

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 20 November 2013 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Collett, Rawlins, Haine, Marsden, Naish, Laura Jones and Helen Jones. County Cllr Rose, Neighbourhood Sargent Carl Goodman, PC Ian Kyffin and PCSO Kirstyn Tyrer. 10 members of the Public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Smith.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 October 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC:

Update on the proposed orchard at the Allotments was presented to the Council. A plan is being prepared and planting should start in the New Year.

Street light at Hillborough House, Shipton Road and at the end of The Sands need attention as the light is blocked by overhanging branches.

Neighbourhood Sargent Carl Goodman attended the meeting with his colleagues, PC Ian Kyffin and PCSO Kirstyn Tyrer. He is aware of the various incidents that has occurred over the Summer and reported that the Police has made a number of significant arrests. The Police are pro-active patrolling at night and are accessible. He emphasised that all incidents should be reported to the Police. Sargent Goodman was happy to stay at the meeting and take questions after the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING:

Chairman has still to speak with Millfield regarding the drainage work at the swings on the village green.

The highway sign at High Lodge, Upper Milton will be dealt with as and when OCC funds are available.

Chairman spoke with Cllr Mavin from Shipton PC after last Council meeting regarding traffic signs and are waiting for Shipton to come back with suggestions. The Clerk will follow this up with Shipton PC.

The Parish Council will no be holding the Cricket Club dormant bank account funds for safe keeping.

Cllr Naish has the results of the Transport Survey carried out.

Chairman and Cllr Marsden attended the Service of Remembrance at St Simon & St Jude Church.

## WYCHWOOD LIBRARY:

Cllr Haine and Cllr Naish attended a recent meeting at the Library at the request of County Councillor Rose. OCC are faced with having to make cuts and is looking to reduce expenditure on the library service and to implement changes by April 2015. Wychwood Library will lose 50% of its staff budget. In the meantime communities are being asked to help find a solution to this and let OCC know. There are a number of suggestions that have been put forward:

- The 3 main Parishes that support the Library (Milton, Shipton, Ascott) to provide contribution according to their membership numbers. In the case of Milton this would be approximately £8700.
- Fund raising.
- Volunteers - Could have volunteers and paid staff working together.
- Post Office facilities may move to the Library, although this is unknown at present.

The Council would like to know how Shipton and Ascott parishes feel about this matter and whether they will support financially. If the Parish Council support financially by using their Precept, is this going to set a precedent? This would also be a large percentage of the Precept being used for one project. Wychwood Library is the busiest of all the Oxfordshire Community Libraries and used by young and older age group. Cllr Haine agreed to approach Shipton and Ascott Parish Councils to find out if they are willing to support. This matter will be put on the Agenda for next meeting.

## POLICE PATROL OFFICE:

Cllr Marsden has been concerned about crime and anti-social behaviour. He feels that the PCSOs and Police are restricted to the time spent patrolling the village due to the lack of facilities to take comfort breaks and communications. He has suggested the use of a facility to enable the Police to do this and therefore increasing the Police presence in the Villages. The cost of providing such a facility would be in the region of £4000 per year and neighbouring parishes could be asked to contribute to this. PCSO Tyrer already organises her "Have your Say" meetings in appropriate places in the community. The Police need to be visible as much as possible and such a facility as proposed could not be justified. It was agreed not to take this matter any further for the time being.

## THE HEATH:

This item has been put on the Agenda to discuss as Mr Wilks has written to ask if the Parish Council would consider sharing the cost of recently hired skips to remove spoil from the brook and the Council agreed that this should be discussed and agreed before any arrangements have been made.

Cllr Haine pointed out that the Council has a responsibility as Landowner for the Allotments. There has been no news from Mr Hunt OCC, Highways and the Council should chase for this. Chairman will get in touch Mr Hunt as he is supposed to be putting together a drawing to use in an application to the Environment Agency. This will be a lengthy process and the proposals may not be the answer to the problems. The Environment Agency has not agreed to fund any work at this stage.

All agreed to cover the cost of a skip at this time and a proposal was made for the Parish Council

to pay for 2 skips per year at The Heath. A vote was taken:

5 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 1 abstention.

The vote was carried for the Parish Council to pay for 2 skips per year at The Heath.

#### LENGTHPERSON SALARY:

It was agreed that Mrs Ricketts does a very good job as lengthperson. She has held the position since April 2011 and has been paid £6.50 per hour since. NALC salary guidelines and Minimum Living Wage were not available and it was agreed that these figures should be emailed to Councillors to agree a pay increase at next meeting.

#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS:

Chairman has spoken with Bruern Farms who are happy once again to give the village a Christmas tree. It was agreed that this would be delivered to erect on Saturday 7 December and Cllr Laura Jones volunteered her husband to help with this. Cllr Naish agreed to provide electricity for the lights. Cllr Haine and Cllr Naish have all other arrangements in hand. The Clerk will invite the Vicar or Mrs Hartley to attend in her place. The Clerk will organise posters and check time with the Vicar.

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

During the month and for information only:

13/1503 DougDen, Frog Lane. Removal of conservatory and erection of single storey side extension. Conversion of loft to living accommodation and insertion of dormer windows to front and rear. No objections.

For discussion this evening:

13/1549 Paper Resources Ltd, 41 High Street. Removal of corrugated roof and erection of single storey side extension. No objections.

13/1569 Maur-Vale, Church Road. Erection of single storey extension and increase roof height to create first floor. No objections.

13/1451 Owls View, Shipton Road. Change of use for existing stables and gym (part retrospective) and construction of manege for commercial use. Alterations to access track to allow passing bay and increase in entrance width. Erection of four field shelters.

Objections: Increased traffic movement if the site is being used for commercial activity. Also road safety issues at a point where school children cross the road.

WODC has granted:

13/1242 & The Old House, Upper Milton. Erection of two storey side extension.

13/1243 The Old House, Upper Milton. Alterations to include erection of two storey side extension.

13/1314 10 Harmans Court. Discharge of planning obligations (The agreement relates to planning permission 03/1874/P/FP)

13/1372 Orchard Cottage, Shipton Road. Erection of two storey front extension.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

St Simon & St Jude Church PCC are now using the church room as their Benefice Centre. It is used as their office and for activities. The PCC are seeking to provide a folding glazed partition to separate the two activities so that they can both function at the same time. They are asking the Parish Council for a contribution towards the approximate cost of £2000. The Council agreed that the PCC should provide exact cost for a partition and amount of any shortfall required. The Parish Council will then consider a contribution to this project.

There were no objections to the placing of a memorial stone on the gravesite of the late Kevin Dore.

WODC has apologised for the oversight in invoicing the Parish Council for the charges payable for the Council Election in May 2012. £744.33 is payable.

The Council agreed to give a donation of £50 to Oxfordshire Association for the Blind.

The Clerk has various circulars and emails.

## VILLAGE GREEN:

Bench near the play area requires attention. Cllr Rawlins will take a look at it.

Some of the metal inserts to the litter bins have rusted through and you have to rely on the plastic bags to hold the litter. There are some replacement inserts held at Groves but they are of varying sizes.

The play equipment committee have not moved forward as yet but to have a list of names and addresses to approach for funding.

The new tree guard is pending. Mr Pratley has been given the OK to do this work.

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

E Parsons	- salary	228.80	M Ricketts	137.65
	- expenses	12.50	K Grant	1530.00
Alfred Groves & Sons		3.52	WODC	744.33
Royal British Legion		25.00	Ox. Assoc. Blind	50.00
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2731.80</b>

Payments received:

Allotment Rents	£42.00
Cemetery Fees	£300.00

**Balance of Accounts as at 13 November 2013:**

Balance B/Fwd 1.4.13	21,361.13	C/A	26,957.62
+ Income	<u>53,138.49</u>	D/A	<u>32,986.75</u>
	74,499.62		59,944.37
- Expenditure	<u>14,592.75</u>	-Chq	<u>37.50</u>
	59,906.87		59,906.87

#### PUBLIC:

Wychwood Library was discussed further. It is the first time that the Parish Council has been asked to subsidise the Library and the Council should reflect on all that is being said. The Library opening hours could be cut to reduce costs. Residents need to know what is going on. The Village website and newsletter can be used to keep residents informed. County Cllr Rose reported that the original group of “Friends of Wychwood Library” has almost disappeared and it is his intention for this to be re-established. The Library will be an Agenda item when Cllr Haine has obtained more information.

Mr Gibbs reported that the Environment Agency has approached Mr Astor (landowner) regarding work to be carried out on the upstream storage pond and as yet has heard nothing. He appealed to County Cllr Rose that it would be very helpful if he could use his influence for a response.

Public sector pay was frozen for 2011/12 and 1% increase for 2012/13.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr Rawlins has been given working document from the new Allotment committee and this will be circulated to all Councillors.

The additional grit bins allocated for Frog Lane and Fettiplace will be put in place. Cllr Marsden requested if a bin could be placed at the cul-de-sac of The Sands bungalows. The road is in a bad state of repair and OCC Highways should be asked to inspect this area. County Cllr Rose agreed to look into this.

The winter supply of salt has been delivered to Groves.

Landowners are responsible for clearing watercourses through their property.

The Precept will be on the Agenda for next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 18 December 2013