

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

PRESENT: Councillors Collett, Rawlins, Haine, Naish, Smith, Laura Jones and Helen Jones. 10 members of the Public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Marsden

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

Cllr Rawlins declared a personal interest in planning application 12/682 relating to Sunnyside, Shipton Road.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 October 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC:

Resident asked who is responsible for the footpath alongside the Quart Pot as the street light is obscured by tree branches. Cllr Haine confirmed that this matter is being addressed as the branches are to be cut back at the side of 7 High Street and this will clear the street light.

The banks to the brook have fallen in at the bottom of the Allotments. This will be checked out.

A light was requested at the sand store at the Village Hall.

Cllr Haine has ordered another supply of pooh bags at a cost of approx. £280. Resident concerned that this expense is not necessary and does not agree. Nappy bags are perhaps a cheaper alternative but are not as strong. Cllr Haine reported that providing pooh bags does make a difference and whatever the cost the Parish Council made the right decision. This matter will be reviewed next time when the supply runs out.

MATTERS ARISING:

No response has been received following correspondence sent to Builders Ede. Residents are concerned as many of the trees are ash. The Clerk will send a follow up letter.

Cllr Rawlins has correspondence relating to the Emergency Plan and will circulate to members of the sub-committee.

The oak tree has been planted on the Village Green. The Council was aware that it was vandalised soon after. The police community officer was contacted but there was little they could do. The tree cost £1200. Chairman will speak with Mr Pratley for costs of providing a larger cage round the tree. Chairman will also speak with Mr Pratley regarding the entrance gate to the Green opposite the Deli as it is broken.

Cllr Naish reported that something should be done about the swings on the Village Green that are currently out of commission. Mr Trotman did have a go when he was planting the tree and had the use of a digger. But it is a big job that requires digging out, putting shingle down and replacing with some bark.

Chairman reported that the wall at the Pound is pending.

Costs are still awaited for new dog fouling waste bin at Green Lane.

Street lights at The Sands have been reported to OCC.

Overhanging branches at 7 High Street have been cut back at the front of the property and the branches to the side of the property will be cut back in due course.

The Parish Council's letter of objection regarding the Co-Op licence was withdrawn following confirmation from the Co-Op that the opening hours were not changing. It is a blanket application for the selling of alcohol in all stores.

Consecration of the Cemetery is scheduled to take place on Sunday 16 December at 2.30pm. Legal documents are being prepared at a cost of approximately £260 + VAT.

The Council are happy with proposal from Area Stewardship Fund for the installation of gates at Bruern Road with the gates fixed at an angle.

Letter of thanks will be sent to Mr Trotman for all his work.

SHIPTON WILD GARDEN AND WOOD:

Previous Parish Council has given an annual donation of £1500 and the Council was financially healthier when this decision was made. Cllr Haine proposed that the Council should continue to support the Wild Gardens and Wood as before. Councillors are interested to learn what other local Parish Councils are contributing and information on how the money is spent. This item will be put on the Agenda for January 2013 and the Clerk will obtain more information.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS:

Chairman has spoken with Bruern Farms and Mr Astor will give a Christmas Tree to the Village, they just want to know when it is to be delivered. 7th December was agreed and Cllr Laura Jones and Cllr Helen Jones volunteered their husbands to erect the tree on the following day. Lights from previous year can be used again. Cllr Haine and Cllr Naish have all other arrangements in hand. Cllr Naish will ask the Baptist Minister also as he attended last year and provided musical accompaniment with his trumpet. The Clerk will invite the Vicar or Anne Hartley as they usually take it in turns with Shipton. The Clerk will organise posters and check time with the Vicar.

It was agreed that the Council would hold a meeting in December.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

During the month and for information only:

12/1553 Stone Porch, 38 High Street. Reposition of boundary wall. No objections.

12/1579 12 Harmans Court. Discharge of planning obligations (agreement relates to planning permission 03/1874-age restriction of 55). Consent has been lifted for other properties so it is unlikely that WODC will object to this. Therefore – No objections.

