

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 19 March 2014 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Collett, Rawlins, Naish, Helen Jones, Laura Jones, Marsden, Haine and Smith. 43 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: None

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 February 2014 were approved and signed

PUBLIC:

The organisers of the Milton under Wychwood Community Orchard have bought 34 trees which were to be delivered on 22 March and asked to have their thanks, to the Parish Council for its support, recorded.

A lot of water has been seeping on to the Upper Milton Road. PC to let the Council know.

Difibrallators were discussed again. There is still no form from the County Council for the PC to apply for a 50% grant, but it was felt there was enough goodwill for village residents keen to have one, to start fundraising and this could be in tandem with anything the PC does in the future. Private groups can purchase them, but would need the site to be approved.

The collapsing bank at the Heath was raised. The Chair of the PC said he had made an application to the Environment Agency who have accepted this, but no date as yet, for when the work may start. He had not submitted a risk assessment but felt the work could be done by a contractor and will wait to see if the EA insist on one. If they don't, it could save £1,200. The local land- owner has agreed with the EA to widen the pond to see how effective that is.

Following a visit by Councillors to the church yard it was not felt necessary to remove the yew tree from near the parish room. Instead general maintenance to unblock gutters, power hose the paving and tidy up is what is necessary. Milton Volunteers are planning to help with this.

Rebekah Judd (RJ) from Bell Cornwell had requested to attend the meeting to give a short presentation on the Quart Pot Planning application for 8 flats. She updated that, in tandem with the planning application for 8 flats, the developer had now also submitted plans for four cottages. She had brought copies of these with her. These were still to be received by the Parish Council from WODC planning office. She explained the plans aimed to provide a scheme that would make good use of the site and enable the Quart Pot pub to be sold below market value to be reopened as a pub. She said there was a prospective purchaser, but could not give their name. The four cottages were designed to avoid overlooking of nearby properties. There would be eight

parking spaces for the houses and seven for the pub. Members of the public were then invited to ask questions. The issues raised included the detrimental effect of a music licence on adjacent new houses if that planning application succeeded. RJ said she couldn't comment on licences. Village residents felt strongly there was not enough parking for the pub and it would be dangerous with local school buses stopping near by, increased parking in the adjacent area and there were doubts raised about the accuracy of the parking survey as a true reflection of the traffic situation nearby. RJ said the Highways Agency (HA) had completed a review and believed it was acceptable. Councillor Haine read a letter from the HA. There were concerns that staff of the pub would need to use some of the 7 parking spaces. Also concerns were raised that there was no guarantee that if the building of flats or cottages went ahead the pub would reopen. RJ said they could look at putting a legal mechanism into the application on that to ensure the pub did reopen. There was a query about whether the prospective buyer of the pub had the funds for renovation. Plans for the four cottages would be considered at the next PC meeting. To conclude the public session the Chair of the PC explained the PC could put forward legitimate concerns to WODC on a planning applications to be taken into consideration, but could not object just because we don't like it and said something would eventually happen to the site and unlikely to be what everyone wants. Cllr Haine confirmed a maximum of three members of the public could attend the WODC meeting to consider the application with one minute to speak each. There was a request for a member of the PC to attend and have the full three minutes to reflect the views of the village.

MATTERS ARISING:

Councillor Rawlins asked if any response on the new road lay out on Shipton Road. The Clerk read the reply from Councillor Rose has reminded Highways again about the ECH road problem which has been put back into the hands of he developers as WODC are still to sign off their alterations which were done by them under licence.

Agreement is still to be reached on working arrangements between the Welfare Trust and Fuel Allotments.

Councillor Helen Jones updated on the tree pollarding at Church Meadow and explained ash trees could not be pollarded. She asked for the leaflet about the village to go on the agenda of the next meeting.

Councillor Haine had looked into rubbish collection to High Lodge Farm and the Length person has been asked to collect rubbish here more regularly than currently agreed.

WODC has responded that the missing sign near High Lodge Farm will be replaced when funds become available in April.

Clerk to ask Wychwood Wrought Iron to mend the bolt on the children's play area.

