

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 16 July 2014 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Collett, Rawlins, Marsden, Naish, Haine, Smith and Laura Jones
110 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Helen Jones

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

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

PUBLIC:

- The bus shelter roof is damaged and six tiles are missing;
- The resurfacing of the driveway on the Green was raised. Resident very unhappy at the job done by the contractors, which had resulted in a huge cloud of dust and damage to cars. One resident had to be taken to the surgery with breathing difficulties. Cllr Haine had apologised for this. Clarification was sought on whether he was acting in his role as Parish Councillor to organise the resurfacing. Councillor Haine apologised for the problems caused and said he had done so to several residents and that the liability for damage lies with the contractors. The aim had been to resurface in time for the village fete. The Chairman said there was an arrangement with the Sports Association to maintain the driveway;
- White lines outside the new development on Shipton Road. Still an issue and another accident. Councillor Rose has arranged to meet with the contractors and the Clerk to send a letter expressing concerns of the PC;
- Concerns expressed about the speed of traffic on the High Street, once past Jubilee Lane, and traffic calming needed;
- Mr Chapple invited to put the points of concern about the proposed Sharba Homes housing development, as a representative of the Milton under Wychwood Action Group. He explained this was an ad hoc group that had been formed to stop any development. 360 names on a petition against Sharba Homes development.

Main concerns were:

- Any development should be based on community need not development greed;
- 70 houses now, but claimed an option existed to acquire 25 acres more and there could be 400 homes;
- Traffic congestion is already becoming a serious problem and this would get worse with more housing;
- Adverse consequences and safety of pedestrians put at risk;
- It is a development in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- The site is elevated and would be a visual scar;
- It would place a strain on village facilities including the school, surgery, sewage, gas etc.

The group is particularly concerned that it appears the PC is accepting the development.

Unhappy MuW PC didn't attend meeting in Shilton on 8 July even though invited. Believed the WODC Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to be riddled with errors. Believe there are major flaws in the WODC Strategic Plan and that major housing development should only

take place in major developments. Very important to respond by 19 September to consultation as we need to say how we want our villages to develop.

In conclusion Mr Chapple asked the Council to recognise the overwhelming opposition to the Sharba Homes development and recognise the duties of the PC and to please accept that a development of this type is not inevitable and represent the community who elected them.

Other points raised by members of the public in relation to this were:

Drainage issues as only two bridges;

the Hartley brothers clarified there was no future option to buy more land from them;

definition of AONB read out.

Councillor Marsden responded that Mr Chapple's argument was well thought out and he could be assured that it is a high priority of the PC when any planning application comes in.

Chairman would respond to the points when reached this point on the agenda but said it was the 70 houses that was being discussed. People at the meeting asked to raise their hands if they were in favour of the new development. Two people of 110 in attendance did so.

MATTERS ARISING:

Councillor Marsden updated that he was still awaiting delivery of the defibrillator case.

Chair – Environment Agency have confirmed a meeting re. Little Stock Brook. The order for the cemetery gate has been placed.

PLAY EQUIPMENT:

Councillor Rawlins updated on the plans for new play equipment. Another meeting has been held and final plans almost in place for the equipment needed. To support grant applications it would be helpful for the PC to give an indication of the amount they are able to contribute.

Agreement was reached for £20,000 to be contributed by Milton under Wychwood Parish Council towards the play equipment and agreed this figure could be revisited if necessary.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY:

Cllrs to look at this and email ahead of 25 July deadline.

PROPOSED SHARBA HOMES DEVELOPMENT:

The Chair clarified some points. Misconstrued that it is a done deal by the PC to accept the development, it is not. PC's aim was to put the information into the public domain via the newsletter. The PC cannot make a decision until the planning application has been made and not at this point yet. Taken on board everything that has been said by those at the meeting. The PC can comment and make local views known, but the final decision rests with WODC. Suggested people should write to WODC with their comments. Also noted that Cllr Haine would not comment on any planning as he is on the WODC Planning Committee.

Councillor Haine then gave a factual explanation about the process and quoted from the National Planning Policy Framework and the draft SHMA local plan which will be out for consultation from 28 July to 19 September. The WODC Cabinet and Council will then discuss in October, with a decision and implementation of the local plan likely in Spring 2015. WODC doesn't currently have a local plan.

The Chair concluded that he had had some people speak to him who were in favour of the development.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT:

£108M Growth Fund approved and would fund link between A40 and A44. Upgrade of Wolvercote roundabout.

Has met with the new bus operator who would like to come to the September Parish Council meeting. Keen to ensure service is working well.

Cllr Rose to meet with the developers of over 55 housing and will raise the issue of the road markings.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Four planning applications received this month.

Decision

14/0736 Staddlestones, Shipton Road M-U-W
Granted

Applications

14/0986 Erection of single storey extension to create a new bar area at the MUW village hall. No objections

14/0919 Castle Bank, Milton Road, SUW
Erection of two storey side and single rear extension
No objection

14/0922 Barn, Upper Milton
Increase roof height of existing outbuilding and conversion to form a self-contained annex.
No objections.

CORRESPONDENCE:

WW1 service at the church.

Hedge on the Green, agreed Clerk to obtain a quote

Bushes/trees Elm Grove, agreed Clerk to obtain a quote

Quart Pot, understand two offers have been made but both refused by the developer. Proposer needs to take this forward as an individual

Wild Garden update

Donation of £1523 gratefully received for the purchase of a second defibrillator. The Clerk has sent a letter to place the order.

VILLAGE GREEN:

It was a successful fete. Apologies for problems caused resurfacing. Cllr Naish raised a concern that the fete was used to canvas opinion about the new housing development which a resident felt inappropriate.

Cllr Rawlins has met with Playdale re. play equipment. Some of the existing equipment needs to be roped off as dangerous.

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

C Redman	- salary	280.80	M Ricketts	174.48
	- expenses	12.50		
	- stationery	40.21	Newsletter	90.00
Alfred Groves & Sons		10.91	Weed Control	382.80
Thames Water		49.33	Skip hire	228.00
PC Insurance		2,321.11	Lady Reade Charity	200.00
Emergency plan copies		27.65		
			TOTAL	£3,817.79

PUBLIC:

Mr Chapple thanked the PC for their response. He thanked Cllr Haine for his guidance but sought clarification of whether the protection didn't apply as local plan not in place. Cllr Haine said this was right to a certain extent, but that very important that it is an AONB. Quoted Mr Pickles as saying green field sites only to be considered as a last resort. Currently WODC don't have five-year plan and can't rely on plan that ran until 2011.

Defibrillator. Passed application to PC for £500 from Councillor Rose grant.

Any new development will have to go through the Highways Agency.

Traffic survey has taken place on the High Street beyond Jubilee Lane. Not known by whom.

Big difference between affordable and social housing.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Clerk to write to resident in the Sands re. their hedge.

Chair to mention light covered by overgrown trees at the Sands.

The hedge has been cut back by the bus shelter alley way.

Parking problem near Jubilee Lane near corner by the Chapel on Sunday mornings.

No meeting planned for August. Planning application unlikely until September.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm