

A meeting of Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council was held on Wednesday 16 January 2013 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Collett, Rawlins, Haine, Marsden, Naish, Smith, Helen Jones. County Cllr Rose and 5 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Laura Jones.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

Cllr Rawlins declared a personal interest in matters relating to planning application 13/0009 Sunnyside, Shipton Road.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 December 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC:

The Council were asked if the street light along the footpath along by the bus shelter could be dealt with as a matter of urgency. Cllr Haine reported that he would deal with this as soon as possible.

Resident requested that the Council consider putting further grit bins at Fettiplace and at the end of Frog Lane/Shipton Road. Upper Milton should also be considered so 3 more bins could be purchased. All bins are full with salt.

There is surface water at Upper Milton. This had been sorted some time ago and Thames Water emptied the gulleys. This matter will be referred to OCC.

MATTERS ARISING:

Builders Ede has responded relating to the trees at Church Meadow. They have suggested the removal of all the trees in the area. This is not what the residents are requesting. Cllr Helen Jones will liaise with residents and Builders Ede.

A sub-committee has not yet been formally set up to look at new play equipment. Cllr Helen Jones will speak to Mr Gibbs who would like to be part of this committee and this matter will be put on the Parish Council Agenda.

The Emergency Plan is circulating among Councillors.

Cllr Marsden reported that he has spoken with Bruern Farms and they are happy to lend their digger to carry out the work at the swings on the Village Green, date and time to suit. They ask that the Parish Council are covered by our own liability insurance.

Cllr Marsden has inspected the banks of brook at the bottom of the Allotments. This is difficult to assess. The brook was flowing well and gravel at the bottom. A branch from a tree had fallen across the brook and this could be a potential hazard. He will report this to Bruern Farms who owns the land. There are places of weakness along the high banks, with silt and earth that has

fallen into the flow of the brook. The problem is not going to go away. Residents of The Heath have cleared some of the build up of gravel from the floor of the brook and filled a skip. The Environment Agency will be alerted and advice sought.

An outside light at the Village Hall by the sand store will cost £250 all in. All agreed with this price. Cllr Haine will organise this matter.

Cllr Haine reported that he has taken action regarding the flooding matters and advised that OCC will have a look at the widening of the entrance to the upstream storage pond.

Work on the trees on the Village Green has been organised.

All agreed to a donation of £50 to Mr & Mrs Naish towards their electricity for lighting the Christmas tree. Carols on Christmas Eve were successful and a collection of £285 was made to Wychwood Day Centre.

The Street lights will be chased up.

SHIPTON WILD GARDEN & WOOD:

The Committee has reported that they have decided not to take over the maintenance of Diggers Wood. The previous Parish Council agreed to donate £1500 per annum for the duration of that Council. The present Parish Council agreed that they must be careful with their budget. They could not afford to continue at this level of support but agreed that a donation should be given. It was pointed out that the Parish Council are not obliged to give any amount and that residents can give a donation as a private individual. Various amounts were proposed and finally a proposal of a donation of £500 was made.

A vote was taken:

6 votes in favour

1 against

A donation of £500 will therefore be sent to the Shipton Wild Garden & Wood.

GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT:

The present specification was looked at as per any cost cutting measures. It was generally agreed that the grass cutting was about right as the village has been looking very neat with this level of cutting. Extra work to the specification is carried out at an hourly rate. It was agreed to leave as is for benchmark price but get tenders to give 2 quotes – weekly and fortnightly cuts. Term – 2 year fixed rate contract. It was agreed to advertise in the Witney Gazette and on Website. Cllr Haine reported that he would like to know the name of Contractors when discussing the contract.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

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|---------|--|
| 13/0009 | Sunnyside, Shipton Road. Installation of dormer windows and conservation rooflights to front and rear elevations. No objections. |
| 13/0020 | Land adj Green Lane. Construction of electrical sub-station to serve extra care facility. No objections. |

CORRESPONDENCE:

Councillors were reminded that they are required to up-date their register of Interests with WODC should they change.

The Council agreed to ask ROSPA to carry out annual play equipment inspection in the Autumn.

OCC Consultation on the initial review of the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan has been received.

The Council agreed a donation of £100 to Wychwoods Day Centre Ltd and West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Clerk has various circulars.

VILLAGE GREEN:

The children's swings are still being used despite being taped off!

The cutting back of the trees has been addressed.

Cllr Marsden reported that the gravel at the entrance gate opposite the Co-Op should be removed as causing a tripping hazard and something should be done about it.

Mr Pratley will be chased regarding the entrance gate opposite the Post Office. A different closure fitting is required.

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

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|----------------------------|------------|--------|------------------------|----------|
| E Parsons | - salary | 228.80 | M Ricketts | 122.15 |
| | - expenses | 12.50 | S Barnes | 594.00 |
| Alfred Groves & Sons | | 4.48 | J & E Naish | 50.00 |
| Shipton Wild Garden & Wood | | 500.00 | Citizens Advice Bureau | 100.00 |
| Wychwoods Day Centre | | 100.00 | | |
| | | | TOTAL | £1117.93 |
| Payments received: | | | | |
| Burial fees | | 440.00 | | |
| Pound rents | | 162.50 | | |

PRECEPT:

Cllr Haine clarified the minutes from the last meeting that the changes being made to the calculation of the precept are by Central Government. The Parish Council acknowledged that £30K is required to cover expenses alone and that additional funds are required to ear mark for projects such as the church wall, repairs to bank of the brook, cemetery gates and new play equipment. The chances are that the precept is likely to be capped in the future so if the Council do not act now they will wish that they had. The Council need to be looking at projects for the future. If the Council decide to hold an open surgery suggested by Cllr Laura Jones and Cllr Helen Jones there will be no point if there is no money available for carrying out requested projects.

Cllr Rawlins proposed the precept to be set at £50K and seconded by Cllr Haine.

Chairman counter proposed £40K and seconded by Cllr Marsden.

Votes in favour of £50K = 5

Votes in favour of £40K = 2

As a result Precept will be set at £50K for financial year 2013-2014.

PUBLIC:

County Cllr Rose reported that OCC deal with the minor waterways and the Environment Agency deal with matters relating to larger rivers.

County Cllr Rose reported that the Parish Council could apply for £1K grant from the Big Society Fund towards the Cemetery gates.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Following discussions relating to the precept the suggestion of an open surgery was raised. This matter should be discussed with a view to doing this in the future.

Cllr Rawlins reported that the residents of the Heath worked hard to fill the skip. It was filled with stones and gravel from the brook.

Cllr Rawlins reported that the Delicatessen next door to the Post Office has now closed down.

Councillors agreed that the Newsletters came out too late to be able to deliver in time for Christmas and should be ready to deliver 2 weeks before in future. It was agreed that the Council should see a draft copy of the newsletter before it is printed.

Cllr Naish reported street light at Greenlands is on all the time.

The Council agreed to purchase 2 grit bins to be sited at the junction of Frog Lane with Shipton Road and at Fettiplace. It was agreed to await the water issue before considering a bin at Upper Milton.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm