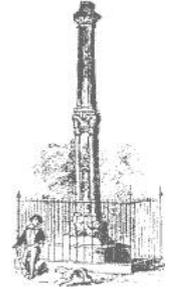


# **EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

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## **THE MEETING OF EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 3 JANUARY 2006 AT 7.30 PM AT THE BARTHOLOMEW ROOM, EYNSHAM**

**Present:** Mr G Beach (Chairman)

Ms G Barwell, Mrs L Gerrans, Mrs E Graham, Mrs V Hughes, Mrs M Jones,  
Messrs. P Dhesi, T Green, J Mittell, Dr F Wright

**In Attendance:** J Heath (Clerk), three members of the public, ABO Gordon Richardson and ABO Richard Connor

### **06/01 Police Report**

ABO Gordon Richardson reported that incidents of criminal damage had decreased in the past month. There had been seven incidents of criminal damage to property and six incidents of theft, one burglary, one actual bodily harm and one suicide. Eynsham had been on the Witney tasking and had received visits for 2.-3 weeks from 6pm until midnight. There appeared to be an improvement.

ABO Connor reported that he and ABO Richardson had now been given responsibility for eight parishes.

Items reported included:

- Residents unaware that the police office is manned as on some occasions there is no notice to let them know.
- Mobile police van in the village this week.
- Officers to visit resident with elderly relative who had been harassed and subject to abusive language on New Year's eve.
- CCTV required in Back Lane due to the increasing problem of damage to and thefts from cars.

The Chairman thanked both officers for their report.

**06/02 Apologies for Absence** – Mr N Hines, Mrs D Seeney, Mr P Hughes and Mr D Rossiter

### **06/03 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

### **06/04 Minutes of the Meetings of 6 December 2005**

The minutes of 6 December 2005 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **06/05 Clerk's Report**

**Bins and Benches** – The Clerk would investigate the purchase of a dual litter and dog bin at the end of Chilbridge Road.

**Playing Fields Security** – Still awaiting contact from the contractor.

**Toilet refurbishment** – Planning application received. Clerk has contacted WODC regarding lack of consultation.

#### **06/06 Urgent Business Raised with Prior Consent of the Chairman**

The Chairman gave the sad news that Mr Reg Treadwell, a regular participant at Council meetings, had died on Friday 30 December. The funeral is to be on Tuesday 10 January 2006 at 2 pm. A card of condolence to be sent on behalf of the Council to Mrs Treadwell and family.

#### **06/07 Finances**

**07.1** The accounts dated 20 December 2005 in respect of salaries and urgent payments were presented. These had been authorized and cheques signed by the Chairman and Mrs Gerrans. Mr Green declared an interested and left the meeting at this point. Proposed by Dr Wright and seconded by Mr Dhesi that payment of accounts in the sum of £ 4,643.03, as appended, be ratified by the Council. Motion passed unanimously.

**07.2** Proposed by Dr Wright and seconded by Mr Mittell that the Senior Committee be authorized to pay urgent accounts in between full council meetings and that these payments should be ratified at the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Mr Green rejoined the meeting

**07.3** Proposed by Dr Wright and seconded by Mrs Gerrans that accounts in the sum of £ 2,103.32, as appended, be accepted. Motion passed unanimously. The cheques were then passed to Dr Wright and Mrs Gerrans for signature. Mr Mittell to investigate other firms for the servicing of the grass cutting equipment.

**07.4** Following discussion on the merits of the two styles of a replacement door for the Bartholomew lower room, it was proposed by Mrs Hughes and seconded by Mr Dhesi that designs and costs for a plate glass door be investigated. Motion passed by six votes for and three against.

**07.5** The Chairman explained the reasons behind the urgent acceptance of a quote for electrical works at the sports pavilion. The senior committee had authorised the clerk to accept this quote, without obtaining additional quotes, for safety reasons. The Clerk informed the members of the works involved and the total cost - £1,613.78. Proposed by Mr Dhesi and seconded by Mr Green that the senior committee's decision be ratified by the council. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **06/08 Audit report from BDO Stoy Hayward LLP**

The report from the external auditors was discussed at length. The following decisions were made:

1. Fidelity Guarantee – Proposed by Dr Wright and seconded by Mr Mittell that the fidelity guarantee remain at its present level due to the fact that two signatories are required, the clerk is not a signatory and the cheque books and bank details are held by the Clerk. Motion passed by nine votes for with one abstention.
2. The insurance revaluation should be done as soon as possible.
3. Budgetary process – the Council had already put into action the budgetary reporting on a quarterly basis for 2005/06.
4. Payment of cheques outside the monthly full council meetings covered under minute 268.2 above.

#### **06/09 Items Raised by Members of the Public – Standing Orders were suspended**

**09.1** Mr Harry Brown reported that he was continuing to lobby the government for more PCSO's in Eynsham.

**09.2** Mrs Maureen Davies asked if there could be some way of stopping the parking of vehicles on the traffic calming ramp outside the post office as this was obstructing wheelchair users and people with children in buggies. This would be referred to the Traffic Advisory Committee.

She also suggested that to avoid having to obtain listed building permission to replace the door in the Bartholomew rooms it would be possible to replace the existing panels with glass.

**09.3** Mr Fred Bennett had complained about the emptying of the recycling bins in the Back Lane car park. The Clerk confirmed that Mr Bennett's email had been forwarded to the relevant officer at West Oxfordshire District Council.

**09.4** Mr Timms had complained about the blue lights on the Christmas decorations in the square. It was suggested that volunteers be requested for next year's display.

