

**THE MEETING OF EYNESHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 6th DECEMBER 2005 AT 7.30 PM AT THE
BARTHOLOMEW ROOM, EYNESHAM**

Present: Mr G Beach (Chairman)
Mrs L Gerrans, Mrs E Graham, Mrs V Hughes, Mrs M Jones, Mrs D Seeney,
Messrs. P Dhesi, T Green, P Hughes, J Mittell, C Roles, D Rossiter, Dr F Wright

In Attendance: J Heath (Clerk), seven members of the public and ABO Gordon Richardson

05/246 Police Report

ABO Gordon Richardson reported that incidents of criminal damage had increased in the past month. There had been ten incidents of criminal damage to property and 10 incidents, mainly drink related, to vehicles. ABO Richard Conner will be joining him at the weekends to target the problem areas of Back Lane and the schools. There had been one incident of aggravated burglary.

Items reported to ABO Richardson included:

Damage to the Christmas lights on the Bartholomew Rooms.

Bollards damaged at the village hall.

Parking outside Bartholomew School at the end of the school day. This was now creating a dangerous situation and causing obstruction.

The side door to Church Cottage in Market Square had been damaged.

The Chairman thanked ABO Richardson for his report.

05/247 Apologies for Absence – Mr N Hines, Ms G Barwell

05/248 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 Wright - Village Hall Management Committee

Mr P Dhesi – Village Hall Management Committee

Mrs E Graham – Village Hall Management Committee

Mr J Mittell – Village Hall Management Committee

Mr D Rossiter – West Oxfordshire District Council

05/249 Minutes of the Meetings of 1st November 2005, 15th November 2005 and 22nd November 2005

249.1 The minutes of 1st November 2005 were amended to include Mrs Graham and Mr Dhesi in the Declaration of Interests at Minute 05/21 in respect of the Village Hall Management Committee. They were then agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

249.2 The minutes of 15th November 2005 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

249.3 The minutes of 22nd November 2005 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

05/250 Clerk's Report

Sewers – The Clerk would pursue this with some urgency.

Bins and Benches – The Clerk would pursue the re-negotiation of quotes.

Playing Fields Security – Awaiting contact from the contractor.

Village Hall - the building contractor had now agreed to mend the lights and will contact electrical contractor.

Bus Stop Bins – noted that these had been removed when the new bus stops had been installed and not replaced. The Clerk to contact OCC.

Scouts and VHMC negotiations – Reported that the Chairman of the Scouts would attend the next VHMC meeting.

05/251 Urgent Business Raised with Prior Consent of the Chairman

There was no urgent business to discuss

05/252 Finances

252.1 Proposed by Dr Wright and seconded by Mrs Gerrans that accounts in the sum of **£ 16,456.87**, as appended, be accepted. Motion passed unanimously. The cheques were then passed to Dr Wright and Mrs Gerrans for signature.

Mr Dhesi requested that the OCC be requested to ensure that the arrows on the hump in Mill Street are not obscured by parked traffic.

252.2 The matter of the door for the Bartholomew Room to be deferred until the next meeting so that the Clerk can investigate requirements in respect of conservation.

05/253 Items Raised by Members of the Public – Standing Orders were suspended

253.1 Several members of the public spoke on the Parish Meeting of 29th November 2005. They hoped that the views declared at that meeting would assist the Parish Council in deciding on its representation to the planning department in respect of the Inspector's report on the Local Plan. The vote against the development was confirmed as 133 for and 9 abstentions with no vote against.

It was hoped that the Parish Council would report to the District Council its utter contempt on this matter.

253.2 Mr Chris Prince reported that double parking in Mill Street caused by deliveries of white goods to the electrical shop was causing obstruction on a regular basis. He requested that double yellow lines be put across the entrance to the houses which are set back behind the shop. He stated that the parking had reached saturation point in this area. People were also parking across the entrance to the library. Further development behind the electrical shop could only cause further problems.

The Chairman advised that Mr Prince should report any obstruction to the police and write to Oxfordshire County Council to request a white box to stop parking in front of the residents' access.

253.3 Margaret Hayes had reported inconsiderate parking on the junction of Queen Street and Newland Street, which in some cases caused obstruction.

