

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th February 2015

PRESENT: Cllrs Collett, Rawlins, Naish, Marsden, DCllr Haine, Laura Jones. Parish Clerk: Jenny Miller.
154 members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Smith and Cllr Helen Jones.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: DCllr Haine declared his planning role in WODC as reason to abstain from discussion and vote on Sharba Homes planning application.

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

PUBLIC

Chairman welcomed public and explained procedure for making and listening to public comments.
Announced change of order to Agenda.

NAG report: Martin Gibbs introduced himself as NAG representative who would work with NAG reps from all Wychwood villages and local emergency services in attempt to overcome common problems. Requested public to approach him with any issues arising in locality eg. speeding, parking etc. as well as efficacy of emergency numbers 101 and 999. Any matters raised will be dealt with in total confidence.

Opposition to Sharba Homes planning application: Paul Young, MUWAG executive and representative in place of MUWAG Chairman presented reasons for MUWAG opposition to development. Main points were:

- o Elevated area of natural beauty of site in question will increase detrimentally visual impact and light pollution caused by housing in village
- o Precedent will be established for further development should principle of 'infill development' be breached as would be case with farmland site in question
- o Sustainability in question with increase in commuting due to poor bus links, traffic, light pollution as a result of development
- o Worsening of already difficult parking, with potential for 100+ additional cars belonging to new residents, particularly along High Street, locally considered a 'single lane road' plus unknown impact of Green Square development on Shipton Road on parking and traffic
- o Ecological impact on AONB of concreting existing farm land
- o Clear opposition to development amongst villagers as demonstrated by 300+ MuW residents who signed petition and results of PC online poll

Other points made by public included:

- o A recent planning application recently dismissed due to concern over existing parking and traffic problems on High Street
- o Question as to whether affordable housing would actually be affordable given Sharba Homes market their developments as providing 'luxury homes'
- o No urgent need for additional homes in village since there are currently 17 on market
- o Fear that large scale development will ruin cohesion of village
- o Access point to development opposite old cottage is ill-placed and inconsiderate of occupiers of that property
- o Pedestrian route down Jubilee Lane already dangerous especially for disabled which will be made more so with increased traffic from development
- o Queries about flooding of site, impact on Wychwood Surgery, sewer capacity and potential for help to buy scheme for houses currently on the market as alternative to new housing
- o There is already adequate infill land for development of further housing

Support for Sharba Homes planning application: Mr Hartley, owner of land in question replied with following points:

- o MuW has opportunity to share friendly, welcoming village with newcomers
 - o Important to give younger generation incentive to stay with more affordable housing available. Younger generation needed to increase likelihood of improvements to infrastructure as well as to maintain and economic stability of village
 - o MuW has good range of services, employment and is of a good size to absorb more residents compared to other villages in area
 - o Development in AONB is inevitable given housing needs in Oxfordshire so Sharba development has been considered for its' aesthetic appeal and consideration of natural environment of site
- Other points in support of development included:
- o Younger MoP, earning a good wage but currently renting in village because priced out of market
 - o MuW in catchment area for Burford School so access to free school bus service which is currently threatened. Bus service more likely to continue with increased volume of students requiring transport.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications received:

1) Ref 15/00197/OUT 29th Jan 2015
Land south of High Street, MuW
Erection of up to 70 dwellings **Objection**

2) Ref 14/01759/FUL
High Fields, Church Road, MuW
Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of 4x 3 bed dwellings with associated access and landscaping works **No objection**

MATTERS ARISING

Sharba development: Cllr Haine reminded Public that PC is not ultimate decision-makers in planning applications. Suggested that in event planning application (1) above be approved by WODC, PC should request certain benefits for village under Section 106.

Broken gate on Village Green: OCC will pay for repair work which will take place in summer

Car permitted on allotments in one specific case: Cllr Rawlins reported that Mr & Mrs Biles have expressed deep thanks to PC for allowing access.

Overgrown vegetation under bridges near Milton Service Station: Cllr Naish reported vegetation has not been removed following OCC inspection last week.

Little Stock Brook: Chair has received 2 quotes and a third to be sought. Discussion followed about where to deposit spoil and further discussion to take place with Mr Coombes who farms adjacent land.

Grass cutting: Grass cutting advert to be in Witney Gazette today.

Access through field behind The Sands: Land owners have confirmed drainage works were attempted to improve worsening bog in field and further work will take place in Spring to allow improved passage across field with erection of bridges.

VOLUNTEER LINK-UP

Clerk confirmed that PC have previously donated to this organisation for several years in a row and that MuW residents are currently registered with them and services available to any MuW residents who would benefit. PC voted to make donation of £100. Suggestion made by Chairman to have a 'Donations' item on monthly Agenda after Correspondence.

OLD POST OFFICE NOTICEBOARD

PC decided this is not currently in urgent need of replacement.