For discussion this meeting:

At this point Cllr Rawlins declared a personal interest in following planning application:

12/1682 Sunnyside, Shipton Road. Insertion of two dormer windows and rooflight to rear elevation and dormer window, two rooflights and elliptical window to front elevation. No objections.

WODC has granted:

12/1373 22 Church Meadow. Erection of first floor side, single storey rear extension and front porch.
12/1443 The Village Hall, Shipton Road. Resurfacing of car park.
12/1477 The Pavilion, The Green. Installation of floodlights. (Retrospective)
12/1478 The Pavilion, The Green. Erection of sign. (Retrospective)

For information:

12/1664 The Quart Pot. Cllr Haine reported that this is not a planning application rather a planning notice for the owners to demolish the out-buildings. WODC are not in a position to refuse and are restricted in any action that can be taken. It was agreed that the Parish Council should still send a letter to WODC voicing their support for the property to remain as a Public House. The Clerk will action.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Village Hall has received a grant of £5.5K from WODC Community Facilities Grant to help pay for the re-surfacing of the car park.

The Council granted permission for Mr Kloos to place a temporary memorial stone on the grave site of his late wife Mrs Jean Kloos while the permanent stone is being prepared.

The Council agreed to the request of resident from Church Westcote who would like to bury parent's ashes in the Cemetery. Double fees will apply.

Mr Wallace has given up two of his three allotments.

HMRC advice from April 2013 there will be a new way to report PAYE. PAYE itself is not changing – just the way, and how often PAYE details are sent to HMRC. From April 2013 details will have to be sent electronically every time a payment is made. At the moment this is done only quarterly.

The Council agreed to donate £50 to Volunteer Link-up (West Oxon).

The Clerk has various circulars.

VILLAGE GREEN:

Quotes for the cutting back of the trees are still awaited.

The use of a digger will be required to sort out the pool of water at the swings. There is a drain which may have a leak or is blocked. Chairman will speak to ground worker for advice.

Footballers meet at the Green and drive off very fast from the car park to their training. Cllr Haine will speak to people concerned.

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

E Parsons	- salary	228.80	M Ricketts	150.70
	- expenses	12.50	S Barnes	829.00
Alfred Groves & Sons		3.52	R Caswell	948.00
Royal British Legion		25.00		
			TOTAL	£2197.52

Payments received:	
VAT refund	4165.66
Allotment rents	42.00
Cemetery Fees	295.00

SECTION 137 EXPENDITURE: Limit for 2012/2013

The amount per Elector has been set at £6.80.
 1361 Electors x £6.80 = £9254 limit

PRECEPT:

Precept has remained at £25K for the last few years and the Council had healthy balances of accounts. Balances are reduced and there will be a need for spending in the future for various matters. £32K will be required to cover projected budget costs. Chairman suggested a figure of £35K. Cllr Haine pointed out that this will probably be the last time that the Council will have opportunity to increase budget with no restrictions and this should be taken into account. He will get more information. It was agreed that the Council needed more figures before a decision could be made. Item should be put on December Agenda.

PUBLIC:

Discussion took place regarding the budget and Precept. There are hard decisions that have to be made and should bear in mind that there are many people with financial difficulties. The budget should be looked at and go through every heading of expenditure.

Every charity is a worthy cause. The Council should look at how the Wild Gardens and Wood spend their money.

Mr Gibbs offered to help the Parish Council look at grants, etc for play equipment. There will come a time when the maintenance of the play equipment will have to stop.

Vandalism was discussed further. A youth involved with the incident of the tree on the village green was also involved in the shooting of a cat that was seriously hurt. Incidents must be reported to the Police.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr Rawlins reported that he has heard that Banner Homes want to talk to the Parish Council about building houses at land at Church Road.

There is a man hole in the road outside 55 High Street that makes a noise as vehicles go over it. The Clerk will report this matter to OCC Highways.

Pizza van visits the Village Green every Monday evening.

Cllr Laura Jones was congratulated on the Website.

Vehicles are parking inconsiderately along the High Street. One day the Stage Coach bus could not get through and had to turn round. The Council will keep an eye on this matter.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 19 December 2012