**09.5** Mrs Buckingham had complained that the churchyard had not been opened on Christmas morning. The Chairman acknowledged that there had been problems and that the locking of the gates would be reviewed at the end of February, as agreed with the church.

**09.6** Mrs Jones suggested that the Council write a letter of thanks to the cleansing department of West Oxfordshire District Council for the prompt and efficient way in which the Market Square was cleaned after New Year's Eve. Unanimously agreed. Standing Orders were resumed.

## **06/10 Planning**

**10.1** Proposed by Mrs Jones and seconded by Mrs Hughes that the Minutes of the Planning Subcommittee of 20 December be accepted. Motion passed unanimously.

**10.2** The Chairman updated the members on the result of the application by Cottsway Housing for 40 houses off the Chilbridge Road. He had been disappointed that there had been no debate on the application at the Lowlands Meeting on 19 December 2005 and that the Parish Council's points had not been given a reasonable hearing. The Senior Committee had met on 20th and the Chairman had sent a letter to the government for the South East, requesting that it intervene on behalf of the residents and the council. A swift response had been received with the confirmation that the GOSE was not prepared to intervene and that the District Council's decision should stand. There is no further action the Parish Council can take.

The only way forward now would be for the residents to make a legal challenge in respect of the ownership of the land but this would prove costly if the case was lost and damages awarded.

## **06/11 Witney Road Play Area**

The Clerk reported that the request for a basket ball court had not been pursued to date and that the Witney Road Play area was the only place this could be put. The whole play area is in need of updating and, in particular, the piece of land to the approach which is very unsightly. A working –party should be set up to re-design the area and ascertain what the local residents would like to see.

Mrs Graham, Mr Green, Mr Mittell the Chairman and Vice-Chairman agreed to discuss this and agree a plan of action. A request to be inserted in the Echo for ideas from the local users and residents and also the members of the action group who requested the basket ball court. The Clerk to liaise with the above members in respect of a date for the initial meeting.

## **06/12 Website**

Mrs Hughes led the debate on this. It is becoming more difficult to keep the site up to date and it is not advancing as the Parish Council would wish. The Directory is still not on the website and the minutes are not timely.

Mrs Joan Stonham, who had produced the directory, had offered her services in respect of designing the site and was at present working with West Oxfordshire District Council. The site should now be linked to the WODC site and could be hosted by the District Council. The Chairman felt that it was time to put the management of the website on a more professional basis with the council paying a retainer or honorarium to the manager.

**Mr Dhesi declared a personal interest at this point.**

The Council is aware of the hard work put in by the present site manager and the host and the site manager should be approached to give assistance and ideas on the future of the website. Mrs Hughes to approach the manager on his return from holiday.

Mr Dhesi offered to assist Mrs Stonham with the future design and Mrs Hughes would do the content. The Clerk to be able to add the minutes and other important documentation as soon as available.

The item to be discussed at the meeting in February 2006.

## **06/13 Correspondence**

**13.1 ODPM** - Standards of Conduct in English Local Government's discussion paper noted.

**13.2 OALC** - County Circular noted.

**13.3 High Sheriff of Oxfordshire's** Pilgrimage Exhibition Jan - April 2006 noted.

**13.4 OCC** - Proposed Changes to OCC Pension Fund taken by Ms Barwell.

**13.5 Encams** - External Training Timetable on various issues noted.

**13.6 OCC** - Information Strategy for Bus Services Consultation – comments by January 6 2006. This to be forwarded to Mr Hines.

**13.7 WODC** - Cabinet Decisions 30 November and 14 December 2005 taken by the Chairman.

**13.8 WODC** - Landscape Consultancy and Maintenance Services noted. The Clerk to request further information

**13.9 Richard Shaw** - Letter in respect of the non-compliance by owners of 32 – 34 Mill Street to be referred to the Planning Committee.

**13.10 Norman Boulwood** - Letter giving details of the award ceremony at Buckingham Palace noted.

**13.11 WODC & TVP** - Compliance Checks on new Licences noted.

**13.12 G J Taylor** - Letter of complaint re. Dovehouse Close discussed. Agreed that repair to be made to the railings and that the Clerk investigate the cost of installing metal instead of wooden rails. Suggestion that Mr Taylor should set up a neighbourhood group to limit the other matters raised.

**13.13 TVP** - Crime Reduction Article to be edited and put into the Echo.

**13.14 ORCC** - Village Halls Newsletter and other documents noted.

**13.15 WODC** - Neighbourhood Management (Policing) meetings noted. Details to be put on the notice boards and also in the Echo.

**13.16 Mrs Margaret Johnson** - Letter of thanks for gift token received from the Chairman noted.

**06/14 Exclusion of the Public** – to resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of exempt information. There were no members of the public present.

## **06/15 Salary Review**

The Clerk referred to the paper circulated in respect of this review. Following the decision on 22 November – Minute 05/244 - to increase the hourly rate of the cleaning and grass cutting staff the differentials between the Play Area Supervisor and the Accounts Administer had been eroded. Proposed by Dr Wright and seconded by Mr Green that the Clerk's recommendations be accepted and that the increases should be backdated to 1 December 2005. Motion passed unanimously.

## **06/16 Dates of Next Meetings**

Planning sub-Committee meeting - Monday 9 January 2006 at 5pm - Bartholomew Room  
Market Towns Initiative Meeting – Monday 9 January 2006 at 7 pm – Bartholomew Road  
Traffic Advisory Committee – Tuesday 24 January 2006 at 8pm – Bartholomew Room  
Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 7 February 2006 at 7.30 pm – Bartholomew Room

**The meeting closed at 9.52 pm**

**Date of Signing: 07 February 2006**