

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21st January 2015

PRESENT: Cllrs Collett, Rawlins, Naish, Marsden, Smith, DCllr Haine, Laura Jones, Helen Jones. Parish Clerk: Jenny Miller. 17 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: CCllr Rose

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: Cllr Smith, re: 61 High Street planning application, due to family connection.

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

PUBLIC

Publishing of minutes online: MoP thanked PC for publishing PC meeting minutes so promptly on the MuW website in response to last month's request.

MATTERS ARISING

Streetlight in The Sands: Cllr Marsden noted that obscured streetlight has been reported but no action yet taken by OCC.

Elm Grove: Purchasers of Stonecroft have withdrawn from sale so investigation into status of land directly behind property is no longer required,

Dangerous parking on Church Road opposite lay-by: Residents asked to take photos of offending vehicles and send to Clerk to forward onto new PCSO Cheryl Higgins, who will in the meantime note situation when she is in the village and approach individuals where necessary.

Broken gate on Village Green: Cotswold Voluntary Warden, assigned by OCC and MuW volunteer Chris Trotman fixed new gate on Friday. MuW Volunteers to fill the gap in the hedge further down with an old field gate. Mr Trotman reports that blockwork path through the gate needs lifting, extending and re-levelling. Query as to whether PC would fund this work with the Wardens and the Volunteers doing the work. Clerk to report this to OCC who are responsible for this path and ask for permission and possible funding.

LENGTHPERSON SALARY REVIEW

NALC 14/16 salary increase for Lengthperson is 2.2%. Following agreement in December 2013 to review Lengthperson salary annually, it was agreed unanimously that Lengthperson salary should increase in line with NALC rates. This equates to £0.15 per hour, therefore an increase from £6.71 to £6.86 effective immediately. This salary increase would remain at 2.2% per annum until Autumn 2016. Cllr Haine pointed out that the Clerk salary should also be reviewed at the next meeting in line with NALC rates.

GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

Cllrs agreed that there should be no amendments to current specifications of contract. Chairman queried whether to advertise in local press. Clerk to invite tenders from previous applicants and to seek advice from previous Clerk as to advertisement in local press.

MSA/USE OF VILLAGE GREEN

Chairman reported that not all Councillors had yet looked at documents presented by Mr Woodward at the December meeting and as such would like more time to consider the matter of the issues at hand. PC would also like time to seek advice from the OCC legal advisor and will be on Agenda at Feb meeting if Chairman has all advice and information necessary to close matter.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications received:

- 1) Ref 14/1143/P/FP 22nd Dec 2014
Fardon House, Frog Lane, MUW **No objection**
Re-submission of application granted in Oct 2014. Garage positions have been amended which is the only change from original submission
- 2) Ref 14/02428/HHD 29th Dec 2014
61 High St, MUW **No objection**
Erection of single storey rear extension
- 3) Ref 14/01842/FUL 5th Jan 2015
Manor Farm, Upper Milton, MUW **No objection**
Change of use and conversion of barn to dwelling for agricultural tenant
- 4) Ref 15/00092/POB 5th Jan 2015
20 Harmans Court, MUW **No objection**
Discharge of planning obligation for planning approval 03/1874/P/FP to allow the over 55 age restriction to be removed

Applications approved:

- 1) Ref 14/01834/HHD and Ref 14/01835/LBC 12th Nov 2014
Stoneporch, 38 High Street, MUW
To create an off-road parking space to the front of the property.
NB. Cllr Haine commented that while PC objected to this application, planning officer concluded that since residents nearby had also done likewise, there was already precedent to approve application.
- 2) Ref 14/01941/HHD 20th Nov 2014
Lower Farm House, Upper Milton, MUW
Erection of garage with link to dwelling and conversion of an outbuilding to a home office
- 3) Ref 14/01794/HHD 8th Nov 2014
18 Poplar Farm Close, MUW
Erection of two-storey extension to side/rear

Application appeals:

- Ref APP/D3125/A/142226134 and Ref APP/D3125/A/142226270
The Quart Pot, 3 High St, MUW **Appeals dismissed**

