

A meeting of Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council was held on Wednesday
20 June 2012 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Collett, Rawlins, Marsden, Naish, Smith, Laura Jones and Helen Jones.
1 member of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Haine

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

Cllr Naish and Cllr L Jones declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall. Both are members of the Village Hall Committee.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 May 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC:

There were no matters to discuss.

MATTERS ARISING:

Cllr L Jones reported that the newsletter has been printed by Davenports. Although the quality is poor, Davenports were cheaper and have printed them at short notice. The newsletters will be delivered at the weekend.

Cllr L Jones reported that she has also spoken with Chris Hart regarding the Website. This will be an on going process and Cllr L Jones will take over the responsibility of running this in due course. Meanwhile Chris Hart is helping out.

The glass in the notice board at the Old Post Office is in tact but it will be removed and quotes will be obtained for replacement.

Chairman has spoken to the blacksmith regarding the gates at the Village Green. He thinks that they are adjustable and can be sorted out.

Cllr Marsden reported that he had attended meeting of Shipton Wild Gardens to discuss proposal by the Woodland Trust asking if the Wild Garden Committee would consider the taking over of the management and maintenance of Diggers Wood which is situated along Dog Kennel Lane near to the Wild Gardens. If not then the Woodland Trust will go out to tender. This could mean that the Public could no longer access Diggers Wood. Shipton Wild Garden Committee is looking at the lease offered as they want to get the right terms and conditions for them to be able to take it over. The Parish Council has contributed to the upkeep of the Wild Gardens in the past. Diggers Wood is enjoyed by parishioners and it would be sad to loose this facility.

Thanks were given to the Jubilee Committee for organising everything for the village to celebrate

the Jubilee. Good fun was had by all and they were a great success except for the weather!!

CODE OF CONDUCT:

The following was agreed by the Parish Council that the Code of Conduct adopted by West Oxfordshire District Council be adopted as the Code for members and co-opted members of Milton-u-Wychwood Parish Council with effect from 1 July 2012, or such other date as may be specified in regulations, to replace the current Code of Conduct.

The Clerk will notify the Monitoring Officer of WODC of the passing of the above resolution.

MONITORING GRASS CUTTING:

The Clerk has contacted Complete Weed Control to spray the pavements of the Village. This will be done as soon as possible. The Village Green needs spraying and the Clerk will find out if Complete Weed Control can do this.

The open space at Brookfield Close/Church Meadow is still not being cut regularly. The Clerk will contact the Developer. The Clerk will also speak with grass cutting contractor for price to cut this area. This open space could be added to the village specification if the Developer would agree to cover this cost. This will be looked into in due course.

The square open space at the lower end of Elm Grove is not being cut. Chairman explained that this area is not the Parish Council responsibility where as the grass area on the right as you turn into Elm Grove is. The Clerk will speak to resident who reported this matter.

Letter also received from resident of Elm Grove reporting that the shrubs and trees that border her property at 38 Elm Grove are too high and encroaching on her property. The Chairman will look into this matter.

CEMETERY – REVIEW:

Various matters are requiring discussion specifically relating to the use of the new section of the Cemetery as well as the rules and charges being looked at. It was agreed to put this matter on the Agenda for next meeting and circulate the current rules and charges for review. It was agreed that the grass at the bottom should be strimmed. Cllrs agreed to meet on Sunday at 10.30am to weed the hedgerow and allow the saplings chance to grow.

A new notice board is required. Gates will have to wait for now.

VILLAGE HALL:

The Village Hall Committee wants to re-surface the car park at a cost of approximately £22K. Cllr Naish and Cllr L Jones as members of the Village Hall Committee put forward a request to the Parish Council for funding of £5.5K towards this cost. WODC will match Parish Council contribution up to £5.5K by way of a grant. There is some urgency about this request as the application to WODC has to be in by Friday 22 June 2012 and has to be supported by a letter from the Parish Council that they are willing to put £XX amount of money towards funding. The

condition of the car park is getting worse and the Village Hall Committee would like to take advantage of this offer to get this work done. They have £5.5K towards costs and shortfall can be raised by a loan from DEFRA until Parish Council funds available if having to precept for this.

Chairman pointed out that Parish funds are very tight. Precept has remained at £25K for the past few years only because of a donation from HSBC which has now dwindled. The Council will be looking at increasing Precept next year for own needs.