The Chairman reiterated his advice that the police should be informed in cases of obstruction.

253.4 TWW Wood had requested action in respect of the verge in Hanborough Road which has been churned up by parked vehicles. Mrs Hughes felt that the recent planning application may have included the paving of this area. To be discussed at the Traffic Advisory Committee

253.5 Jonathan James has complained that the lights on the Bartholomew Room were like "Las Vegas". The Chairman had pointed out that despite a request in the Echo for ideas; no-one had come forward so the same lights were used as in previous years.

253.6 Mrs Sue Chapman had reported that the hump in the road between the library and the post office was a great success and traffic had been slowed. She requested that a dog waste bin be put next to the seat in Cassington Road.

Standing Orders were resumed.

The Chairman reported that the next agenda item had been cancelled as the Youth Offenders Team had been unable to attend due to staffing problems.

05/254 Report from Mr Andrew Hamilton – Headteacher of Bartholomew School

The Chairman welcomed Mr Hamilton who then gave a report on the school achievements and future.

1. Both A level and GCSE results had been outstanding this year in all areas. The school was in the top three in the county for results. There was some excellent teaching and the pupils were working hard, despite the environment. There is potential for even better results and the school was by no means complacent.
2. The school is facing challenges in this first term due to staff restructuring and the imminent Ofsted inspection.
3. The canteen had been threatened with closure but the catering manager and her staff were working hard to make improvements.
4. The school has entered into an Extended Schools Partnership with the local primary schools, education providers and adult education providers.
5. Site issues were still causing concern. It is difficult to stop the pupils from going into the village during school hours as there are several ways to exit the site. The Headteacher is not permitted to request the staff to police this.
6. There had been £16,000 of damage done to the windows of the school.
7. Health and Safety is a priority. Pupils using the site for tennis and football are monitored by the caretaker and moved on at dusk. Feedback from the community would be welcomed.
8. Grant funding has been received for the new sports hall and this was now going forward. Planning application due to be considered in February 2006 and contractors will be on site from May/June 2006. Estimated completion 1st June 2007. This will create problems as there will be no indoor sports facilities during this time.
9. Hopeful that West Oxfordshire District Council will provide funding for a fitness suite which will be open to the community.
10. Perceived threatening behaviour is often just due to the size of the pupils and the number collected together. The school is trying to re-train the pupils but parental responsibility and accountability should be taken into account. There are 1000 pupils on site and parents sign notes for some to leave the site to go into the village. This is impacting on the canteen.

11. The school is not soft on the pupils and will not tolerate drug abuse, smoking, bullying or anti-social behaviour. He had been instrumental in the arrest of four pupils found using drugs.

Mr Hamilton concluded by saying that the school was very good school and full of wonderful students. 900 of the students were good, 50 could be described as “hangers on” and only 50 difficult. The reputation of the school suffers from the 50 difficult pupils and it is hoped that this can be addressed.

Comments from the members included:

1. Litter greatly reduced at the village hall and Mr Hamilton was thanked for this improvement
2. Use of cannabis in the churchyard during school hours reduced. Mr Hamilton requested that the school be contacted if any mis-behaviour noted during school hours.
3. Usage of the tennis courts by the community. Mr Hamilton hoped that this would return in the future.
4. Pleased to note that the sixth form is interested in assisting with the Village Plan.
5. The crowds outside Janty’s and in Wastie Lane had lessened and improved in behaviour.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hamilton for attending the meeting and for his excellent report,

05/255 Planning

254.1 The Minutes of the meeting of 14th November 2005 were noted. Proposed by Mrs Gerrans and seconded by Dr Wright that the Planning Sub-Committee minutes of 14th November be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

254.2 Response to the Inspector’s Recommendations for the Local Plan:

The Chairman reported that the Clerk would be sending a letter to West Oxfordshire District Council to report on the motion passed at the Parish Meeting and a separate response in respect of the Parish Council’s decision at this meeting.

The draft minutes were amended and these would be circulated and put on the website as soon as possible.

