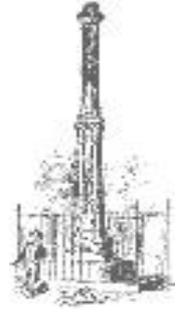


EYNESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Sue Lee
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Minutes of the meeting of Eynsham Parish Council held on Tuesday 8 January 2008 at 7.30pm in the Bartholomew Room, Eynsham

Present: Mr G Beach (Chairman), Mrs A Beavis, Mrs. L Gerrans, Mrs. M Jones, Ms S Osborne, Ms J Tinson, Mr R Andrews, Mr T Green, Dr F Wright, Mrs V Hughes, Mrs L Pialek and Mr J Miller;
District Cllrs Mrs M Stevens and Ms F Pike and 7 members of the public.

In Attendance: Mrs. S Lee – Clerk

08/01 Apologies for Absence were received and accepted from Mr D Rossiter and County Cllr. C Mathew.

08/02 Declarations of interest – none.

08/03 Minutes of the meetings of 4 December and 11 December were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meetings and signed and dated by the Chairman.

08/04 Clerk's Report – circulated

The report had been circulated and the Clerk confirmed that items were taken off once they had been completed and the Council advised. There were no questions with regard to the report.

Dr Wright advised the meeting of the new funding stream to replace Leader Plus. This was focused on the Cotswold area and did not include Eynsham. He requested that the Clerk write to WODC and express the Parish Council's disappointment that this source of funding was not available to them and asking them to renegotiate the boundaries. **Action: Clerk**

08/05 Future meetings – alterations to public participation.

A paper had been circulated detailing the new recommendations from NALC/SLCC following the introduction of the new code of conduct.

- Under these the public have the same rights to speak as the Parish Council within public participation – max 10 minutes on any subject – and all items from the public must be taken within the body of the meeting and be covered by standing orders.
- The item urgent business raised with prior consent of the chairman is no longer legal – if business is brought to the attention of the parish council after the agenda has been set an additional meeting will have to be called to discuss it.
- It is vital that all items that anyone wants discussed at the Parish Council meeting are advised to the Clerk at least a week before the meeting to ensure that they are on the agenda. This applies to both the public and parish councillors.
- Public participation will be taken as an agenda item after declarations of interest. The Council will first hear from councillors registering a prejudicial interest on any issue being discussed in public participation. They must leave the room after they have made their representations – they cannot remain in the room to hear others' representations. The councillor would also have to leave the room again when the agenda item was considered whether or not they have made representations.
- Standing orders will be altered appropriately in May when the annual review takes place.
- The names of members of the public attending meeting must be recorded in future.

It was agreed with 2 members voting against to adopt these changes – Clerk to advise of the changes to the Parish in the Echo. The revisions would be reviewed in 3 months time to see if they were working.

08/06 Committees and terms of reference

Papers had been circulated giving draft terms of reference for all the committees – all to feed back comments to the Clerk with a view to final terms of reference being presented at the next meeting.

08/07 Urgent Business Raised with Prior Consent of Chairman – none

08/08 Finance

To approve payment of accounts as listed on schedules –

Proposed by Mrs Gerrans and seconded by Dr Wright that accounts in the sum of £35595.99 be accepted as attached – unanimously agreed and cheques signed by Mrs Gerrans and Dr Wright. Salary run cheques included in total signed by Mr Beach and Mr Rossiter on 20 December 2007. In addition replacement cheque to lawnmower services as original lost in the post.

Income – none.

Standing Orders suspended

08/09 Items Raised by Members of the Public –

- District Councillor M Stevens advised –
There had been issues with regard to rubbish in the Back Lane car park due to the contents of the recycling area being blown around the car park in bad weather – WODC cleared this up effectively and have put the area back into working order. There are continued problems with regard to people leaving items for recycling when the appropriate bins are already full and an item will be put in the Echo asking people not to leave their recycling if there is no space left and to read the signage. In addition this will advise that there is now a new recycling bin for tetrapaks.
- Mr Goodstadt expressed interest in the manner of the Parish Council's response to the East Eynsham planning brief. He felt that it was vital that this stage of the planning process was handled correctly before the plans were submitted which would be harder to amend. He advised that he felt the brief was flawed and the content inadequate for its purpose. He had issues with –
 - The consultation process
 - The brief – this brief was for the disposal of the land and is therefore very different to what would be expected for design and layout plans. It does not take into account any of the issues on the site and is of very limited value. In addition it contains contradictions throughout which make it very unclear as to what housing may be provided and in what density.
 - The requirements of building in the conservation area need to be stressed and he felt it was vital that the land remained in the conservation area and that this should be the starting point for any plans to ensure it conforms to the appropriate requirements.
 - The suggested timescales – further meeting in February and plans late spring were unrealistic with the issues that need to be addressed and the consultants should produce a more valid brief detailing the critical areas for consultation.
 - Once this was compiled a further meeting with a proper dialogue with the community should take place – planning for real – the public should be able to get involved in the planning decisions that will affect their community.
- District Cllr F Pike advised of the continuing problem with rats in the village in the Newland Close area. WODC and Thames Water have baited manholes in the vicinity and WODC have carried out a camera search of the sewers, which have shown limited signs of activity. WODC feel they have done all they can at present and are awaiting a report from Thames Water to see what they feel the next step is. There is no evidence of entry points to properties and all

householders in the area have been asked to be extra vigilant in investigating areas rats may be living – compost heaps, sheds etc.

- Mrs E Dawson advised that she was a resident of Newland Close and that the residents felt they had done all they could to try to prevent entry to rats. They would continue to be vigilant and advise the Council of any new reports of sightings etc. Cllr Pike would continue to monitor the situation and put any pressure that was needed on the authorities – she would update the Parish Council and villagers as appropriate.
- Mr G Roberts reported that the Sports and Social Club were unable to get a booking on the playing fields for a football pitch. Ms Osborne agreed to discuss this with the PFMC at their next meeting on 14 January and advise the PC and Mr Roberts of the outcome.

Standing Orders resumed.

08/10 Correspondence

- Letter from Mrs Snowden – Clerk has confirmed that there are no plans to stop delivering the Echo door to door.
- Mr Coleman re font size in Echo – Clerk has confirmed that a minimum font size of 12 had been set for the Echo in future and forwarded the article in question to him in a larger font.
- Mr Miller re ownership of Wharf Stream – Clerk to advise that the land was owned by the Oxford Canal Company who went into liquidation in 1922. It was thought that the land now belonged to OCC and he should contact them before carrying out any works on the trees. It was suggested that OCC may use their ownership of this land to widen the road.
- OCC – grass cutting agreement – signed copy received for records
- WODC – Invitation to WOSP Sustainable Community Strategy meeting – Dr Wright may attend.
- WODC – request for help with flooding report – Cllr Stevens is liaising with WODC re reporting on Eynsham. Clerk to write in Echo requesting residents to contact WODC if they have information to add to report.
- Mr Blake re Listed bridge over Chilbrook – Cllr Mathew is arranging a meeting to discuss ownership of this bridge. Clerk to advise Mr Blake.
- ORCC re changes to Post office network – closures will be announced on 5 February. There will be a meeting for Parishes affected on 14 Feb at Holt Hotel.
- Copy of letter from OCC to County Cllr Mathew advising that they have identified 2 sites for possible future development and submitted them to WODC – Litchfield Farm, Chilbridge and Land adjacent to the Bartholomew School playing fields.
- WODC – £18500 grant approved for Old Witney Road Play area works – the second phase of the works can now be looked at. Action: Play Area Committee
- WODC – no request has been received for an election to fill the vacancies on the Parish Council. Clerk to put piece in Echo and all Councillors to approach anyone they feel might be interested in the vacancies.
- Ms Dalwood re New Year celebrations in the Market Square – Clerk to write and ask her if she would be interested in setting up a committee to look at next years celebrations. Representative from the Parish Council would be appointed to sit on any committee.
- TVP report – wreath stolen Dovehouse Close, Keys stolen, bicycle theft Hanborough Close, Assault on New Years Eve, 6 pints of milk stolen.

Correspondence for information

- OCC – Review external transport posts
- Friends of Wychwood – Newsletter
- WODC – Cabinet papers

08/11 Eynsham Consolidated Charity – re-appointment of trustees

Proposed Mrs Jones, seconded Mr Green and unanimously agreed that Mr Mosson and Mrs Gerrans be re-appointed as trustees. Clerk to advise Trustees.

08/12 Planning

- 07/2249/P/DCA Lloyds Pharmacy Car park Back Lane – Demolish public toilets
- 07/2248/P/FP Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd Car Park Back Lane – Erection of retail unit with two flats above.
- Dr Wright advised that the land for the car park was originally glebe land which had been compulsory purchased in the 1970s and if any change of use is planned the land would have to be returned to its original owners at the original price. Cllr Stevens advised that this had been investigated but that no papers to support this had been found.
- A letter had been received from a resident advising of her agreement with the removal of the toilets but opposing the replacement with another structure as parking spaces would be lost and security would be needed for a pharmacy. In addition the village already had plenty of retail units.
- Verbal comments pointing out the fact that this was a dangerous corner and that parking spaces would be lost had also been received.
- The fact that able-bodied people are using the disabled spaces was highlighted and the meeting was advised that the PCSO's are working on this at present and issuing tickets to those who are illegally parked.

