

A meeting of Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council was held on Wednesday 19 December 2012 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr Helen Jones and Cllr Smith.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 November 2012 were amended under the heading PUBLIC: A youth was also involved in the shooting of a cat that was seriously hurt. The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC:

The Parish Council were thanked for the dog poo bags. The bags will continue to be issued free of charge. This will be reviewed when this supply runs out.

Flooding matters were discussed. Cllr Haine will follow up the request to ask OCC to look at widening the entrance to the upstream storage pond on David Astor's land.

The Parish Council were thanked for the Christmas tree.

Cllr Haine reported and updated current situation regarding the Quart Pot. Request has currently been made to demolish the out building and nothing can be done about this. Cllr Haine has alerted the Planning Office to make sure any loop holes are blocked as the Owner appears to be clever.

The Emergency Plan is in progress.

Mr Gibbs would be happy to join a sub-committee to help improve the play area.

MATTERS ARISING:

Response regarding the trees at Church Meadow is still pending.

Quotes from Tree Tech for the work on the trees on the Village Green are:

2 lime trees - to re-pollard to original points = £495 + VAT

1 ash tree - Crown raise and remove ivy = £255 + VAT

All agreed to accept these quotes and to go ahead with this work.

The swings on the Village Green are still out of commission and it was agreed to leave for the time being until Spring when access will be easier. Cllr Marsden will follow up possible loan of a digger to do the necessary work.

Mr Coombes has kindly topped the grass inside the Allotments.

Street lights have been reported to OCC.

Parish Council support is very much appreciated by the local charities and organisations.

Cllr Haine has sorted out the matter regarding the incident of the car on the Village Green.

Cllr Marsden will check the banks to the brook at the bottom of the Allotments.

Cllr Naish will check the area around the sand store at the Village Hall since the car park has been re-surfaced. This is in connection with fixing some sort of light by the sand store.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

12/1758 9 Ansell Way. Two storey side extension. No objections.

It was pointed out that these houses were once affordable houses and many of them have had extensions and are no longer affordable.

WODC has granted:

12/1553 Stoneporch, 38 High Street. Reposition part of boundary wall.
12/1664 Quart Pot, 3 High Street. Demolition of outbuildings. (General Permitted
Development)
12/1526 Land adjacent 42 Ansell Way. Erection of dwelling. (To allow extension to the
time limit.)

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter received from Littlestock Brook Action Group requesting the Parish Council contribute toward the cost of a skip as the residents will be digging out the pebbles and spoil washed down from upstream due to erosion of the bank. The Council agreed that this matter is not going to go away and agreed to contribute toward the cost of the skip. Cllr Marsden will take a look at the bank of the brook along the Allotments.

The Clerk has various circulars.

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

E Parsons	- salary	228.80	M Ricketts	130.18
	- expenses	12.50	Puddle Pet Care	290.40
Alfred Groves & Sons		7.88	HMRC	267.40
Oxford Diocesan Registry		312.00	Business Focus	345.00
			TOTAL	£1594.16

PRECEPT:

WODC are requesting a guideline figure by 31 December 2012 although definite figures are not required until 31 January 2013. Cllr Haine explained to the Council that Central Government were looking to reduce the Revenue Support Grant given to councils across the country by something in the region of 10%. The Revenue Support Grant is based on the level of Council Tax Discounts and Benefits given. Central Government has deemed that the reduction, billions of pounds across the country, should not be borne solely by the District Council but shared with County Council, Police and Town & Parish Councils. The charge to be levied to the Parish Council will be deducted from the Precept and therefore this needs to be taken into account when setting the Precept, although at present it is not known how much the charge will be. Town & Parish Precepts will not be capped in 2013 but it is highly likely they will be in 2014 onwards. It was agreed that the Council should look carefully at costs for future projects as this may be the last opportunity for the Parish Council to choose their level of increase in the Precept. It was agreed to put forward a guideline figure of £40K at this time and to discuss fully at the next meeting.

The Council also agreed with WODC Option1 – to allocate grant in line with benefit and accept there are winners and losers.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr Rawlins has fixed the bolts at the Hard Play Area. He has had to order more.

The consecration of the extension of the Cemetery took place on Sunday 16 December 2012.

The bank below the foot bridge across the brook at the Allotments has eroded away. The Clerk will inform OCC Footpaths officer.

The grass cutting contract will be going out to tender in the New Year. The Clerk will email the specification to all Councillors.

Revd Kate Stacey will be attending the Carol singing on Christmas Eve.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Mr Gibbs stood up from the Public gallery and thanked the Parish Council for all their work.