UPCOMING COURSES FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Clerk to attend OALC Roles & Responsibilities for new clerks in March. Main drawback for Councillors attending courses is the need to take a day off work.

CLERK EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AND SALARY

PC approved NALC salary guidelines and annual incremental in accordance with scale given. Cllr Haine queried holiday pay and pension. Clerk to seek clarification on these issues before contract is signed.

NAG REPORT

Reminder letter for OPFA annual membership £50. Payment approved.	
Invitation from Ascott PC to Wychwoods working together informal meeting postponed to Wed 6 th May. Clerk to suggest date after general elections.	Angela Barnes Clerk to AuW PC
Letters/Emails regarding Sharba Homes development south of High Street	
Copy of online and paper petition carried out by MUWAG of residents of MUW and surrounding villages opposed to development. Of 646 signatures, 371 are MUW residents.	Sarah Conway, MUWAG
Enquiry into planting of bulbs next to graves in cemetery. Rules stipulate no planting of shrubs, trees or flowers but that rules can be amended at Parish Council's discretion. PC approved bulbs by graves but grass mowing to continue in same way.	
Email confirming MuW PC elections will take place in 2016	Keith Butler WODC
Permission sought to erect memorial which complies with cemetery regulations. Approved.	Taylor's Funeral Service
Permission sought to erect memorial which complies with cemetery regulations. Approved.	Wychwood Funeral Service
Email request for donation to towards the under 11s and 12s annual trip to Gadget Show Live in April. 45 MSA children and 5 coaches. Suggested donation of £90 towards transport to Birmingham for the Wychwood FC children. Total cost of trip is £1400 approx. To be discussed in Donations item next month.	Mr Woodward
Oxford Biomedical Research Centre email advertising new website to link patients, carers and other members of the public who want to support the planning of research and help inform how it is done with researchers working in hospitals and universities across the Thames Valley.	www.patientsactiveinresearch.org.uk
Notification of Wild Woods AGM Wed 18 th March 7.30pm. Cllr Laura Jones to attend.	Mike Watson, Chair of Wild Gardens
OCC Local Transport Plan consultation is open– road, rail, cycle and bus links across Oxfordshire until 2031	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/connectingoxfordshire
Letter of thanks for donation received by MuW Summer fete committee which will go towards childrens' races prizes and other games and activities	Christine Hart

Martin Gibbs NAG report will be mentioned if necessary in March meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

VILLAGE GREEN

Overhanging hedge into adjacent gardens: Cllr Haine reported this needs attending. Kevin Grant will do work at his hourly rate. PC approved this work.

Use of Village Green for boys' football: Chairman has received advice that as PC administers and maintains Village Green, PC must continue deciding how best it should be managed. PC in agreement that current system should continue since it works well the majority of the time. PC would like Mr Woodward to continue using the facility if he can work within the parameters agreed. Clerk to contact Mr Woodward.

ACCOUNTS

a. Payments out to authorise and cheques to sign:

1. Margaret Ricketts litter-picking		£135.81
2. J. Miller Clerk	- salary	£286
	- home allowance	£12.50
	-expenses	£40
3. Donation to summer fete		£50
4. OPFA annual membership		£50
5. Witney Gazette grass cutting advert		£109.20
6. OALC Parish Clerk course	£65 + VAT	£78
7. Donation to Volunteer Link-up under Section 137		£100
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	TOTAL	£861.51

b. Payments in:

1. Allotment rent		£7
2. Cemetery		£300
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	TOTAL	£307

PUBLIC

Sharba development: Request for PC response to planning application to clearly reflect strong village opinion and that Councillors attend decision meeting at WODC Planning offices.

Speeding: Martin Gibbs announced that police will focus efforts in coming months on reducing speeding through village.

PC AGM: Will take place on Wed 13th May

Play equipment: Suggestion that MSA donates to funding for new equipment since delay is due to difficulty in raising money. Cllr Rawlins to send letter of request to MSA for consideration. Cllr Haine said this is not within remit of MSA. Suggestion that PC contribute to play equipment. Cllr Rawlins said there has already been money reserved in the 15/16 precept for PC donation. It was noted that existing play equipment needs attention after winter months.

PC bank balance: Enquiry into whether current PC bank balance is near to the £100k received over 2 years from precept. Clerk stated that there is more expenditure than income each month so current bank balance not close to total income received from precept. Chairman added that the 100% increase in precept was due to failure to apply for incremental increases over a longer period of time. Large expenditure forecast in coming 2 years for major maintenance issues in village. Clerk acknowledged it would be helpful to have current balance available to present at PC meetings and will endeavour to do so.

AOB

Cemetery: Cllr Marsden reported that moles causing severe problems in old part of cemetery. Mr Hayes, local pest controller has offered to help free of charge. PC approved. Cllr Marsden also reported that gates to cemetery are generally being left open. Gates were erected to prevent escapee animals from entering. PC to monitor and close as and when necessary.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.11pm.