To agree a date at the next meeting for a working party to tidy the cemetery grounds and remove the fallen tree.

The Chairman of the PC has sent the gate design to three contractors and two have come back so far.

WYCHWOOD LIBRARY:

Councillors Naish and Haine attended the meeting with representatives from Shipton and Ascott Parish Councils. There was some confusion on the contribution that Ascott have been asked to make as figures were incorrect in an email. This is being sorted out and Council Rose is to go back to Ascot with the correct figures for their contribution which they will hopefully agree to contribute.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

14/0237/P/FP

27 The Sands, M-U-W

Erection of single and two storey rear extension and construction of detached garage with home office.

No objections

1414/0229/P/FP

Quart Pot, 3 High Street, M-U-W

Erection of eight flats with associated parking and new car park to serve public house at Quart Pot.

Councillors discussed the application for eight flats, but not the one brought to the meeting for four cottages, which it was agreed, would be put on the agenda for the next meeting when received formally from WODC. All councillors are committed to the reopening of a village pub. There were concerns expressed about the lack of car parking for the pub in the current plans, the fact the flat plans mean living room windows overlook the adjacent property, the design not in keeping with High Street. Also it was felt the current owners of the site should ensure it was tidied up for the benefit of the village.

Vote: 7 against and 1 abstention

Chair concluded the response to WODC was there was a concern about the parking and a general consensus that the design didn't fit the site and there were concerns that it overlooks the adjoining property. Finally the PC would like a legal mechanism in the plans to ensure the pub has to reopen if the development goes ahead.

WODC has granted 14/0127/P/POB

8 Harmans Court

Change of age restriction.

WODC has granted 14/0087/P/POB

7 Harmans Court

Change of age restriction.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk ran through the correspondence that had been received and forwarded to Parish Councillors. This included:

- From the length person the vandalism and rubbish in the bus shelter. PC discussed possible modifications that could be made in the hope of deterring this behaviour and to put this on next month's agenda;
- Letter from WODC giving the cost for 2014/15 of emptying bins on the Green which remain the same as last year;
- new payment arrangements for HMRC. Clerk to find out how we can make these changes to move away from a two signature cheque and report back;
- Complete Weed Control to be engaged to remove weeds around the village and play areas as set out in their quote HC-871, but not at this stage on the sportsfield.;

- The clerk to provide Councillor Haine with Hatwells tele no for the summer fair;
- Councillor Naish offered to attend a meeting to promote improved train services ;
- Clerk to get quote to trim ash tree next to 1 Pear Tree Close.

VILLAGE GREEN:

Matter raised that new bin inserts need to be put into Village Green bins. Also clerk to ask grass-cutting contractor to trim hedge at the corner of the Green;

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

OUT

C Redman	- salary	228.80	M Ricketts	105.92
	- expenses	12.50	Oxfordshire Playing Fields	
Alfred Groves & Sons		4.69	Association	50.00
Volunteer Link up		50.00	OALC Membership	228.80
HMRC		267.60		
			TOTAL	£1035.36

IN

Pound Stacey	65.00		
Pound Parkinson	32.50		
Pound Lights	65.00		
Interest	9.25		
		TOTAL	£171.75

Balance of accounts as at 13.3.14

Balance B/Fwd	1.4.13	£21,361.13	C/A	£ 3,275.07
			D/A	£53,277.52
Total income		£55,014.19		
Expenditure		£20,097.80		
Balance		£56,277.52		£56,277.52

PUBLIC:

Update on work of Milton Volunteers at church yard which is taking place to clear the gutters, jet wash the pavement etc.

Councillor Naish was asked about the Flood Forum which she attended recently. She has written a report but said much of the discussion was weighted to issues in Oxford.

The Emergency Plan is still to be completed.

Site of the village orchard was discussed and it will be at the bottom of the Welfare Trust allotments but far enough away from the ditch.

A member of the public asked if December's minutes could go on the website as they were missing.

Councillor Haine explained the extra services offered by the sports association at the Green.

It was reported the bus shelter light wasn't working and someone volunteered to replace the bulb.

The Public thanked the PC for their support re. concerns about the Quart Pot Development.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 16 April.