

**THE MEETING OF EYNHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 5TH JULY 2005 AT 7.30 PM
AT THE BARTHOLOMEW ROOMS, EYNHAM**

Present: Mr G Beach (Chairman)

Mrs L Gerrans, Mrs E Graham, Mrs V Hughes, Mrs M Jones
Messrs. T Green, P Hughes, C Roles, D Rossiter Dr F Wright

In Attendance: J Heath (Clerk) and fourteen members of the public

05/148 Police Report

ABO Gordon Richardson reported that the events on Friday evening prior to the carnival and the Saturday of the carnival were being investigated. Responding to questioning he stated that police attendance for events is now a political decision as there is no manpower to cover all events. Certain criteria have to be met before consideration can be given. It may be that in the future, event organisers will need to pay for police attendance. The potential abduction of a young girl in Spareacre Lane has not been reported.

05/149 Apologies for Absence – Apologies were received from Ms G Barwell, P Dhesi, N Hines and J Mittell.

05/150 Minutes of the Meeting of 7th June 2005

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

05/151 Clerk's Report

Item 2 – Play area report – The Clerk reported that reports had now been received from inspections made by RoSPA and Allianz Cornhill (insurers). There were some small items requiring attention and the staff are dealing with these. None have any risk element attached to them. The Clerk will copy both reports for the play area sub-committee.

05/152 Urgent Business Raised with Prior Consent of the Chairman

Local Plan Inspector's Report – Mr Rossiter reported:

West Oxfordshire District Council has received the independent Inspector's Report following the Public Inquiry last year into objections to the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011.

The Report contains nearly 300 recommendations, the large majority of which are for no modification or minor changes only to the Local Plan. The Council will formally consider these recommendations later in the year. Proposed Modifications to the Plan will then be published for public consultation. Spring 2006 is the expected adoption timescale. The Council can be pro-actively lobbied at any time but this would be better done prior to meetings at which the recommendations will be discussed

The Inspector has generally given welcome support in particular to the intention to seek affordable housing on both small and large sites. In the Inspector's opinion there is a good supply of building land available elsewhere in the District. He recommends the addition of a new housing site of 100 units on the eastern edge of Eynsham. 50% of these to be affordable housing. However, this will not be developed until 2008.

West Oxfordshire's policy that 2 or more units should have 50% affordable housing will not apply to Eynsham, for which the Inspector recommends developments of 15 or more having this criteria.

Mr Rossiter felt that any decision on which Housing Association would be involved in the development would be several years from now.

It is recommended that members of the public with internet access go to the WODC website and download the parts of the report relevant to Eynsham. Otherwise the report can be viewed at WODC planning offices and the library.

The Inspector is aware that Eynsham is in a conservation area.

05/153 Declaration of Interests

The following declarations were noted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, s81 and the Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001:

Dr F Wright, Mrs E Graham Mr P Dhesi - Village Hall Management Committee
Mr D Rossiter – West Oxfordshire District Council
Mr T Green - personal interest in agenda item 6 – Finance and part of agenda item 17 – staff salaries.

05/154 Finances

Mr T Green left the meeting

Motion proposed by Dr Wright and seconded by Mrs Gerrans that accounts in the sum of **£3045.10**, dated 24th June 2005 and **£7205.45**, as appended, be accepted. The cheques were then passed to Dr Wright and Mrs Gerrans for signature. Motion passed unanimously. **Mr T Green rejoined the meeting.**

05/155 Items Raised by Members of the Public – Standing Orders were suspended.

155.1 Eastern development: Is this in the floodplain area? Definitive map can be obtained from the Environment Agency or WODC.

155.2 Youth disturbances in the Spar/Spareacre Lane area. These have now been extended from the weekends only to seven days of the week. There is underage drinking as well, particularly with the young girls. The Chairman stated that the police are aware of the problems – both the underage drinking and the disruption in Spareacre Lane and are increasing patrols.

155.3 The same underage drinking problems were noted at the Carnival. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council has no control over the arrangements for the carnival and this complaint should be directed to the carnival committee.

155.4 The question of the new speed restrictions in Mill Street was raised. Speed humps are detrimental as the young people use the streets as a racetrack. The Chairman explained that the scheme had been done with the approval of the residents in Mill Street and that a review of the effects of the platforms would be reviewed by Oxfordshire County Council.

155.5 Noted that the police force had been reduced.

155.6 Answering the query on the proposed eastern development, Mr Rossiter confirmed that no major decisions in respect of types or make-up of the units had been made.

155.7 Members of the Eynsham Society spoke at length on the proposed affordable housing on the western side of the village:

- All units would be taken up by people with local connections. 200 had been identified in the recent housing survey
- Traffic matters were noted. The highways department of Oxfordshire County Council would be consulted.
- A meeting between Cottsway Housing Association and West Oxfordshire District Council has been arranged and the Parish Council will have a clearer idea of the way forward after this.
- Confirmed that there is a time constraint in respect of drawing the money for the development. The land purchase still had to be complete, planning permission approved and work started before the middle of December 2005.
- The impact of the Inspector's report had yet to be looked at in respect of the western development.
- Residents are not in favour of the village becoming a dormitory community.

155.8 New licensing and entertainments applications are at present being considered by the Parish Council. To date the Council is requesting the status quo for those being considered.

