

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17th December 2014

PRESENT: Cllrs Collett, Rawlins, Naish, Marsden, Smith, DCllr Haine, Smith.
 Parish Clerk: Jenny Miller
 19 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: CCllr Rose, Cllrs Laura Jones, Helen Jones

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: N/A

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC:

Quart Pot appeal: MoP present at appeal, as was Cllr Naish.

State of roads in village: Request to put pressure on County Council to improve state of roads especially Red Horse corner. Cllr Marsden reported that CCllr Rose had previously said it was within his remit but would be January at earliest before works started.

NAG representation: Martin Gibbs announced his new role as Neighbourhood Action Group representative and requested a slot when appropriate in future PC meetings. Role involves working with Shipton and Ascott reps to discuss joint issues, as well as with Police and other groups. He will be available at Library most Wed mornings 10am-12pm to discuss matters of concern arising among villagers.

Elm Grove: 3 residents of Elm Grove expressed concern following an anonymous letter recently hand delivered through doors about the sale of common land in Elm Grove to enlarge garden of a property on Frog Lane. Elm Grove residents concerned about precedent the sale sets for the future of common land elsewhere in village; that the area was originally designated for the use by residents of Elm Grove; that the Parish Council should not consider the enquiry at all; that the Parish Council would take matter further in spite of clear and significant objection to sale among Elm Grove residents. Chairman reassured those present that an enquiry had indeed been made, the PC were looking into the conditions in legal documents surrounding the land in question but that no decision would be made without public consultation with residents, legal advice and significant discussion as an Agenda item in PC meeting. This is unlikely to be in the next meeting since the PC first need to fully understand the legal background. Chairman reiterated that the enquiry was made informally and at this stage has not proceeded any further.

Publishing of PC meeting Agenda and Minutes: MoP request for Agenda to be published on website (as well as on Parish Notice board as currently happens) prior to monthly meeting so more accessible. Chairman agreed to this. Clerk to speak about this to Cllr Laura Jones, who is responsible for updating website and also to request for Minutes to be published online more regularly. Request that Draft Minutes of previous meeting to be published before meeting to allow villagers to respond. Chairman agreed to consider this.

Emergency Plan: Request for Emergency Plan to be published on website. Clerk to ask Cllr Laura Jones to do so.

Management of Village Green: Mr Woodward, who runs kids football club on Sat morning, would like PC to look into the management of the Village Green (VG) and the Milton Sports Association (MSA) since he is not satisfied that it is being managed in a way which allows fair usage of facilities. He has concerns about DCllr Haine being involved in management of MSA as a member of PC due to an alleged conflict of interests, forbidden in PC Code of Conduct. He is disappointed that in spite of significant time put into running kids football clubs for local children, his requests for more time on football pitch are unfairly rejected. Chairman

would like to discuss matter further when all Councillors have had access to information Mr Woodward has provided and as such it would be an Agenda item in January when proper discussion would take place. Mr Woodward requests that PC read the Trap Ground, Woodstock case, which sets a precedent on use of Village Greens.

MATTERS ARISING:

Post Office: Cllr Rawlins reported that new outreach Postal service appears to be running smoothly.

Allotments: Posts were fixed to prevent vehicular access and associated churning of land at lower end of allotments. Cllr Marsden reported that this has had the desired effect so far.

Allotments rental increase: Fuel allotments rent will increase by £2 per annum in August 2016 in accordance with the Rules and Regulations in order to give tenants at least 12 months notice. Question raised about whether rent of field adjacent to allotments would also be raised.

Little Stock Brook: No quotes for grading of stream have been sought as yet.

Gap in hedge behind hard court: No quotes for trees to fill gap have been sought as yet.

Bus shelter: Chairman reported that tiles have been replaced.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

CCll Rose apologised for absence.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Applications made:

1) Ref 14/01627/FUL

21st Nov 2014

Wood Hay, Green Lane MUW

Objection (Obj 5, No obj 1, Abs 2)

Erection of new single storey dwelling in rear garden and erection of replacement garage to serve existing house.

2) Ref 14/01834/HHD and Ref 14/01835/LBC

12th Nov 2014

Stoneporch, 38 High Street, MUW

Objection (Obj 3, No obj 2, Abs 1)

To create an off-road parking space to the front of the property.

