

A meeting of Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council was held on Wednesday 20 March 2013 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Collett, Rawlins, Haine, Marsden, Smith, Helen Jones and Laura Jones. County Cllr Rose and 5 members of the Public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Naish

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 20 February 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC:

Councillors Collett and Haine were thanked for meeting with Mr Hunt (OCC) at the Allotments. There are 3 areas of concern:

1. The collapsing bank of the brook. Environment Agency (EA) to be involved to discuss options.
2. The upstream pond. The inlet is not sufficient and solution would be to widen this.
3. Downstream from Church Road.

There is also a lump of concrete which requires removal. Thames Water should be contacted to remove. EA may also need to be involved. County Cllr Rose reported that he has written to resident concerning downstream from Church Road. Mr Hunt (OCC Highways) has contacted EA for advice and as soon as he has information he will pass this on to the Parish Council via County Cllr Rose. There was great enthusiasm at the meeting and it is hoped that this will continue.

The Church Benefice Office is moving to the Church Room at St Simon & St Jude Church. A highways signpost has been requested. This request should be directed to OCC Highways.

Mr Paul Young introduced himself as the new Chairman of Milton Volunteers having taken over from Mr Trotman. They have 3 ideas all involving planting in the Village:

1. A community orchard at the bottom of the Allotments with the planting of fruit trees. Produce to benefit the community. Welfare Trust would have to be approached as this area is managed by them.
2. To plant trees in and around the village subject to approval.
3. Planters at the entrances to the Village.

Mr Young is asking for Parish Council agreement in principal.

It was pointed out again that the fencing at Groves Yard Industrial site remains an eyesore in the Village. Cllr Collett agreed to pass this on and raise this matter again with Alfred Groves Directors.

Cottsway Housing currently has community funds available to support projects for the young and elderly. More information available on their website.

MATTERS ARISING:

Cllr Helen Jones reported that she has spoken with Mr Neil Bond from Builders Ede regarding the trees at the bottom of Church Meadow. He was not aware that any of the trees concerned have tree preservation orders on them. A meeting has been arranged with OCC on 17 April 2013 to look at this matter.

The street light reported at The Sands has not been actioned. The Clerk will follow this up.

Potholes have been reported.

Cllr Naish and the Clerk have attended Forum meeting at WODC.

Cllr Collett and Cllr Haine met up with County Cllr Rose and Mr Gordon Hunt (OCC Highways) with residents from The Heath at the Allotments to discuss various matters.

The fault at the telephone kiosk has been reported to BT.

Manhole cover at High Street has been filled in.

GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT:

3 tenders have been received: A, B and C. Cllr Rawlins proposed that the Council should accept tender B at £1290 per month and the cheapest tender. Cllr Smith seconded. A vote was taken: 5 votes in favour.

2 votes against.

The contract was awarded to Mr Kevin Grant. Cllr Smith is happy to act as line manager. A meeting will be arranged for him to discuss matters. The Council would like weekly cuts.

VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN:

Cllr Marsden reported that he has looked through the Emergency Plan and has produced a 15 page draft document. This will be circulated to Councillors to amend if necessary. The document will have to be formulated and approved by the Parish Council. District Cllr will need to know what is proposed. The Parish Council will be required to update the document annually.

PLANNING:

13/0214 5 Poplar Farm Close. Single storey front extension. No objections
13/0218 6 Poplar Farm Close. Single storey front extension. No objections
13/0328 Frogmore, Frog Lane. First floor extension over garage. No objections.

WODC has granted:

13/0090 3 Shipton Road. Erection of 2 storey rear extension and conservatory.
12/1758 9 Ansell Way. 2 storey side extension.

CORRESPONDENCE:

£1000 donation received from OCC Big Society Fund toward costs for gates at the Cemetery.

Letter of thanks has been received from Wychwood Wild Garden for donation of £500.

The Council had no objections to the placing of a memorial tablet on the grave of the late Mr & Mrs Fordham.

Came & Co, Brokers are offering 3 year Parish Council insurance binding agreement with Aviva until 31.7.2016. They are offering 16 months insurance cover for the price of 12. Renewal date for insurance will be 1 August each year. The Council agreed to take up this offer at a cost of £2349.30.

Complete Weed Control has sent quotation amounting to £310 for spraying the weeds in the village. Cllr Haine reported that there is a problem of weeds in the grass on the Village Green and asked if Complete Weed Control could advise.

The Council agreed to renew their membership to Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) £315.17.

VILLAGE GREEN:

Swings – The Clerk has contacted Came & Co regarding insurance cover while the work is carried out at the swings. A risk assessment is required and Cllr Collett agreed to look at this and Cllr Marsden will put together a plan of action. Better weather is required before any work can be carried out. Came & Co will be contacted as soon as a date can be fixed.

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

E Parsons	-Salary	228.80	M Ricketts	118.28
	-Expenses	12.50	HMRC	267.77
OALC		315.17	Chess Storage & Interiors Ltd	406.98
Newsquest Media Group		109.20	Alfred Groves & Sons	14.77
Business Focus		90.00	Broker Network Ltd	2349.30
			TOTAL	£3912.77

INCOME:

Burial fees	290.00
Big Society donation	1000.00
The Pound	162.50

PUBLIC:

The weed control was very poor last year.

The Council were asked if the advice from OCC and EA relating to the Allotments could be in item on the Agenda.

Cllr Haine has meet with Electrician regarding the outside light for the sand store at the Village Hall. There are 2 options available and quotes and to be obtained.

The street lighting at Greenlands Court is considered very bright and inappropriate.

The increase in Precept to £50K and understanding the budget was discussed at length. The Council cannot set a precise budget and it is for the Council to consider. The Parish Council has not had to increase the Precept for a number of years. Costs are now escalating and the Council feel that they have done the right thing as the Precept could be capped in the future.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr Rawlins reported that the Welfare Trust has been approached by a tenant with a request to put up an electric fence around their chickens at their allotment. The Parish Council is asked if they would agree to this. The Parish Council felt this was not appropriate and would not consider this proposal. A tenant may keep chickens on their allotment but not use an electric fence.

Cllr Rawlins reported an incident recently whereby horses had escaped from their field and found refuge at the Cemetery. He has taken photographs. It highlighted the need to put gates on the pillars at the Cemetery.

White gates have been installed at Bruern Road as an entrance to the village.

No planning application has been received recently relating to an extension erected at Jasmine Place, Shipton Road. Cllr Haine will make enquiries and report back. There are some alterations and extensions that do not require planning permission.

Cllr Smith reported that a vehicle has been vandalised while parked on her driveway. Cllr Helen Jones reported a similar incident whereby a stone was taken from her front garden and then thrown through a window. The incident was reported to the Police.

The Extra Care Housing project is proposing to start in June. Residents of Green Lane were concerned as they have received letters. The works relate to survey works and not construction.

It was reported that a dividing fence has been erected at the Quart Pot. Cllr Haine is aware and has approached WODC-Planning for advice as to what we can do as a Parish to stop the loss of the Public House.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 17 April 2013