The following discussions ensued:

1. Confirmed that there was no knowledge of how many objections had been sent to West Oxfordshire County Council at this point in time.
2. Guidance on how best to respond and what grounds can be used.
3. 138 members of the public attended the Parish Meeting and nearly all felt very strongly about the matter. However, there is a population of 5000 in the village and this represented only 5%.
4. Must add weight to the argument and include conservation, infrastructure of the village isolation of the proposed development and access.
5. Eastern by-pass was constructed where it is now so that development could proceed. This was challenged.
6. Other developments were in the conservation area and had set a precedent – Orchard Close and Dovehouse Close. This was challenged.
7. If the land is included in this Local Plan then an application for development could be received within two years.
8. If taken out by WODC then there is nothing to stop developers going to appeal.
9. The District Councillor was approached for advice on how best to challenge on planning grounds. He responded that there were great difficulties in formulating planning reasons for not accepting the Inspectors recommendations. This is why he had voted the way he did at the District Council level. He confirmed that he would be abstaining from this vote.

Following discussion it was proposed by Dr Wright and seconded by Mr Mittell that the Council makes the response to the District Council:

“The Council endorses the resolution passed at the Parish Meeting of 29th November 2005 and amplifies the point particularly due to the fact that the Local Plan and Bypass Enquiry of 1981 added this area to the conservation area for part purpose of curtailing development up to the line of the new by-pass. If the Inspector’s recommendation is followed it will create an opportunity we believe for an isolated development on the edge of the village. The village could not cope with the increased traffic problems.”

Resolved by nine votes for with three abstentions.

05/256 Brown Information Signs

The use of brown information signs from the A40 to direct people to the village was discussed. Father Flatman, the new priest of St Peter’s Church has, requested brown signs for the church and the Chairman was due to meet with a representative of Oxfordshire County Council and Father Flatman in the near future.

It was felt that there should be better signage in the village in respect of car parking and tourist information signs of historic points of interest. This to be something that the Market Towns Initiative could move forward.

05/257 Fishponds

Permission was requested by Mrs Hughes for £500 to be spent from the ear-marked funds for the soil investigation of the bed of the ponds. Samples to be taken and analysed. This is for the third stage of reinstating one of the ponds. Work is ongoing by volunteers. The north side horse chestnut trees have a virus and will need at some time to be felled. One had already fallen and been disposed of. A bank of native species shrubs is being planted as an interim measure.

Proposed by Mrs Hughes and seconded by Mr Dhesi that the work on the soil analysis to proceed for the sum of £500. Resolution passed by eleven votes for with one against.

05/259 Allotments

The Clerk read out a letter from the Chairman of the Allotments Association requesting the council to investigate the erection of a security fence and gate to reduce the theft of produce.

After a full discussion it was agreed that the hedgelaying should proceed but that the council feels that the erection of a fence and gate would not have the desired effect as the people concerned would climb over any fence of the permitted height in the green belt.

05/260 Correspondence

The Clerk circulated correspondence from Cottsway Housing which is for information only.

260.1 WODC – Letter in respect of Temporary Event Notices noted.

260.2 Ian and Ruth Bentley - Thank you note received and noted.

260.3 Woodcote Parish Council – Letter regarding the County's Youth Service Budget discussed and noted. Agreed that a letter voicing the council's concerns should be sent.

260.4 Ray Church – Noted that an award of President's Certificate had been given to Mr Norman Boulwood for services to the Eynsham Playing Fields Management Committee. Mr Boulwood will be receiving this at Buckingham Palace. A letter of congratulations from the council to go to Mr Boulwood. A note of this to be put in February Echo newsletter.

260.5 RBLI – A thank you note received in respect of the £100 grant awarded.

260.6 WODC – Copy of Register of Electors available to Councillors. Any member requiring one to contact the Clerk.

260.8 Community Safety Partnership - Details of meetings in 2006 noted and would be published in the February and subsequent Echo newsletters.

260.9 Oxfordshire Carers' Forum – Newsletter noted.

05/261 Dates of Next Meetings

Provisional Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 20th December 2005 at the Bartholomew Room

Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 3rd January 2006 at 7.30 pm – Bartholomew Room

Planning sub-Committee meeting - Monday 9th January 2006 at 5pm - Bartholomew Room

The meeting closed at 9.48 pm

Date of Signing: