

GROVE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 7th May 2004
at Old Mill Hall, Grove.**

Present:

Cllr F D Parnell (chairman)
Cllr P L Hadcroft (vice-chairman)
Cllr W R Ackers
Cllr R L Bashford
Cllr K R Clarke
Cllr S Cotton
Cllr W Evans
Cllr D M Hadcroft
Cllr A Harker
Cllr R Hicks-Greene
Cllr K Jones
Cllr A P Lunn
Cllr M Mellersh
Cllr J Nunn-Price
Cllr J M Stock
Cllr B Williamson

In attendance:

County councillor Z Patrick
District councillors D Phillips
Family of ex- councillor H P Little
Mr and Mrs A Dawson
Ms S Wallington
Mr H K Brew, Passenger Transport Representative
Ms S Kelsey (Wantage and Grove Review)
Mr T McManus (Wantage Catholic Church),
Mr D Cain (Grove table Tennis Club)
Mr W Bray (Millbrook Primary School)
Ms C Phillips (Grove Church of England School)
Mrs J Cash (Christian Outreach),
Representative Free Evangelical Church
Mr J Homer (Grove RFC)
Mrs M Homer (Grove Day Centre)
Mrs C Divall (Grove and District Flower Growers Club)
Mr Moss (Wantage Silver Band),
25 members of the public.

Clerk:

Mrs J S Copp

1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from District councillors G Stock and P Westwood.

2 Ceremony to name Patrick Little Hall

The chairman re-named the Old Mill Hall's main hall as the Patrick Little Hall in memory of the late councillor Patrick Little who had been a member of the council for twenty-five years, becoming council chairman for over eleven of those years. He had played a great

part in the building of the Old Mill Hall.

The chairman presented Mrs Little with a bouquet of flowers.

Mr Michael Little, Patrick's elder son replied on behalf of the family.

3 Presentation to Mr A Dawson on his retirement

The chairman presented a retirement gift to Mr Tony Dawson who was due to retire at the end of May. He had worked for the council as grounds man and head grounds man for the last 36 years. The chairman thanked him for all that he had done for the village over these years and on behalf of the council he wished him a happy retirement. The chairman then presented Mrs Dawson with a bouquet of flowers.

Mr Dawson thanked the council for their gift.

4 Presentation of Letcombe Brook by Letcombe Brook Officer Ms Sally Wallington

Ms Wallington's presentation included slides of the Letcombe Brook, detailing the problems and pleasures of the brook, its flora and fauna.

The chairman thanked Ms Wallington for her extremely interesting presentation.

5 Council chairman's report

Cllr Parnell read out his report as per the appendix.

6 Committee Chairmen's reports

Environmental Services Committee – Cllr Clarke read out his report as per the appendix.

Planning Committee – Cllr Stock read out her report as per the appendix.

Leisure and Recreation Committee – Cllr Ackers read out his report as per the appendix.

7 County and District Councillors reports

County Councillor's Report - County Councillor Patrick read out her report as per the appendix.

District Councillor's Report - District Councillor Phillips read out his report as per the appendix.

8 Public forum

Car Parking at Millbrook School – Mrs Smith stated that the school was fighting to resolve the problem of parents parking cars badly and driving too quickly when delivering and collecting children at the school. There was great concern that the children were in danger at these times and the school had done all it could to resolve the problem without success. Mrs Smith sought the council's advice as to what else could be done.

County councillor Patrick said that she would report the problem to the police.

Large lorries delivering to Somerfields store – Mrs Smith was also concerned about school children walking along School Lane whilst large lorries were manoeuvring at the rear of Somerfields. She had also noted that lorries on occasions would be unloaded in the Old Mil Close area adjacent to School Lane.

Cllr Clarke agreed to see that the matter was discussed at the next Environmental Services Committee meeting with a view to making representation to the company.

Seat at Grove Cemetery – Mr Bishop complained that some time ago his family had agreed for the seat purchased by them to be re-sited to allow a shelter to be placed there. He was appalled that the seat had not yet been re-sited and enquired when the work would be done.

Cllrs Keith Clarke and Dorothy Hadcroft apologised that this work had been held up but explained that this was due to several high priorities which had to be dealt with first. However they promised that the work would be done as soon as possible.

Overgrown trees – Mr Dawson complained about overgrown trees adjacent to his property in Farm End. The chairman agreed to ascertain the ownership of the trees and to see what could be done.

Possible closure of Wantage Cinema – Mr Brew was extremely concerned at the possible loss of this facility, particularly for youngsters, since if the cinema closed the nearest cinema is in Oxford and there had been cutbacks to the bus services between Oxford and Grove. If the multiplex cinema should be built in Didcot the access to Didcot via public transport would be likely to preclude outings to the cinema there. He asked the parish council to raise this issue with the district council for consideration when the application is heard. Cllr Stock agreed to do so.

Condition of highway on bridge adjacent to the Volunteer public house – Mr Tony Dawson was concerned about the poor condition of the road on the Grove side of the bridge. He was informed that the Traffic Advisory Committee would be considering the problem.

Speed camera on A338 – Mr Chown remarked that if the speed camera along the A338 through Grove was to be moved the speed of vehicles would increase. He believed the solution was in the hands of the local police to catch those who were responsible for speeding. This was noted.

Photographs of old Grove – The chairman informed everyone that old photographs of Grove had been mounted and placed on the walls in the Dixon Suite. He invited everyone to look at these.

The chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm

Confirmed: 3rd August 2004

Chairman