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter of thanks for the PC donation to The Wychwoods Day Centre	Honorary Treasurer and Trustee of The Wychwoods Day Centre Ltd
Advice regarding PC insurance cover for the clearing of snow and ice on roads and footpaths, stressing importance of having risk assessments for these activities in the village	Came & Co Insurance co.
Email regarding bus service provision from when current Pulhams and The Villager contract ends on 31 st May with 3 options. Comments about proposals or alternative suggestions would be gratefully received by 13 th Feb. Clerk to make a response on behalf of villagers and email detailing proposals to be published on MuW website.	Allan Field OCC Bus Services Manager 01865-815826
Flyers for public talks and open weeks on a range of medical and healthcare research.	Oxford Biomedical research centre http://oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk/
Notification that Parish Precept budget setting guidelines remain unclear. It is undecided whether a threshold will be applied but, if so, it will apply only to higher spending parishes. And what might constitute “higher spending” has not been defined but we will be notified should anything be clarified.	WODC
Flyer for Play Equipment Inspection course on 7 th March facilitated by RoSPA at cost of £30 for members	OPFA
Notice of 5 day temporary road closure for resurfacing from 23 rd Feb on Milton Road, SUW. Diversion via Lyneham and A361	OCC
Enquiry as to whether PC could donate a raffle prize to summer fete.	Christine Hart
Letter regarding tender for grass cutting contract	Kevin Grant
Advertisement for Administration Assistant for the Cotswolds Conservation Board in Northleach. Application deadline is 2 nd Feb.	Claire Parker 01451 862000 claire.parker@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk
Invitation from Ascott PC to MuWPC to informal meeting with Ascott and Shipton PC to discuss working together. 7.30pm on Thurs 12 th Feb in Function Room at The Swan pub in Ascott. RSVP.	Angela Barnes Clerk to AuW PC
Letter about collective heating oil purchase in village to reduce costs. Request for slot in PC mtg should there be interest.	Gerry Johnson, Oil Buying Group
Volunteer Link Up West Oxon Annual Report and request for donation. Clerk to enquire into whether PC has previously made donations and into whether MuW villagers are among beneficiaries of this service before donation agreed. Cllrs agreed this could be advertised in next Parish Newsletter in order to assess interest among MuW residents.	
Letter from MoP expressing concern about state of field and public footpath behind The Sands particularly from end of Frog Lane to the kissing gate following works in field by land owner. Query as to whether PC would support plea to reinstate clear and safe pathway. Clerk to write to land owner.	Mr Ford

VILLAGE GREEN

Gap-filling in hedging near hard core: No further enquiries have been made.

Condition of football field: It was noted that field was very churned up following football on Saturday, but this is to be expected in winter months.

Play equipment: Cllr Rawlins reported that a further meeting has taken place and grant applications are still in progress.

ACCOUNTS

a. Payments out authorised and cheques signed for:

1. Margaret Ricketts litter-picking	£153.04
2. J. Miller Clerk - salary	£286
- home allowance	£12.50
- printer ink x3	£30.76
3. Alfred Groves black bin bags	£9.89
4. Thames Water – fuel allts	£96.80
5. PAYE HMRC employee payment	£137
6. Donation to Mr & Mrs Naish for Xmas Tree lighting & carols evening	£50

£775.99

b. Payments in:

1. Allotment field rent	£1125
2. Cemetery	£220
3. Donation for Parish Church defibrillator & to cover shortfall in previous payment for defib at Dr Biggs surgery from Defibrillators for Milton group	£1422.75
	<hr/>
	£2767.75

PUBLIC

Parking near junctions: MoP reported that at Shipton Parish Council meeting, PCSO noted that it is against the law to park within 10m of a junction. Residents reminded to park accordingly in order to avoid severe penalties.

Carols around Christmas Tree: MoP thanked public for generosity at this event and donations raised totalled over £200 which went to The Wychwoods Day Centre.

Grass cutting: MoP noted large monthly grass cutting cost and query as to whether MSA could contribute towards Village Green grass cutting since it is primary user of Green. Chairman replied that it would need to be Agenda item were PC to consider this. Another MoP enquired into why PC cuts VG when under no legal obligation to do so. Clerk confirmed VG grass cutting accounts for less than a third of total grass cutting monthly fee. PC agreed unanimously that maintenance of VG is necessary for general enjoyment and appearance of village by all public – visitors and MuW residents, not primarily MSA users.

Use of Village Green: Mr Woodward questioned why the matter of who has authority to decide on use of VG would not be discussed at this meeting. He asked for clarification on who makes decision week to week about whether his boys' football club may play on Saturday mornings and maintained that he has adequate expertise and training to make the decision. Chairman explained that PC entrusted MSA to administer sports use on VG and appointed Cllr Haine to be PC rep in MSA to ensure this happens. Cllr Haine added every Friday afternoon he makes decision regarding safety of using VG for sports on Saturdays in consultation with Mens' football club rep and Boys' football club rep and then informs those parties affected by decision. As such, some weeks the decision may prove to be wrong given that it is made a day ahead based on fallible weather forecast. Chairman reiterated that PC is happy with how these decisions are made, PC fully supports Cllr Haine and recommended that a private discussion take place between My Woodward and others about how decisions should be made in future.

AOB

Overgrown vegetation under bridges near Milton Service Station: Cllr Naish reported that OCC not responsible for clearing of vegetation under bridges opposite Milton Service Station apart from in preparation for an inspection. Clerk added that this is due early Feb so clearing will take place and inspection will also determine whether structures are 'drains' or 'bridges' and thus determine what intervention is required.

Donation to MuW summer fete raffle: PC agreed that a monetary donation of £50 for prize would be of better use to raffle organisers than a gift.

Cars on allotments: Following decision last month to prevent use of cars on allotments, Cllr Rawlins received a request by allotment tenant for vehicular access to top gate due to exceptional personal circumstances. PC expressed concern that this might set a precedent for other tenants to do likewise which would further churn grass around perimeter. PC voted unanimously to permit this in this instance given the special circumstances. Cllr Rawlins to contact tenant.

Signpost to Milton: Cllr Marsden requested a signpost to MuW at High Lodge Farm turning.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.