After discussion the Parish Council unanimously agreed to advise WODC that they had no planning objections but would ask WODC to look into the suggestion that the land was acquired under a compulsory purchase order. In addition they were unhappy at the loss of 14 parking spaces and would ask if the design could be reviewed with a view to fitting in more spaces. It was felt that the pharmacy will result in an increase in the spaces needed and the car park is often full. **Action: Clerk**

08/13 Market Square – use by Coffee Shop

Unanimously agreed to a 3-month trial period of using the Market Square for an outside seating area for coffee etc over the summer by Harrison's. Ben and Kelly will look into the outstanding issues – do they need a street trading licence, insurance, storage of tables and chairs, risk assessment of staff crossing road and advise the Clerk of their plans before the trial period commences. Clerk will liaise with them as appropriate.

08/14 East Eynsham Development

It was unanimously agreed to respond to the request for comments on the brief with the following–

- The brief is out of date and not an appropriate document for consultation on a planning development. This brief was for the disposal of the land and is therefore very different to the brief that would be expected for design and layout. It does not take into account any of the issues on the site and is of very limited value. In addition it contains contradictions throughout which make it very unclear what housing may be provided and in what density.
- Concerns re the safety of the proposed new access road – the A4449 is one of the top 20 black spots in the County and an additional access from it to the new development could increase the problem. The addition of lights, roundabout or left turn only should be considered.
- Concern was expressed over the layout of the proposed footpaths
- It was not felt that the proposed layout fitted into the surrounding area or was appropriate to the conservation area location
- Concern that some units in the draft plan would have been flooded earlier in the year if they had been in place.
- The consultation was felt to be flawed and the opportunity for the community to be involved in putting the plans together and have a real opportunity for consultation would be strongly recommended.

Clerk to respond to Consultants accordingly.

WODC are meeting with Senior Committee on Thursday 10 January to discuss the allocation of Section 106 contributions towards the local infrastructure associated with the East

Eynsham proposals. The community had been asked for any ideas they may have for possible projects in the village and the following wish list had been drawn up –

Library – £150,000

The Forge Museum – £10,000 – who would look after this?

Demolish Pavilion and rebuild as community centre or refurbish.

Park and Ride

Cemetery

Oxford Road Play Area

Croquet Club – £5500 – upgrade playing area £2000, new club house £3500

Church Hall – £200,000

Astro turf or similar – concern re maintenance and ongoing costs.

Tennis Courts in Bartholomew School – development to make a tennis club.

All ideas will be taken to the meeting and a report back will be made at the next meeting.

08/15 Sports Centre – update

Mr Rossiter sent a written report on his ongoing work with the Sports Centre re the use by Eynsham residents and the issues with bookings for local teams etc.

He has pointed out that residents in Eynsham are paying twice for the use of the centre, as the Parish Council has to include its £1000pa contribution in the precept. He wondered if residents in other towns and villages with sports centres were also doing this and wondered why if there is to be no distinction between Eynsham residents and the rest of West Oxfordshire, the Parish Council was ever asked to contribute to the running costs of this facility.

The Parish Council request the support of the three District Cllrs and County Cllr (as the facility is OCC-owned) to mediate in this situation and if possible to look at the future booking system to see how local bookings are made. Clerk to check wording on lease to see if any preferential service to villagers is mentioned. Cllrs Andrews and Stevens agreed to take this on and see if they can move this matter any further forward. Clerk to forward details to Cllr Mathew and Cllr Pike for their information.

08/16 Traffic Advisory re The Tuer

The last traffic advisory meeting asked the Parish Council to request the village's views on the closure of the Tuer – 4 responses were received as a result of a request in the Echo all in favour of the closure. It was agreed with one vote against (Dr Wright) that this response would be taken back to the next meeting. An additional suggestion was to see if 2 disabled parking spaces would be possible in the space and still allow for access for a mobility scooter.

Dates of Next Meetings

- Traffic Advisory Committee – Tuesday 15 January 8pm
- Planning Committee meeting – Monday 21 January 5.30pm
- Finance – Tuesday 29 January 7.30pm
- Main Meeting – Tuesday 5 February 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

Signed Date.....