3) Ref 14/01941/HHD

20th Nov 2014

Lower Farm House, Upper Milton, MUW

No objection

Erection of garage with link to dwelling and conversion of an outbuilding to a home office

4) Ref 14/01794/HHD

8th Nov 2014

18 Poplar Farm Close, MUW

No objection

Erection of two-storey extension to side/rear

5) Ref 14/01759/FUL

28th Nov 2014

High Fields, Church Road, MUW

No objection

Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of four 3 bedroom dwellings with associated access and landscaping works

6) Ref 14/02107/573

3rd Dec 2014

20 Harmans Court, MUW_

No objection

Non-compliance with the legal agreement in association with Planning Permission 03/1874/P/FP to allow persons under the age of 55 to occupy No 20 Harmans Court.

Ref 03/1874/P/FP

Erection of fifteen warden assisted retirement homes for the elderly, five single storey dwellings, associated parking, pedestrian access to high street, new shop window to 59 High Street

7) Ref14/02264/HHD

4th Dec 2014

Fairhaven, Jubilee Lane, MUW

No objection

Demolition of existing two storey extension and erection of new two storey extension

CORRESPONDENCE:

1	Notice of MUW branch temporary closure	Post Office	Post
2	Several letters expressing concern about possible sale of common land in Elm Grove	Elm Grove residents (Mr Henriques, Mr&Mrs Short, Mr&Mrs Kelly, Mr Agnew, Mr Chalmers, Mrs Shortland)	Email
3	Wychwood Project Magazine 'Forest Update' detailing various recent projects and upcoming events in and around rivers in Wychwood area.	Wychwood Project	Post
4	Winter in Oxfordshire campaign with 3 posters to display about winter awareness	OCC	Post
5	Request from Lengthperson Margaret Rickets for Parish Council to review hourly rate in accordance with 2013 decision to do so annually.		Email
6	December Members update; of most interest, feedback wanted about OCC Oxfordshire's Learning Disability Strategy 2015-2018, setting out how services for adults with learning disabilities could be provided in Oxfordshire. Public consultation until 9 February 2015.	OALC Go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/bigplan	Email
7	ORCC update, seeking if Parish Council has response to local budget cuts		Email
8	Playground Equipment Safety Inspection courses flyer	RoSPA	Email
9	Advised of vacancy for Shipton Parish Clerk. Closing date is 9 th January and applicants are to contact Parish Clerk Annie Champness for more information	clerk@shiptonunderwychwood.org	Email

VILLAGE GREEN:

Gate beyond play equipment: Cllr Smith reported that gate is not opening at all and needs to be dealt with and gap in hedge further down in widening due to problem with gate access. CCllr Rose to be contacted as Public Footpath issue.

ACCOUNTS

a. Payments out were authorised and cheques signed:

1. Cotswold Tree Surgery Elm Grove work	£380	
2. Margaret Ricketts litter-picking	£119.50	
3. J. Miller Clerk - salary	£286	
- home allowance	£12.50	£302.50
- photocopying	£4	
4. Alfred Groves black bin bags	£3.52	
5. Business Focus Dec Newsletter	£382.50	
6. WEL Medical Defibrillator & casing	£1658.10	
7. Wychwoods Day Centre donation under Sec137	£250	
TOTAL	£2988.12	

b. Payments in:

1. Allotment fees	£89
2. Cemetery	£225
TOTAL	£314

PUBLIC

Buses: MoP enquired into current bus provision since service is not acceptable as it currently stands, particularly for less mobile and elderly. Promises made by Cllr Rose for improved service have not materialised. Services to Charlbury & Kingham stations most notably affected. Fear that worse it gets, less it will be used and will be further diminished. MoP encouraged support of Villager bus service which is very reliable but little known.

Dog fouling: MoP reported this to be major problem and enquired into availability of free dog waste bags previously provided at PO. Cllr Haine confirmed they are now available freely to villagers in Stow Vets on Shipton Road, next to PO.

Road Markings on Shipton Road opposite The Paddocks site: Cllr Collett regrets PC is aware that poor road markings are an ongoing problem but County Council road contractor will not make any changes until The Paddocks site is completed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Manhole cover loose: Cllr Smith reported loose cover on High Street outside old Harmans Shop. Clerk to report to Thames Water.

Streetlight in The Sands: Clerk to report to Oxfordshire County Council.

Dangerous parking on Church Road opposite lay-by: Clerk has notified police but during their visit to site in question they looked in the wrong place. Clerk to pursue matter.

Lengthperson salary: Following correspondence, this will be reviewed as an Agenda item in January.

The Chairman wished everyone present a Happy Christmas and New Year and the meeting closed at 8.25pm.