

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 19 June 2013 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Collett, Rawlins, Naish, Smith, Laura Jones. 8 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Marsden, Cllr Haine and Cllr Helen Jones.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

Cllr Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 13/0716 relating to Orchard Cottage, Shipton Road.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 May 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC:

Mr Young (Milton Volunteers) reported that the picnic benches were recently re-fixed on the village green. One of the benches has since been vandalised and wrecked and found in pieces in the copse area, with the anchor bolts still in place. These will be removed as they can be re-used. This incident has been reported to the Police and Mr Young has spoken to WODC – Anti Social Behaviour Officer. Crimestoppers also suggest offering a reward in liaison with the Police. This damage has crossed the line from casual vandalism to criminal damage. Suggestions:

- Form team to tackle Anti-social behaviour. Offer reward for information..
- Consider extra measures- neighbourhood watch,CCTV.
- Need to report all incidents and crimes to the Police.

The key to this is communicating with bored teenagers and the play equipment sub-committee is trying to address this and will report at the July meeting. Cllr Smith reported that she is happy to meet with Mr Butcher (Anti-Social Behaviour Officer).

The Council was asked what was happening about the outside light for the Village Hall. Electrician has quoted for options but chairman has not agreed a scheme and cannot agree what is best. Electrician cannot provide quote if he doesn't know scheme. Cllr Laura Jones reported that she would raise this matter at the next Village Hall meeting.

Chairman has received communication from Sophie Robinson (Environment Agency) relating to the brook at the Allotments but it is not clear what she is trying to say. Chairman will speak with her to clarify matters. The high level pipe is in the hands of the Environment Agency.

The grass cutting inside the children's' play area is very shabby and the grass has not been cut around the railings. Cllr Smith has spoken with Mr Grant and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to him.

MATTERS ARISING:

Cllr Rawlins reported that he is still waiting to hear from the Milton Volunteers regarding the proposed orchard.

Cllr Helen Jones is waiting to hear from Builders regarding proposals for the copse at Church Meadow.

Chairman reported that repairs have been made at the Hard Play Area. The bolts are still to do. The entrance gates to the village green have been repaired and are much better. Still awaiting quote for the tree guard.

Additional dog-fouling bins were discussed. Cllr Haine has suggested positioning one at the top of High Street and one at the top end of Green Lane. It was agreed to identify position first and ask residents. Cllr Laura Jones will prepare notice for residents of Green Lane.

Cllr Helen Jones has details of company called Mutts Butts where dog poo bags can be purchased. 4000 bags cost £69.65. The Council agreed to purchase 8000 bags.

Mr Gibbs is attending networking event organised by Oxfordshire Playing Field Association.

#### AREA REVIEW OF BUS SERVICES:

Cllr Naish reported that the form to carry out review is not yet available. Therefore it was agreed that the Council should wait until these forms are available.

#### LADY READE CHARITY:

Cllr Rawlins as representative put request forward to the Council for a donation to the charity. Applications are made to the charity for grants towards further education. Last year 3 grants were given to residents of the Village. Cllr Smith proposed a donation of £200. All agreed.

#### MONITORING GRASS CUTTING:

Mr Grant is not picking up the grass cuttings from the grass at Fettiplace and a resident has complained as the cuttings are being dumped in the flowerbeds. The Contract does not specify to pick up cuttings but the Council feel they want to get it right. The Clerk was asked to send Mr Grant a letter requesting that he pick up the grass cuttings in sensitive areas that he is aware of including the verge of the Village Green. He will also be asked to trim the grass around the play area and the fencing. These points will be addressed in writing and the Council will see what happens.

Hawthorn shrub at Fettiplace requires cutting back or removing. Cllr Rawlins will look at it.

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

During the month and for information only:

13/0716 Orchard Cottage, Shipton Road. Erection of single storey front extension.  
No objections.

13/0742 Heath Cottage, Green Lane. Erection of first floor and two storey extension.  
No objections.

For discussion this evening: Cllr Smith left the room at this point.

13/0774 9 Wychwood Drive. Erection of single storey rear extension.  
No objections.

Cllr Smith returned to the meeting.

WODC has granted:

13/0469      1 Church Meadow. Erection of single storey rear extension and formation of pitched roof to existing flat roofed extension.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter received from Alfred Groves & Sons Ltd accepting that the frontage of their premises is not at its best. When finances allow they do intend to rebuild the shop following the fire and then at the same time will look to tidy the entrance and general surroundings.

WODC had intended to publish their final Local Plan during this Summer for Public examination. Following the revocation of the South East Plan and commissioning of a new Strategic Housing Market Assessment for Oxfordshire it has been decided not to progress the plan further until this evidence is complete.

Letter received from Leadbitter, builders advising "Meet the Builder" event at the Village Hall which took place on Tuesday 11 June. They had written to residents and posters were put up around the village to advertise the event.

West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau invite councillors to attend their AGM on Wednesday 10 July 2013 at 7.30pm at Upper Hall, Chipping Norton Town Hall. Cllr Laura Jones would like to attend.

Request has been made by Church Wardens for the lime trees running parallel with the road to be cut back. They are overgrown and overhanging the pavement. Chairman and Cllr Rawlins agreed to have a look at the trees.

Request has been made by a resident asking if the Parish Council would arrange for the highway signs to Greenlands to be removed, as they are now redundant. The Council agreed and the Clerk will look into this.

The Council agreed to renew their subscription for the Local Council Review.

The Clerk has various circulars.

#### VILLAGE GREEN

Hatwells Fair has requested visiting the Village and to park on the Green from Sunday 28 July for 1 week. All agreed.

ROSPA play inspection will be taking place during July. Cllr Rawlins reported that the play equipment is in a reasonable state of repair at present.

The area where the paddling pool used to be is very boggy. It is thought that there is probably a problem with the pipework.

Chairman will follow up with Mr Pratley regarding the quote for the tree guard.

Other options will be looked at for seating at the play equipment.

Discussion took place regarding locking of the Hard Play Area. This has been tried in the past.

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

E Parsons	- Salary	228.80	M Ricketts	179.45
	- Expenses	12.50	HMRC	283.60
	- Nuts & bolts	92.09	K Grant	2600.00
Complete Weed Control		360.00	Alfred Groves & Sons	3.52
NALC-LCR Review		32.00	Lady Reade Charity	200.00
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3991.96</b>

Payments received:

Pound rents 162.50

PUBLIC:

Lime trees at resident's property along Church Road are also overhanging the pavement and need cutting back.

Recycled rubber benches are another option to picnic benches, which will be looked into.

The Welfare Trust has approached the Charity Commissioners regarding the proposal to use some of the land as a community orchard and is awaiting guidance. Milton volunteers are waiting for the OK.

Offering a reward in relation to the vandalism at the picnic benches was discussed further and the way it works. It is up to the Council if they pay the money. They would not be obliged to pay out as it is used more as a deterrent. Need to be pro-active and begin getting out to people. Neighbourhood Action Group is keen to encourage people to come along to meetings.

The Parish Council took over the responsibility of cutting the grass at Fettiplace from Cottsway Housing.

The tennis net and basketball nets are rotten and need replacing.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The garden behind the bus shelter is in a very poor state and there are overhanging branches from the property next door at 7 High Street. Cllr Haine will be asked if he would speak to the resident concerned as he knows him well. Cllr Haine has requested that The Quart Pot and bus shelter be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm