

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 16 April 2014 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Collett, Rawlins, Haine, Marsden, Naish, Smith, Laura Jones, 21 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Helen Jones and County Cllr Rose.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 March 2014 were amended to note that Ascott Parish Council was not represented at the meeting regarding the Wychwood Library. The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC:

Concern was expressed regarding the lime trees on the edge of the Village Green. Some branches are in decay. The general health of the trees should be looked at by an expert.

The Parish Council was thanked for supporting scheme for defibrillators in the parish. Fund raising supper evening taking place in the village Hall on Saturday 10 May. Tickets are going well. Hoping a minimum of 3 defibrillators will be purchased for the village. Possible locations suggested at the Village Hall, Baptist Chapel, Milton Sports Pavilion or Church room. Further discussion will have to take place regarding this matter. Cllr Marsden reported that WODC is offering 50% grant to parishes for funding 1 defibrillator and he has applied for this on behalf of the Parish. Local businesses are to be canvassed for their support.

Mr Young reported that 32 trees have been planted in the Community Orchard and a feeding and watering rota has been drawn up. The next batch of trees to be planted in the Autumn are now completely subscribed.

The Parish Council was asked what was happening regarding the Emergency Plan. Volunteers need to be contacted to confirm they are still willing to support and then it can be put in place as a working document.

Discussions are taking place with OCC Highways and the Developers regarding the change in highway at Shipton Road. White road markings will be re-installed in due course.

Application has been made to the Environment Agency regarding the collapsing banks at the Allotment field and fee paid. Notification has been received that the application has been accepted but there will be a minimum of 8 weeks before a formal response is received.

Rebekah Judd presented to the Parish Council and members of the Public an update regarding The Quart Pot planning applications. 1st application for 8 flats had design and parking issues and so 2nd application follows (for discussion this meeting) for 4 X 3 bed terraced houses with 7 parking spaces for the pub. Points of concern raised by the 1st application has been taken into

account for the 2nd application. Ms Judd reported that with the best of intentions she cannot guarantee that the pub will re-open as a business and pointed out that to do so it will need a lot of support. She felt that the planning application delivered a good solution for the site and to allow the pub to re-open. Cllr Haine reported that WODC Planners do not have legal policy to insist on the opening of the pub.

Members of the Public voiced their concerns about the proposed planning application: Overdevelopment with too much crammed into the site and various parking issues. Cllr Haine reported that Highways are satisfied with the parking issues relating to this application. The access in and out for the pub and houses is very narrow.

It is understood that there is an interested party in purchasing the pub subject to an agreement being reached on the boundary of land between the pub and proposed development of houses. WODC has refused a previous planning application for 1 house to be built on this plot and now they have to consider this proposal for 4 houses

MATTERS ARISING:

Bolt has been mended on the Village Green.

Hatwells Fair will be arriving on the Village Green on Sunday 4 August for 1 week.

Highways sign at the straight mile, Upper Milton is in hand.

Seat for the swing on the Village Green has been ordered.

Confirmation has been sent to Complete Weed Control.

Environment Agency – covered previously (under PUBLIC)

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

14/0486 Inns Keep, Church Road.
Alterations and erection of single storey extension. No objections.

14/0364 Quart Pot, 3 High Street.
Erection of 4 dwellings with associated parking and construction of car parking for Public House.
Councillors discussed the application to object on the issues raised as per the previous application.
Vote: 5 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 1 abstention.
Objections:
Overdevelopment – 4 cottages is too many for size of site. 2 or 3 cottages would be more in keeping.
Access – Shared access is narrow and single lane only. Vehicles will experience problems on entering and leaving the development.

Parking – Provision is inadequate. Parking will be forced out on to the High Street, which is already congested and regularly experiences difficulties with parked cars.

Parish Council would like to see some form of legal agreement in place that if the proposed planning goes ahead that the Public House will re-open.

Member of the Parish Council should be represented at the WODC Planning Committee meeting. Cllr Haine will confirm date.

WODC has granted:

14/0237 27 The Sands.
Erection of single storey and two storey extension and construction of detached garage and home office.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Council agreed to re-new subscription for receipt of the Local Council Review at £34 payable to NALC.

The Council received various emails and circulars during the month.

LIBRARY:

Ascott-u-Wychwood Parish Council is now on board and has agreed level of funding. A lot of the work involved is being done by the existing library staff. They will be looking for a maximum of 20 volunteers for which training will be given. The Parish Council will be invoiced for its contribution in October.

VILLAGE INFORMATION LEAFLET:

Cllr Helen Jones was not at the meeting to discuss this matter therefore it was agreed to defer.

GRASS CUTTING:

Contractor has done 1st cut already and has rolled the grass.

The Clerk will ask him to cut the hedge at the bottom of the Green.

WORKING PARTY FOR CEMETERY:

Councillors agreed to meet at the Cemetery on Sunday 11 May at 10.30am to tidy up. Cllr Naish gave her apologies. The hedge plantings are in a poor state.

Chairman has obtained 3 quotes for new gates with hinges (not fitting) to the pillars at the Cemetery. It was agreed that Chairman would go back to the contractors who gave the 2 lower quotes and ask for figures to include fitting. He will forward to all Councillors when available.

MODIFICATION TO THE BUS SHELTER:

There have been reports that people are urinating in the recesses of the bus shelter. A possible solution to this problem is to take out the wall either side to the entrance and put lintel over. The bus shelter would have no hiding place. Chairman will get budget figures to see if viable and come back to the Parish Council on this matter.

VILLAGE GREEN:

Chairman reported that he has 2 new litter bins with liners and 2 tall bins. Unfortunately the keys to the padlocks of the existing bins cannot be found. The new bins will be located on the Village Green and additional liners can be purchased if necessary.

Cllr Haine reported that family of the late Mr Jack Prew would like to place a bench on the Village Green in his memory between Rawlins and the Co-Op. All were in favour of this proposal.

The copse in the far corner of the village Green is a mess. The young trees and shrubs have all been vandalised and there are gaps in the hedge. It was agreed to ask tree contractor to look at these as well for advice.

Cllr Rawlins reported that he has fixed the seat to the swing temporarily until the new seat arrives. Chairman will help with fixing the new seat if necessary.

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

C Redman	- salary	228.80	M Ricketts	167.89
	- expenses	12.50	Business Focus	90.00
Alfred Groves & Sons		3.52	OCC	100.00
Thames Water		48.08	Environment Agency	50.00
WODC		195.00	NALC	34.00
M-u-W Village Hall		351.00		
			TOTAL	£1280.79

PUBLIC:

The Council was asked if they have considered working on a Parish Plan. This is an expensive and time-consuming project. The Parish is part of the Local Plan for planning issues.

Comment made that may be the Developer could be asked to fund the work on the bus shelter.

Upper Milton is in a bad state with surface water and mud on the road. The Clerk will follow this up with Highways.

The Council were asked if funds from the fete could support the fund raising for the defibrillators. Cllr Haine pointed out that the church and village hall committees work hard together to raise funds for their respective organisations.

The sandbags deposited at the entrance to Green Lane should now be removed. Cllr Haine will look into this.

The Cemetery gates are to provide 2 equal pairs of gates to fit on the pillars.

Everyone has the opportunity to send his or her objections to WODC Planners regarding the Quart Pot. The next meeting of the Planning Committee is 6 May and Cllr Haine will confirm this bearing in mind that the Monday is a Bank Holiday. Public members can speak at the meeting providing they have registered with WODC to do so and will have 3 minutes to speak. Parish Council also has 3 minutes to speak if register to do so.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr Rawlins reported that the Welfare Trust are considering increasing Allotment rents by £1 per year at their next meeting and asked that the Fuel Allotments be put on Council Agenda for next meeting.

Cllr Naish reported that the green BT box suddenly installed on the grass area outside her property is to be replaced against the wall next to the existing box. A new box has also been installed at Frog Lane.

Resident from Jubilee Lane is not receiving the newsletter. This will be passed to Cllr Helen Jones.

Cllr Naish reported that new bus timetable takes effect from 1 June. The 233 Sunday bus service to Witney has been withdrawn.

Cllr Marsden reported that he is in the process of letting allotments to new tenants. He has drawn up a new plan and has numbered the plots.

There are rumours that the field at the top of High Street is being looked at by Developers. Any proposed building would have to go through WODC Planners. The Council agreed to wait and see.

Roads at Upper Milton and corner at Milton Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood is particularly bad at present. A claim on OCC Insurance is not easy.

Cllr Haine reported that a notice can be put on the Council website to confirm the date of the WODC Planners meeting which will include the Quart Pot. The meeting will start promptly at 2.00pm. Cllr Marsden offered to attend and represent the Parish Council. The Parish Council has to formally register by Friday 2 May 2014 with WODC Planners that they want to speak at the meeting. Cllrs were asked to let the Clerk know if they can attend the meeting.

Chairman reported that he has had to personally report an incident of anti-social behaviour.

Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 14 May 2014 in the Village Hall. Representatives from the various organisations will be invited to attend. The Agenda will be the same as in previous years.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm