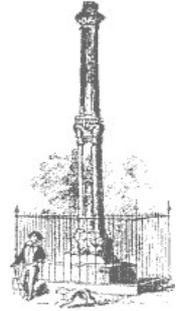


EYNESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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THE MEETING OF EYNESHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2006 AT 7.30 PM AT THE BARTHOLOMEW ROOM, EYNESHAM

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, P Hughes, J Mittell, C Roles, Rossiter, Dr F Wright

In Attendance: J Heath (Clerk), ABO Richard Conner, Mr H Brown

06/33 Police Report

ABO Richard Conner reported on incidents during the past month. These included incidents of criminal damage to vehicles, thefts, one robbery, one burglary and general anti social behaviour of graffiti and throwing of food. There were also two assaults, one of which was a sexual assault.

A number of arrests had been made.

A good day had been spent at the primary school and the children enjoyed the visit.

CCTV for market square to be investigated.

Back Lane car park signage to be reviewed.

Feedback on the meeting at the village hall on 24th February had been very good.

Anti-social behaviour was reduced thanks to the higher profile of the police. Three ASBO's have been taken out.

PC Conner would investigate the problem of locking the village hall doors when there were visitors to the police office.

The Chairman thanked P C Conner for his report.

Mr Mittell joined the meeting

06/34 Apologies for Absence – There were no apologies for absence

06/35 Declaration of Interests

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

Dr F 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

06/36 Minutes of the Meetings of 7th February 2006

The minutes of 7th February 2006 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

06/37 Clerk's Report

No Right turn from Witney Road Mrs Emma Hastings was disturbed about the fact that grain lorries exiting from her farm would need to go through the village now. She was contacting OCC highways department.

06/38 Urgent Business Raised with Prior Consent of the Chairman

There was no urgent business.

06/39 Finances

39.1 The accounts dated 24th February 2006 in respect of salaries and urgent payments were presented. These had been authorized and cheques signed by the Chairman and Vice-

Chairman. Proposed by Mr Green and seconded by Mrs Gerrans that payment of accounts in the sum of **£ 5,242.32**, as appended, be ratified by the Council. Motion passed unanimously.

- 39.2** The accounts dated 7 March 2006 were presented. Proposed by Dr Wright and seconded by Mrs Gerrans that payment of accounts in the sum of **£4,936.18**, as appended, be ratified by the Council. Motion passed unanimously. The cheques were then passed to Mrs Gerrans and Dr Wright for signature.
- 39.3** The Noise project had requested a grant of £150 and the use of the council's trailer for the community day. Proposed by Mr Green and seconded by Mrs Jones that £150 be granted and permission to use the trailer given. Motion passed unanimously.
- 39.4** The letter from the Eynsham Football Club in respect of the proposed social club at the pavilion was considered. Matters discussed included the use of alcohol and vandalism. Proposed by Mr Dhesi and seconded by Mrs Hughes that the council confirm its support for this project subject to there being no financial input by the council. Motion passed by ten votes for, one against and one abstention.

06/40 Items Raised by Members of the Public – Standing Orders were suspended

- 40.1** Mr Harry Brown read out the response he had received from the Home Office in respect of policing in the village.
- 40.2** Mrs Dorothy Berry and Mrs Doreen Hockedy displayed the framed lettering of the historic spelling of Eynsham, kindly done by Isabel Spencer to commemorate the Millennium of the Abbey and donated to the village. Subject to the glass being replaced by safety glass it was agreed that the calligraphy should be displayed in the foyer of the village hall. A sample of printed tea towels, to be sold in aid of the refurbishment of the church hall, was also shown. These would sell at £4.50 each and this to be advertised in the Echo and on the website.
- 40.3** David Curtis had reported a road priority problem in Duncan Close/Shakespeare Road. Refer to OCC Highways.
- 40.4** Christine Ashmore would like the notices for no dog fouling and litter to be replaced on the footpath between Dovehouse Close and Wytham View. Refer to OCC
- 40.5** Mr Mittell had received a complaint from a resident in respect of tree debris left on the bridleway. This was due to be disposed of very shortly.
- 40.6** Mr Nobes had requested further information on the Certificate of Lawfulness requested by the A40 nursery shop. It was confirmed that this would be discussed at the next West Oxfordshire District Council Lowlands Planning committee.

Standing Orders were resumed.

06/41 Planning

Proposed by Mrs Gerrans and seconded by Mr Dhesi that the Planning Committee minutes of 20th February 2006 be accepted. Motion passed by eleven votes for with one abstention.

06/42 Correspondence

- 42.1 Parishes of St Peter, Cassington & St Leonards, Eynsham** - The invitation to all Parish Councillors on the Induction and Installation of Revd. Morey Andrews as vicar on Wednesday 29th March 2006 at 7.30pm in the Church of St Leonard was noted. All interested are to RSVP to the Church Office, 45 Acre End Street, Eynsham OX29 4PF
- 42.2 Claire Page, Director Eynsham Mysteries** - Permission for use of Bartholomew Rooms for changing facilities during the performances noted.
- 42.3 ORCC** - Witney Area review of subsidies bus services to be passed to Mr Hines as Transport representative.
- 42.4 OCC** – Invitation to contribute to help improve transport consultations noted.
- 42.5 Thames Valley Police** - Results of review of opening hours of community police stations noted.
- 42.6 OCC** - Oxfordshire Structure Plan – 2016 taken by Dr Wright and to be passed to the Chairman.
- 42.7 Bill Middleton** – Comments on Eynsham traffic to be passed to Mr Paul Wilson at OCC Highways Department.
- 42.8 OCC** - Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Statement of Community Involvement – Submission Document taken by Dr Wright.
- 42.9 OCC** - Your Guide to Road Safety in Oxfordshire booklet noted.
- 42.10 Thames Valley Police** - Guiding Principles for sharing the costs of police community support Officers to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

- 42.11 WODC** - Response to DCMS Review of Licensing Act Guidance and the Independent Licensing Fees Review taken by Dr Wright.
- 42.12 OCC** - News for Towns and Parishes leaflets and questionnaire to be completed by the Clerk.

06/43 Parish Council Vacancies and Constitution of the Council for 2007

43.1 The Chairman confirmed that the notices advertising the vacancies resulting from the resignations of Mr Hines and Mrs Seeney were posted. He confirmed that Mr Hughes was resigning and that this was his last meeting. He thanked Mr Hughes for his work on behalf of the Parish Council.

43.2 A full discussion on the proposal that the Parish Council be reduced from 15 members to 12 members ensued. Committees to discuss certain functions (planning, finance, environment) with the Parish Council meeting as the overseeing body.

The following points were noted:

- Elite committees would not be as efficient.
- Reduction of discussion.
- Committees to have regular agendas.
- All committees to give a regular report to the Council.
- Difficulty filling all 15 positions.
- Committees are a working solution and do work.
- 80% elected membership required for Quality Parish Council (QPS) status.
- QPS an advantage if amalgamation of parish councils pursued by the government.

It was agreed that the Chairman should include the proposal to reduce the membership in his report for the Annual Parish Meeting, when the electorate should be asked its opinion.

An article to be included in the Eynsham Echo.

The Chairman proposed and the meeting agreed that items 16 and 17 on the agenda should be brought forward at the request of Mr Mittell.

06/44 Eynsham Echo

The Chairman confirmed that both Mrs Seeney and Mr Hughes had offered to produce the Eynsham Echo. The following points were raised:

- Mrs Seeney had vastly improved the newsletter and should continue to do it.
- Print at present poor and confirmed that the present company does not have the technology for improvement.
- Pictures are not produced very well and are not of quality required for the website.
- Cost implications to be investigated if printing to go to another company.
- Cover required due to holidays is an issue.

A motion was proposed by Mr Dhesi and seconded by Mr Rossiter that Mrs Seeney to continue to do the editorial and that, following approval of the Clerk and proof reading by the Echo sub-committee, the document to be passed to Mr Hughes for graphics input and printing. Subject to Mrs Seeney's agreement the motion passed by seven votes for, three against and two abstentions.

06/45 Report on Village Hall Management AGM

The Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee reported on the meeting and confirmed that it had not been well attended.

The following points had been discussed:

- Security of the police office.
- Confirmation that the boilers were now functioning correctly.
- Vandalism.
- Scouts offer to sell land to end disputed access problem. Valuation of the land had been done.
- Mr Roy Wilkinson had been elected to the committee.

The Chairman then confirmed that an agreement was in place for the use of office on a temporary basis for St Leonard's Church secretary.

Mr Mittell left the meeting at this point.

06/46 Re- Bartholomew inner door

Design was discussed. Motion proposed by Ms Barwell and seconded by Dr Wright that the lettering should be removed, the cross made larger and lowered. Motion passed by nine votes for with two abstentions.

06/47 Report on Community Policing meeting of 24th February 2006

It was reported that the meeting had been well attended although the age profile was high. Points raised from the street survey taken on the 18th February 2006 differed from those at the meeting. The meeting had been well presented by the police.

A Neighbourhood Action Group is to be formed and members of this will be trained. Group will report back to the Parish Council on a regular basis.

The survey and a summary of comments should be accessible on the website. The Parish Council to formally approach Thames Valley Police and West Oxfordshire County Council for minutes of the meeting and the results of the survey to publish on the website.

06/49 Report on Bartholomew School sports project

The Chairman and Clerk had attended a meeting at the school with all partners to the project. Slow progress was being made and the start of the project was delayed until August. No detailed plans had yet been made available.

District Council was to decide whether they would commit funding for the fitness suite. Amounts required are £150k for the initial set up and £35k per annum revenue expenditure. Working arrangements with Wycombe Leisure were being pursued.

The school requested that the costings for running the suite should be presented to all as there may be some double accounting in respect of shared responsibilities (e.g., cleaning).

West Oxfordshire District Council Cabinet will be meeting on 4th April to discuss the financing of the project.

Parish Council commitment to be confirmed before the papers for that meeting are dispatched.

Agreed timings for the use of the fitness suite facilities by the public are 9am to 12 noon on weekdays, evenings and weekends.

Wycombe Leisure will be responsible for the whole of the facilities, including the tennis courts.

Following a discussion a motion was moved that the Parish Council would express a supporting use by local residents of the facilities and would consider grant aid after full costings received.

Ms Barwell left the meeting at this point and did not vote on the motion.

Motion passed by seven votes for, one against and two abstentions.

06/50 Update on Parish Council website

The Chairman expressed the Council's thanks to Mrs Joan Stonham for her work on the website.

There are some problems with the new West Oxfordshire District Council website to which the Parish Council is linked as part of the e-government initiative. These are being resolved.

A meeting has been arranged with Mr Adrian Moyes to clarify what he will do on the parish website and what the council will do. All concerned expressed their thanks to Mr Moyes for his work on getting the website to its present position.

It is to be noted that the parish council website does not rival the present website but will complement it. Pressures are being put on parishes to make their websites more informative. It was felt it would be unfair to expect Mr Moyes to deal with this additional information.

The West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership site to be investigated with a view to resolving issues raised.

06/51 Locking of churchyard gate

The Chairman commented that he had been surprised by the number of complaints raised by early visitors to the churchyard. As it had been agreed to review the situation at the end of February the council would need to take these into account. The Parochial Church Council had not as yet given an opinion although it was known that the church office had also received complaints.

It was confirmed that the reason for locking the gates had been to stop people entering after dark and using the grounds for illegal purposes. This had improved since the gates had been locked.

A motion was moved by Mrs Gerrans and seconded by Dr Wright that the locking of the gate should cease. Motion passed by eight votes for with two abstentions. The Clerk to visit the local resident who had been locking the gates and explain the reasons for ceasing this.

06/52 Dates of next Meetings

Planning Committee Meeting – Monday 13th March 2006 at 5pm
Finance Committee Meeting – Tuesday 28th March 2006 at 7.30 pm
Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 4th April 2006 at 7.30 pm
Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 27th April 2006 at 8pm

The meeting closed at 10 pm

Date of Signing: **4th April 2006**

Addendum to Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 7th March 2006

Market Towns Initiative

MR Roles updated on the current position in respect of the MTI. There is a steering committee of 7 members and the Oxfordshire Rural Community Centre had been very supportive.

The following matters were noted:

- The flyer distributed with the February Echo had been designed to be provocative.
- An application for £2000 from Defra for funding for a survey had been agreed in principle.
- Software for generating a survey to all residents was being investigated.
- Pilot study to be done (qualitative research) would be launched on May Day in the Market Square.
- David Cameron M.P. had been approached to assist in the launch.
- An information stand would be at the Carnival where the initial results of the survey would be available.
- Report on the study would be available by the end of September and this would be delivered to all residents. Local volunteers would be used for this delivery.
- Funding from West Oxfordshire District Council for the Parish Plan was being investigated.
- Regular reports would be given to the Parish Council.
- Funding from SEEDA is available for the Health Check and this is being investigated.
- Four local businesses were supporting the MTI.

The Chairman congratulated the team on its progress and thanked them for their hard work.

Signed: Gordon Beach - Chairman

Dated: 2nd May 2006