

A meeting of Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council was held on Wednesday
15 August 2012 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Rawlins (acting as Chairman), Haine, Naish, Smith, Laura Jones and Helen Jones. 4 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Collett and Councillor Marsden.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

Cllr Helen Jones declared personal interest in matters relating to planning application 12/1232- 22 Church Meadow.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 July 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC:

There were no matters for discussion.

MATTERS ARISING:

The boundary hedge at The Sands needs cutting back again. The Council will write and offer to arrange for it to be cut back on his behalf and forward the bill to him.

Cllr Laura Jones reported that the website is on-going. With regard to the printing of the Newsletter, it was agreed to continue to ask Business Focus to print the copies despite the increase in charge as they were better quality. Colour copies will be saved for special occasions.

The entrance gate to the Village Green opposite the Co-Op and the notice board at 1 High Street is still pending.

Cllr Smith reported that the entrance gate to the Village Green opposite the Deli does close too fast for children. Cllr Haine disagreed with this statement. Cllr Collett has spoken with Mr Pratley from Wychwood Wrought Iron and is trying to find a preserver to allow the gate to close slower.

Cllr Haine reported that he is dealing with the matter of the over hanging branches at 7 High Street.

Cllr Smith reported that she had been hasty in saying that she would not take part in a bi-annual meet and greet session by the Parish Council.

Cllr Haine clarified a point made at the last meeting regarding the Precept. The capping of the precept at 3.5% does not apply to Parish Councils and District Councils. He felt that the decision regarding assisting the Village Hall had been influenced by this knowledge and proposed that the Village Hall should be re-visited on the next Agenda. Council rules are that a period of 6 months should lapse before an Agenda item can be re-visited.

The Parish Council has received a refund of £708.05 from the OCC Area Stewardship fund covering the cost of the new grit/salt bins.

Cllr Laura Jones has received an email from resident complaining about the cutting of the lime trees at the Church Yard. Cllr Rawlins has tried to contact resident regarding this matter and left a message to come back to him. Nothing more has been heard.

Cllr Rawlins reported that he will trim the weeds along the footpath by the bus shelter.

CEMETERY RULES AND CHARGES

All agreed that the new charges for the Cemetery will take effect from 1 September 2012.

Cllr Naish reported that some of the graves are uneven. She will report back with those concerned.

MONITORING GRASS CUTTING:

Cllr Smith reported that she has contact number for the Grass Cutting team to touch base. She will try and meet up with them in due course. Everything is neat and tidy. Spring is the best time to spray the weeds on the Village Green.

Cllr Haine asked if the rolling of the Village Green is in the grass cutting contract. If not can we ask Contractors if they can do it and price.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

During the month and for information only:

12/1139 27 Church Meadow. Alterations and erection of front porch. Installation of new side window. No objections.

For discussion this evening:

At this point Cllr Helen Jones left the meeting.

12/1232 22 Church Meadow. Erection of 1st floor side, single storey rear extensions and front porch. No objections.

Cllr Helen Jones returned to the meeting.

WODC has granted:

12/0952 Telecommunications site, The Long Wood, Milton Downs, Nr Burford. Upgrade of existing telecoms. Site to include addition of 600mm dish, 3 equipment cabinets and ancillary apparatus.

12/1063 33 Elm Grove. Erection of rear conservatory and link extension.

CORRESPONDENCE:

New Councillors were reminded to visit HSBC to show identification to validate the Bank Mandate.

OCC are offering 1x bulk bag of salt + further additional bags at £100.00 per bag. It was agreed to postpone this matter and discuss with the Chairman.

£100 donation has been received from Mr & Mrs Witley who own the fish and chip van.

Funds are available from OCC Area Stewardship Fund relating to highway projects. The Parish Council will consider potential projects for discussion at next meeting.

Cllr Naish agreed to be included as an emergency contact on OCC community Emergency Planning Survey.

Complaint received from resident at 1 Peartree Close in relation to the 2 lime trees and an ash tree that is overhanging their property. Cllr Rawlins agreed to look into this matter.

Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership invites Councillors to the Affordable Rural Housing Conference at Denman College, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon on Wednesday 26 September 2012.

Cllr Haine will speak with County Cllr Rose regarding the Big Society Fund to report back at next meeting.

VILLAGE GREEN:

The grass has recovered since the bad weather during the Jubilee celebrations and the fete.

The fair will not be visiting this year as a result of the bad weather.

There has been a lot of rubbish left around the seats and bins.

Cllr Rawlins has removed the plank of wood from the walk the plank as it is unsafe. Playdale will be contacted for price to repair.

Cllr Rawlins reported that the ROSPA play equipment inspection has been carried out. The report has not yet been received.

The Jubilee Committee would like to plant an oak tree on the Green as a lasting memorial. The tree will be 5-6metres in height and will have protective guard around it. No decision was made regarding the siting of the tree. All agreed that Mr Trotman can go ahead and order the tree and agreed to have the oak tree on the Green. The Council agreed to meet on the Green before the next meeting to decide where to position the tree. Mr Trotman will be invited to attend the meeting also.

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

E Parsons	- salary	228.80	M Ricketts	124.80
	- expenses	12.50	S A Barnes	654.00
Alfred Groves & Sons		3.52	R J Caswell	773.00
Complete Weed Control		358.80	OALC (workshop fee)	198.00
Broker Network Ltd		156.67		
			TOTAL	£2510.09

Payments received during the month:

Refund from OCC Area Stewardship fund (grit bins)	708.05
Donation from Mr & Mrs Witley (fish & chip van)	100.00

PUBLIC:

Gate opposite the Deli does need a closer. The hinges are on the wrong side. Cllr Rawlins will speak with Chairman regarding this matter.

Suggestions for the Area Stewardship fund were put forward: entrance gates to the village. Moving the Milton-under-Wychwood sign at Bruern Road further out from the village.

It would be helpful if the items under Matters Arising were numbered.

Big Society Fund is for Start-up projects.

The Council were asked if it were possible to get an update on the Village Emergency Plan.

The Council were asked if there were any plans to update the older play equipment. The Council agreed this was a good idea.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr Helen Jones reported that residents at the bottom of Church Meadow are having problems trying to get the landowner responsible for the piece of land by their properties to tidy it up and make it safe. There are a number of trees on the land (which have tree preservation orders) and the canopy is too high. They have contacted Builders Ede Ltd (landowners) several times and have got nowhere. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the Builders concerned. Cllr Haine pointed out that the landowner has a legal duty to keep the stream clear at this area in Church Meadow.

Cllr Naish reported overhanging brambles at Hillborough Guest House. Cllr Rawlins agreed to cut them back from the pavement.

Notice board at Jubilee Lane/The Sands has nettles around it. The Clerk offered to remove them.

Cllr Smith understood that some of the Allotment holders were frustrated that not all the plots are kept tidy and that the Council should do something about it. Cllr Marsden is responsible for the Fuel Allotments and agreed that the Council should have a tougher approach.

Flowers are overgrowing the pavement at Amelia Cottage, High Street. The Clerk will write to Estate Agents, JD Wood to contact the owner concerned.

You have to pull right out to see at the junction at Long Road/High Lodge because there are shrubs overhanging at the bend. The Clerk will write to resident concerned.

Cllr Collett will be asked to look at the wall at The Pound which has been reported as fallen.

The meeting closed at 9.08pm

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 19 September 2012