only No Through Road'. The posts outside Coombe Cottage may remain on a temporary basis. Council approved of the action taken.
(e) Complaints had been received regarding the reinstatements by statutory undertakers of footpaths etc in the village where more expensive surfaces have been laid and blacktop has been used in the reinstatement. The Clerk was asked to follow up this matter with the Highway Authority.
(f) Considerable disturbance was likely in the village as a result of the renewal of water mains by Thames Water.

63/97 Planning and Property Committee.
Cr Miss Hill reported the recommendations of her Committee as follows:-
Applications.
97/1675 OUT - St James' Farm, Clifton - 2 Two Storey Dwellings and refurbishment of cottage and outbuildings - Object as this is back land development, dangerous exit onto Main Street. Revised plans showed 1 house plot adjoining the highway which would have the same exit problems and would mean the demolition of a listed wall. There is an urgent need for an area of car parking to serve the tenants of the former Church, which can only be provided from this land.
97/1676 TCA - Merrybower Cottage, Philcote Street - Fell Pine and Fir Trees - No objection.
97/1683 F - 55, St John's Way, Hempton - Pitched roof over flat extension - No objection.
97/1703 LB - Leadenporch House, New Street - Repair/Rebuild Chimney - No objection.
Approvals.
97/1515 F - The Studio, Hudson Street, - Change of use from chiropractice to A1 retail use.
97/1553 F & 97/1554 CAC - Pumpyard Cottage, New Street - Conversion of garage to study etc.
97/1688 F - Radwell House, Old Plough Walk, Hempton - Extension to rear of dwelling.
The Clerk informed the Council that he had received a copy of the Report of the Panel of the examination in public of the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011.
Letter from the Rev K Reeves accepting the Council's offer of the use of the Town Hall for Sunday School purposes at a charge of £10 per month as from 12th October.

64/97 Holly Tree Club.
Cr Clinch had nothing to report.

65/97 Tourism
Cr Todd stated that other than his previously reported discussions with the On-Line Group which could be beneficial in support of tourism, he had nothing further to report.

66/97 Windmill Committee.

Cr Clarke stated that the matter of the use of the football pitches had not yet been resolved but a further meeting was to be held on Tuesday 28th October.

The Cricket Club were anxious to extend the pavilion to provide urgently required storage and were hopeful of obtaining grants to assist with the costs. Grant giving agencies would need to be satisfied of the Club's security of tenure and were requesting a new agreement with a life of 20/25 years. The Council approved the request and delegated to the Windmill Committee the negotition of a new agreement.

67/97 Accounts for Payment.

Accounts totalling ~~£~~£7,030.86, in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed in the Minute Book, were approved for payment subject to the withholding of the payment to DesignGro until the paths at the Castle Grounds had been satisfactorily cut.

68/97 Investment of the Council's Funds.

The Clerk reported that at close of business on 21st October, 1997 the balances were as follows:-

£	
450,000.00	Bradford & Bingley B S Bonus 120 A/c at 7.25%
100,000.oo	Treasury Deposit fixed to 3rrd Nov at 6.5%
26,856.97	at 14 days notice at 4.5%
8,230.04	overnight at 2.875%
585,087.01	

69/97 Correspondence.

(a) Letters of thanks for Educational Grants from students who were not able to be present at the last meeting.

(b) Letter from the Health Centre stating that following discussions in previous years on the method of allocation of the charges for the Health Centre Transport, it had been decided that for 1997/98 charges would be based upon the patients carried from the various parishes. There is therefore no charge for this Parish.

(c) Letter from the Chairman of the School Governors stating that the term of office of Crs Mrs Lee and Colley expires on 31st December and requesting the names of persons to be appointed from 1st January, 1998. It was agreed that the 2 members be reappointed as the whole of the Council was subject to next May's Elections.

(d) Notification of the visit of the Sports Roadshow on Monday 27th October.

70/97 Dates of Next Meetings.

It was confirmed that they would be held on Wednesdays 19th November and 17th December, 1997 at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

19Nov97