Cllr L Jones and Cllr Naish left the meeting at this point for the Council to discuss.

This is a difficult decision as the Council will be looking at increasing the precept by £5K for own use and a further £5K for the Village Hall at the same time would be a substantial increase all at once. The Council agreed that they would have to look more closely at the Precept this year. 3 options were put forward:

1. Giving donation of £5.5K
2. Do nothing at all
3. Compromise and offer £3K

A vote was taken on proposal 1. To give a donation of £5.5K at this time. All Cllrs voted against this.

A vote was taken on proposal 3. To compromise and offer £3K:

3 votes – against. 2 votes – in favour.

It was agreed therefore that because of the shortness of time to be able to look into this matter in more detail there was nothing available at this time.

Cllr L Jones and Cllr Naish returned to the meeting.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

During the month and for information only:

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| 12/0747 | 33 Elm Grove. Single storey rear extension and link. No objections. |
| 12/0823 | 5 Woodlands Close. Erection of single and two storey extensions and conversion of garage. No objections. |

Discussion this meeting:

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| 12/0952 | Existing telecommunications site The Long Wood, Milton Downs.
Upgrade of existing telecoms site to include addition of 600mm dish, three equipment cabinets and ancillary apparatus. No objections. |
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WODC has granted:

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| 12/0747 | 33 Elm Grove. As above. |
| 12/0950 | Land to rear of 2 Shipton Road. Extra care housing scheme comprising of 44 apartments and communal areas. New access and associated parking and landscaping (amended site area). |

Notice of Appeal:

11/1365 Quart Pot, 3 High Street.
Erection of 1 dwelling and conversion of Public House to 1 dwelling with associated parking and landscaping.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Complete Weed Control has been contacted to spray the weeds in the village.

Email received from County Cllr Rose informing the Council that cost of the grit bins could be claimed from the Area Stewardship Fund. All agreed to try and do this. The Council also want to go ahead with the road markings at Upper Milton.

WODC are organising a planning training session of Thursday 26 July 2012 at 7pm at the Marlborough Enterprise Centre, Marlborough School, Woodstock.

Cllr Naish is attending WODC Town & Parish Forum meeting on Wednesday 4 July.

Cllrs are invited to attend AGM of West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau on Wednesday 11 July at 7.30pm at The Windrush Building, Kings School, Witney.

Blenheim Palace Bike Sportive is to take place on Sunday 19 August 2012. Many cyclists may pass through the area.

Oxfordshire Association for the Blind is moving to a new resource centre. Cllrs are invited to attend one of their open days. The Clerk has more information.

The Clerk has various circulars.

VILLAGE GREEN:

The grass is now cut on a Thursday so that if the weather is bad it can be cut on a Friday if necessary ready for the weekend.

The Council is awaiting costs for the work at the gate opposite the Co-Op. To remove the shingle and add extra paving slabs or alternative,

Complaints have been received from the Football Club about cars turning on the grass area as the notices on the grass are not working. The suggestion of having rail sleepers was shelved. More gravel on the driveway would tidy the area. The long term course of action is to extend the car park to provide additional parking and costs will be required for this.

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

E Parsons	- salary	228.80	M Ricketts	166.40
	- expenses	12.50	HMRC	282.75
Alfred Groves & Sons		3.52	WODC	195.00
S Barnes		654.00	B Way	80.00
R Caswell		798.00	Banbury Marquee Hire	2100.30
Davenports		45.00		
			TOTAL	£4566.27

Mr Way has carried out the Internal Audit and there are no matters arising.

PUBLIC:

Request was made for a copy of the Code of Conduct to be made available to the Public. A copy will be put up on the Parish notice board.

The Parish Council is currently liaising with the Welfare Trust regarding the Allotment Rules.

Points were raised regarding preference for spending council money and prioritising spending for the future.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr Marsden reported that it was he who had put notices on the Allotment taps causing a stir!!

The tree roots raising the footpath along Jubilee Lane were reported some time ago. Highways came out and put signs either side of the damaged area and nothing has been done since. The Clerk will follow this up and find out if anything is happening.

Branches of a tree are overhanging at the top of The Square. Cllr Rawlins will speak with resident concerned.

Road markings at Ansell Way need to be re-instated.

Resident has enquired when the footpath behind the sports pavilion on the green will be available. The Council will check to confirm that this is the route of a public footpath.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm