

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 13th July, 1988
at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall.

Present:

Mr E. Clarke	Chairman
Mr J. Ody	Treasurer
Mrs T. Cox	} Councillors
Mr V. Hodgkins	

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. G. Rumble and from District Councillor T. Cox.

8 members of the public also attended.

AGENDA

1. To allow 10 minutes for residents to ask questions etc.
2. To agree the Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Matters arising from the Minutes.
4. Treasurers Report & Financial Matters
5. To consider any Planning Matters.
6. To consider outcome of the Public meeting held on 20th June regarding the feasibility of a new Village Hall.
7. To allow a further 10 minutes for residents to raise matters on the meeting.
8. Any other business.

1. To allow 10 minutes for residents to ask questions etc.

Mr Eld asked whether any application for planning had been received for proposals by Oxford County Council to develop land adjacent to 'The House on the Green' and facing the Village Green.

A public notice had appeared in the local press but no plans were available at the District Council Offices.

All members of the public expressed grave concern at the proposals. The Chairman said that no information had so far been received.

Mr Eld said that it was understood that it was the statutory duty of the Planning Authority to preserve a Conservation area.

Mr V. Hodgkins said that the Village Green was under control of the Parish Council but not the ownership - the road was excluded.

It was agreed to discuss the matter under Planning.

2. To agree the Minutes of the last meeting

After an amendment, pointed out by Mr V. Hodgkins (page 2 should be Oxfordshire C.C.), the minutes were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

- a) Chapel Lane

✓ Mr J. Ody said that the posts were ready and would be installed at the first opportunity.

- b) Notice Board

✗ Mr E. Clarke reported that there had been no further progress.

- c) Lease for Playing Field

✓ The Clerk said he had recently spoken to the District valuer and he was going to seek an early reply from the County Council.

- d) Footpath

Mr E. Clarke said he had spoken to Mr Fry who had told him that the roller was put across the path to stop motor bikes and horses.

He had also intermated that he wished to keep in tune with the Village and would co-operate with any reasonable request.

Footpath cont.....

Mr V. Hodgkins said he thought that the Parish Council could claim right of access since the path had been used by Villagers for a considerable number of years.

Mr J. Ody suggested it should be declared a public footpath.

Mr V. Hodgkins said that the Parish Council should put wheels in motion to include the path on the list of Public Footpaths.

He made a proposal that the Vale of White Horse be approached for an application.

This was seconded by Mr J. Ody.

The Clerk said he would write to the Vale of White Horse.

e) Old Stone Outhouses

Mr J. Ody suggested that an approach be made to the Society for Protection of Rural England.

Mr V. Hodgkins said that a letter should be sent to the Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council with a copy to Col. Walton. After some discussion it was agreed to do this.

4. Treasurers Report & Financial Matters (see attached)

Mr J. Ody suggested that Mr Tyler be paid 50% of his grass cutting bill. This was agreed.

5. To consider any Planning Matters

The Clerk reported receipt of approval for a sun room at "Narrogen", Longworth Road.

Mr J. Ody asked whether anything had been received regarding the planning application for The School.

Mr V. Hodgkins thought that this would be considered at the next meeting of the Vale of White Horse Planning Committee.

Mr E. Clarke said he would now consider the implications of the Public Notice from the Oxfordshire County Council regarding development on land adjoining the village Green.

There had been considerable consternation as no formal notice had been received by the Parish Council. There were very strong feelings in the Village against the proposals.

These feelings were voiced by several members of the Public at the meeting, including Mr Eld, Mr & Mrs Paske, Mrs Rainbow, Mr Spurridge.

Mr V. Hodgkins then said he had made a draft of the main points at issue:-

1. It was a most important part of our Conservation Area.
2. It would detract from 'The Cottage on the Green' - recently commended in a Design Award.
3. Three dwellings would be completely out of character with the other dwellings surrounding the Green including an old thatched barn.

After some further discussion it was agreed that a letter forcefully stating the Parish Council's objections be sent to the Oxfordshire County Council with copies to all other bodies - viz. Vale of White Horse, Department of Environment, Col. Walton, Dist. Councillor Cox.

The Clerk said he would prepare a draft letter.

6. New Village Hall

Mr E. Clarke asked Mr G. Rumble before the meeting on the possibility of forming a new Committee before proceeding further with the matter.

Mr G. Rumble said some of the members of the Feasibility Committee did not wish to continue. Some discussion ensued regarding the holding of a Referendum. The O.R.C.C. advised that a notice to all on the Electoral Roll would be legal.

Mrs T. Cox said she would prefer to see a referendum under the Public Poll procedure.

It was agreed to hold in abeyance a final decision on the matter.

8. Any other business

Mr V. Hodgkins said the scheme for the village Hall had been finalised by the Charity Commission but as it had only just been received, it would be preferable if a further meeting be held when he had had time to study the scheme.

Mr Eld referring back to the matter of the Village Green development, said that he thought it would be helpful if the Wantage Herald or other local newspaper were to publish details of the Village objections.

Mr Paske said the more people expressing their objections the better.

Mr E. Clarke expressed his commendation to the Youth Club for decoration of the Village Hall.

Mrs T. Cox asked whether anything further had been heard from British Telecom re the telephone kiosk.

The Clerk said he had received no news regarding the matter and hoped that no news was good news.

Mr J. Ody reported that the tenancy of the Garage was to end by 1st August.

Mr E. Clarke said a section of an articulated vehicle had been parked in front of the Church & by Ock Bridge, both dangerous positions.

Mr Eld wondered whether the driver had an Operators Licence.

Mr V. Hodgkins thought it was a matter for the Police.

It was decided that the Wantage Police be advised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45p.m.

2. Any other business cont....

Mr Hodekins said that District Councillor Terry Cox had informed him that plans for five dwellings at the old School had been turned down.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