The Chairman summed up that the report from the inspector is available from the website and that the relevant pages are 102 to 109. There is a need for housing in Eynsham but the village should be kept as a community. A balance must be kept. Any positive suggestions would be welcomed.

Standing Orders were resumed.

05/156 Planning

Motion proposed by Mr Green and seconded by Mrs Jones that the Planning sub-Committee recommendations, as tabled, be accepted. Motion passed unanimously.

05/157 Correspondence

157.1 Eynsham Society – Letter on Chilbridge Road proposed development dealt with in Minute 155, above. Confirmed by Dr Cox that a formal response is not required.

157.2 Oxfordshire Carers' Forum – Focus newsletter noted.

157.3 Thames Valley Energy Efficiency Advice Centre – Big Green Insulation Community Fund - details to be put in the Echo.

157.4 WODC – Cabinet Decisions 8 June 2005 passed to the Chairman.

157.5 Oxfordshire Rural Transport – newsletter noted.

157.6 OALC – County Circular noted.

157.7 OALC – Planning and Community Development event - Weds 12 October 2005 10am to 3 pm - £35 per person

157.8 WODC – Fly posting letter noted.

157.9 Defra – Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to be passed to Mr Hines.

157.10 Community First – Capital Funding for Local Community Projects to be investigated by the Clerk and Mrs Hughes.

157.11 OCC – Disabled parking place, Thames Street consultation to be referred to the planning committee.

157.12 OCC – Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework – preparing a Statement of Community Involvement noted.

158 Affordable Housing

158.1 The Report previously circulated was amended at 9.1 to read “General acceptance that the layout is good but a preference that the entrance should not be off Chilbridge Road. Agreed that entrance from Merton Close is far more acceptable”.

158.2 The meeting on 14th July 2005 with Cottsway Housing Association and West Oxfordshire District Council at 10am was confirmed. Representatives from the Parish Council will be – Dr Wright, Mr Rossiter and Mrs Gerrans. Mrs Jones would be able to attend on standby.

159 Applications for Variations of Entertainment Licences

It was agreed that these should be considered by the Planning sub-committee. Dr Wright volunteered to look at them in the first instance and give advice.

160 Report from the meeting on Minerals

Dr Wright reported on the meeting at OCC with representatives from Proteus, Hansons and Smiths. He felt that several points should be clarified and the most important of these are noted below:

160.1 Local villages to be consulted on lorry routing.

160.2 High quality restoration should fully describe benefits to the community.

160.3 Although “named areas” were dropped from the Structure Plan, the County Council has inserted these areas on a map. It is felt that if the Structure Plan does not include these areas then they should not be referred to on a map. This is very important.

160.4 Landowners should also commit to any S106 agreements. Otherwise any plans for restoration would be null and void.

161 Bartholomew School new sports facilities – Community Usage

The Chairman reported on his meeting with the Headteacher at the school, which had highlighted the current problems with the proposed restoration. Due to the intervention of Mr Rossiter, the Chairman will now be fully involved in future meetings.

162 Allotments Association

162.1 Lease – Proposed by Mrs Gerrans and seconded by Mr Green that the lease now be signed by both parties. Unanimously agreed.

162.2 Maintenance – The Clerk reported that a maintenance scheme had been agreed and work would commence shortly. The areas to be strimmed and cut back were confirmed by the Clerk.

162.3 Bonfires – On advice from the OALC, the Clerk had ascertained that this was an internal matter and the Allotments Association should deal with it. Agreed that when the programme of maintenance is confirmed in writing, advice should be given on the Health and Safety issues with regard to bonfires.

163 Market Towns Initiative

Mr Roles gave an update on the results of the Market Towns Initiatives article in the Echo. He had heard from three or four members of the public who are interested in the scheme. Agreed that the Clerk should arrange an initial meeting with Brian Spragg of OALC to investigate the way forward. Mr Beech and Mr Hines to attend the meeting.

164 Exclusion of the Public

Proposed by Mrs Gerrans and seconded by Mr Rossiter that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of exempt information. The motion passed unanimously.

165 Accounts and appointment of internal auditor

Proposed by Dr Wright and seconded by Mr Rossiter that Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005 be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk and that B R Consultants be appointed as internal Auditors. The motion was passed unanimously.

166 Staff Salaries and Contracts – Mr Green left the meeting at this point.

The Chairman explained the investigations had resulted in evidence that the grounds and cleaning staff were underpaid in comparison with other local council workers. The Finance Committee had therefore recommended an immediate increase of 5% with a review for an additional increase to be precepted for in November. To bring the salaries up to a level consistent with others would result in an approximately an additional £2000 per annum. This increase to be extended to the three self-employed contractors. All increases backdated to the first of April 2005, with a further review in November 2005. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr Green rejoined the meeting at this point

166 Clerk's Salary and Travel Allowances for all Staff – The Clerk left meeting at this point

Proposed by Dr Wright and seconded by Mr Green that the Clerk be awarded an increase in salary to Local Government Grade 37 with two additional points for qualifications obtained. To be backdated to 1st April 2005. Motion passed by eight votes for with one abstention.

Proposed by Dr Wright and seconded by Mr Green that the car allowances be as recommended by the Association of Local Councils. Motion passed unanimously.

The Clerk was recalled at this point.

167 Dates of Next Meetings

The next Eynsham Parish Council meetings will be held on 2nd August 2005, with 16th July 2005 as a provisional meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Date of Signing: **02 August 2005**