

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 15 January 2014 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Collett, Rawlins, Smith, Laura Jones, Helen Jones, Marsden, Haine, County Councillor Rose, Gillian Southwell from Library Services and 20 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Naish

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: Councillor Laura Jones declared an interest in the Library.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 December 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman, who then welcomed the new Parish Clerk.

PUBLIC:

There was a suggestion of holding an annual library festival to help raise funds for the library and the Chairman of the Wychwood Day Centre said the library was a vital resource for members and suggested the County Council make use of additional council tax from the new 42 unit development to make services more robust with increased population.

Dick Tracy, Divisional Manager of the NHS Ambulance Service gave a demonstration and explanation of the benefits of having a defibrillator in Milton . 150,000 people die each year from cardiac failure and 85% have the potential to survive. Oxford CC will offer 50% of the funding cost of £1,800. Mr Tracy explained each village had a “caretaker” to check the equipment each week and around £17 to replace pads if used. The device has a seven year lifespan. If installed the ambulance service still there to support and give awareness inductions.

MATTERS ARISING:

Cllr Haine reported carols round the Christmas tree had been enjoyable, despite the weather and had raised £172 which has been given to the Day Centre.

The hedge at High Lodge Farm has been cut back.

A deadline of 14.1.14 if the Parish Council had wished to proceed with a bid for the Quart Pot was not workable. Another planning application linked to the Quart Pot is expected shortly.

Cllr Helen Jones reported the owners of the copse at Church Meadow are going to start work shortly.

Chairman has again requested specifications from Mr Hunt for work on the river bank near the Heath. Cllr Marsden concerned these had still not been forthcoming. Chairman to chase. Need the specifications before tenders can be sought and plans submitted to the Environment Agency.

Cllrs agreed to a £50 donation to John and Edna Naish to cover the electricity for the Christmas tree.

WYCHWOOD LIBRARY:

Cllr Rose introduced Gillian Southwell from the Library Service to give an overview of the current plans for Wychwood Library. They are attending PC meetings also at Shipton and Ascott about the library. He responded to two points raised by members of the public. Thought the library festival a lovely idea but could not be basis for income for staff salaries. The Council looks at library services across the board so could not direct extra council tax to one library.

Gillian noted member of the Wychwood Library was in attendance. She explained current proposals would see savings made at 21 of 43 libraries, but all would remain open. Plan to achieve savings through staff costs and not support services or books. Currently Wychwood Library has 30.75 staff hours and future funding would be for 14.25 hours by a library manager with no library assistant. Aim to have sustainable plans in place by April 2015. Stressed each library would have it's own model and no "one size fits all".

Wychwood library currently open 20 hours per week. To maintain this if Council funds 14.25 hours need to buy in 7 hours and 25 mins which equals £7,164 pa. This would provide opening hours of 20 hours and one hour of admin, plus 9 volunteers. Propose dividing between three Parish Councils the £7,164 by percentage of use, which equals:

Ascott – 8 per cent £573.12

Milton – 62 per cent £4,441.68

Shipton – 30 per cent £2,149.20

Cost if fully funded without volunteers would be nearer £14,000.

Cllr Rose said if the three Parish Councils agree in principle he would then arrange a meeting for the three to come together with him and discuss how to take this forward. Timescale to deliver savings by 31.3.15. Need to introduce new model six months before this.

Chairman sort clarification on whether if PC agreed to fund £4,441.68 this would be forever or any possibility County Council would look again if financial situation improved? Cllr Rose said initially agreement would be for a three year period with six month break clause but didn't anticipate future funding. Point raised that funding would be committing into next PC term of office.

Discussion on viability of volunteers longterm for a project like this and what back up available if a volunteer couldn't attend. Cllrs decided to vote on agreement in principle of whether to fund the £4, 441.68 to be followed by meeting with other PCs .

Chairman clarified this funding could only be from Sec 137 and could cause problems if future needs could not be met.

Councillors voted 4 : 2 in favour, with one abstention, of an agreement in principle to fund the 62% of the shortfall and take this forward to a meeting with the other Parish Councils.

SAINT SIMON AND SAINT JUDE PARISH ROOM:

The Councillors discussed and then voted on a request from St Simon and St Jude to fund 50% of the cost of installing a room divider at a cost of £1,359. Chairman proposed voting on funding a contribution of £400. The vote was 4:3 in favour.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- 13/1767 The Barn, Milton Rd, S-U-W (adjoining Parish) Installation of a 199 KW biomass boiler with assoc. flue Comment to be submitted that Councillors have concerns about the increase in traffic movement and its close proximity to the primary school.
- 13/1569 Maur-Vale, Church Rd
Erection of single story extension and increase roof height to create a first floor.
No objections.

WODC has granted:

- 13/1548 Paper Resources, 41 High Street
and
13/1549 Removal of corrugated roof and erection of single story side extension.
13/1685 Charnwood, Shipton Road
Erection of single storey extension

WODC has refused

- 13/1608 Inns Keep, Church Street
Alterations and erection of single storey extension.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Concern that the PC Emergency Plan was still not operational. Update that this is in the process of being finished. Other correspondence dealt with as part of library and matters arising.

VILLAGE GREEN:

Cllr Rawlins to sort bolt on gate of children's play area and look at gap in the fence by the road.

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

C Redman	- salary	228.80	M Ricketts	97.58
	- expenses	12.50	J and E Naish	50.00
Alfred Groves & Sons		3.52	Website Urban Media	34.20
Mutts Butts		208.95		
			TOTAL	£635.55

PUBLIC:

Point made that Ascott shop successfully run by over 40 volunteers. Milton Volunteers offered to sort the bolt on the children's play area. Concern vote to fund library could put pressure on Shipton and Ascott PC decisions.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr Marsden noted plantings into new cemetery and been damaged. Need volunteers in the Spring to help maintain. Also update on gates for new cemetery. Need to be hung inside the pillars as narrow opening.

Cllr Haine had looked into tree vandalism at Elm Grove and reported to police. Land owned by housing association and had asked if they would put in another tree to replace the one that was broken.

Cllr Rawlins requested allotments were put on the next meeting agenda.

A presentation and thanks were given to the departing Clerk to the Parish Council, Esther Parsons.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 19 February