

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th November 2014

PRESENT: Cllrs Collett, Rawlins, Naish, , Laura Jones, Helen Jones, Marsden, Smith, DCllr Haine.
 Parish Clerk: Jenny Miller
 18 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: CCllr Rose

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: N/A

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC:

Wychwood Day Centre: Trustee from Centre, Mrs van de Poll, requested that PC consider donation to Centre emphasising urgency of need given that grant is unlikely to be awarded in 2015; over 1/3 of elderly are from MuW and service is highly valued.

Dog poop bags surplus: Suggestion of bag dispensers next to dog waste bins or at vets to make use of surplus from Post Office closing imminently. Cllr Haine will enquire at vets.

Thanks to Mr & Mrs Naish: Expression of gratitude for long & dedicated service of Mr & Mrs Naish in Post Office and hope that PC will do likewise on behalf of MuW.

MATTERS ARISING:

Little Stock Brook: Chairman confirmed that PC have been granted permission to regrade banks to reduce material falling into watercourse and restricting flow. 3 quotations to be found.

Elm Grove hedges: Chairman reported that hedges have been trimmed back. Feedback from residents welcomed.

Bridges opposite garage: CCllr Rose investigating who is responsible for maintainance.

QUART POT PLANNING APPEAL:

Cllr Haine announced the date for the informal hearing for the appeal is 2nd Dec at 10am in Committee rm 1 of WODC offices, Witney. Request for as many of public to be present with comments as possible.

FUEL ALLOTMENTS:

Upkeep of occupied and vacant plots: Following concern that several plots are untidy and poorly kept, Cllr Marsden reported that with annual renewal letters, tenants are asked to maintain a tidy plot. following which 3 warnings are given before tenant is evicted. Only 3 plots currently vacant of which 1 or 2 are untidy and tenants have been contacted. Cllr Marsden suggested PC takes responsibility for weed control of vacant plots in Spring. Cllr Collett confirmed these plots are PC responsibility & agreed with weed control suggestion. Query as to whether use of rotavator and covering of vacant plots would help minimise weeds and general untidiness. PC will review state of plots in Spring following weed control and make a long-term plan. Cllr Marsden concluded that villagers might be encouraged to take up a vacant plot if appearance were tidier which would reduce need for PC intervention.

Maintenance of grassy border: Cllr Marsden reported that grass recently laid by PC around allotments has been churned up in recent bad weather due to over use by cars and walkers entering from bottom gate and suggested access be limited to reduce further erosion. PC concluded that a post be erected at bottom gate during winter

months explaining problem, with request to tenants to avoid using bottom access. Cllr L. Jones and Rawlins to take this in hand.

Allotment Committee: In light of these and other issues, Cllr Rawlins expressed urgent need for creation of an Allotments Committee to monitor Welfare and Fuel allotments.

Rental increase: Cllr Rawlins pointed out that Welfare Trust & Fuel Allotments usually maintain same rental fees and raise rent concurrently. Welfare Trust rent is currently £2 per annum more. Proposal to raise Fuel Allotment rent by £2 from August 2015 in line with current Welfare trust rent. Vote taken for this proposal: 7 in favour; 1 against, therefore proposal was agreed. Tenants to be notified.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS:

Christmas Tree: PC agreed Christmas Tree would be organised through Martin Jarratt to be delivered w/e of 13th Dec. Cllr Laura Jones to take delivery and erect tree.

Christmas Eve carols around tree: Revd. Kate Stacey has been invited. Clerk to invite Mr & Mrs Hunt to lead music and organise collection. Mulled wine & mince pies organised by Cllr Naish. Start time 6.30pm.

DEFIBRILLATORS & TRAINING:

New defibrillators: Chairman informed PC that defibrillators have been installed at Baptist Church and Prew's Garage. Shortfall of £41 for purchase of final defibrillator which PC were advised this could be covered potentially by DFM group funds. Clerk to contact Mrs Shortland. Mrs van de Poll kindly offered to do visual checks on defibrillators following Cllr Marsden's instruction.

Training: Taking place on Sat 29th Nov 9am-12pm in village hall.

PRECEPT:

Precept raised to £50000 in 2012. Vote taken to apply for same in 2015: All voted in favour given large expenditure forecast with play equipment, Little Stock Brook work and Church Wall repairs.

COUNTY CLLR REPORT:

In his absence read Cllr Rose email:

Parking at Kingham Station: close to submitting a planning application to WODC for 115 space extension to Kingham car park. If the PC has any queries or want to indicate support contact Tom Pierpoint, Regional Development Manager East on tom.pierpoint@firstgroup.com

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Planning applications granted:

- 1) Ref 14/1368/P/FP 2nd Oct 2014
Woodhill The Sands MUW Erection of new porch and additional dormer window
- 2) Ref 14/1380/P/FP 3rd Oct 2014
Chez Nous, Green Lane, MUW Erection of two storey side extension

Application withdrawn:

- 4) Ref 14/1414/P/FP 8th Oct 2014
Fairhaven, Jubilee Lane, MUW Erection of single and two storey rear extension

CORRESPONDENCE:

1	Notification of Bruern level crossing closure for works on 22/23 & 29/30 Nov 11.30pm-9.30am	OCC	Email
2	Request for donation. Donations previously received from proceeds of carols around the tree and prior to that from Parish funds.	The Wychwoods Day Centre	Post
3	Request for information regarding purchase of grassland in Elm Grove backing onto Stonecroft property on Frog Lane	Mr & Mrs Reynolds	Email
4	Request for documents relating to the Village Green and MSA	Mr Woodward	Email
5	Reply to PC invitation to speak at a PC mtg. She is not permitted to attend evening engagements at present but will endeavour to come when permitted.	Helen Vass, Southern Electric Power	Email
6	Reply to PC query about emptying of dog waste bins. For the past year they have been emptied once a week. Collection crews have been asked to empty more frequently if necessary. Residents are asked to report overflowing bins.	WODC www.westoxon.gov.uk Phone: 01993861000	
7	Information about date of informal hearing for the appeal in respect of the Quart Pot development.	WODC	Post
8	Invitation to the PC to a meeting betw Town, Parish and District Councils. Agenda yet to be finalised but expect it to cover Council's budget strategy, update on Local Plan & Council's 5 year housing land supply. 7pm in the Committee Rooms, Witney on 3 rd Dec. RSVP required.	Cllr Richard Langridge WODC	Post
9	Invitation to annual Emergency Planning events with focus on completing a Community Emergency Plan. 2 dates in Nov.	OCC	Email
10	Reminder to submit annual return for the Village Green and Fuel Allotments income	Charity Commission	Email
11	Invitation to join fight against inappropriate and excessive development in Oxfordshire through a series of rallies, first being in Witney on 7 th Dec. More details to follow and on website.	Lewis Owens at Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally (ROAR) Phone: 07920423829 01993811222 Website: www.roartoday.co.uk	Email
12	Circular explaining Islamic beliefs.	Islam Truth	Email

1 3	Flyer for the Hill End Centre winter craft fair on 22 nd Nov	Hill End Centre, Farmoor	Email
1 4	Flyer for consultants in land asset reporting to help Parish Councils ensure records are up to date and comply with Local Government Transparency Code, ready for public scrutiny by Feb 2015.	Land & Property Registration	Email
1 5	Flyer for Better Broadband for Oxfordshire, update on provision of fibre-enabled broadband including in MUW within next 3 months. Stickered green cabinets indicate provision and residents encouraged to contact Internet Service Providers to upgrade to fibre-enabled broadband.	OCC	Email
1 6	Flyer for Capita who provide training and development service to the wider public sector	Capita Learning Services	Email
1 7	Flyer outlining role of Healthwatch: monitoring health and social care services in local communities and lobbying for changes. Invitation to Milton villagers and Councillors to contact Healthwatch with any issues.	Rachel Coney, CEO of Healthwatch Oxfordshire Phone: 01865520520 Email: hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk Website: www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk	Email
1 8	Press release: bus shuttle services between Wychwoods villages and Burford to connect with Stagecoach services to and from Witney.	OCC	Email
1 9	Press release: WODC grants agreed for community projects including £11,314 towards 9-14yr olds play equipment project in MUW	OCC	Email
2 0	Flyer for professional body for clerks in Town, Parish and Community Councils in England and Wales.	Society of Local Council Clerks	Post
2 1	Request for feedback on potential use of artificial sports pitch located at school as part of business plan..	Wychwood Primary School	Post

VILLAGE GREEN:

Gap in hedge behind hard court: Chairman to contact Cotswold Tree Surgery for suggestion of which trees might be suitable. Quotes to be sought.

Grass cutting: Kev Grant doesn't need to cut grass as thoroughly on football pitch over winter months.

ACCOUNTS

a. Payments out to authorise and cheques to sign:

1. Kevin Grant October Grass cutting	£1557.50
2. Margaret Ricketts litter-picking	£150.28
3. J. Miller Clerk – salary/home allowance/ stamps & stationary	£358.21
4. Alfred Groves bin bags	£3.52
5. Ian Drainer Materials & labour – defibrillator at Baptist Chapel & Prew's	£157.50
6. Cotswold Tree Surgery Pear Tree Close	£125
7. Cotswold Youth Choir donation (Sec 137)	£100
TOTAL	£2352.01

b. Payments in:

1. Allotment fees	£35
2. Cemetery	£75
3. Dr T. Biggs defib donation	£695
4. MSA – Rent/Donation	£101
TOTAL	£906

PUBLIC

Post Office: Mr Gary Kirkman from Bourton PO present to explain current position regarding PO in MuW. He has been given post of Sub Postmaster to run a limited service 3 sessions per week from current premises as interim measure beginning w/c 1st Dec 2014. Limited hours due to service operating in 3 other villages with limited staffing. Mr Kirkman believes that he can make a sound proposal to PO based on advice from PC. PC advised that best possible outcome is that interim service operate from current premises until time when suitable permanent location is available in The Paddocks. This seen as best location due to central location, accessibility, adequate space available, potential for prescription pick-up service, bridge-building with Paddocks community.

Gap in hedge behind hard court: Request for deciduous trees.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

MuW Directory: Cllr H.Jones reported that directory trial has failed so will be abandoned.

Wychwoods Day Centre: Previously PC donated £100. Cllr Naish proposed to donate £250. Vote taken to donate £250: All in favour.

Defibrillator training: Query about further training dates. Villagers to contact Mrs Kaye Shortland to book a space.

Vandalism/Theft: Cllr Haine reported incidents of vandalism, theft and anti-social behaviour by a resident from nearby village in recent weeks. Abandoned car outside estate agents, which is potentially linked to these incidents, has been reported to police. Villagers asked to be vigilant in coming weeks.

Horse warning signs: Following 3 recent incidents involving cars narrowly avoiding horses, Cllr Haine has contacted CCllr Rose to request quote for horse warning triangles between the Bruern crossroads, Edgington's Farm and M-u-W.

Streetlight in The Sands: Cllr Marsden complained of overgrown trees almost fully obscuring streetlight. Clerk to investigate.

Dangerous parking: Several Councillors expressed concern about cars parking on blind bend opposite phone box on Church Road.. Clerk to notify police.

Bus service: Cllr Naish announced new timetable as of 1st Dec with Pulhams shuttle service to Burford for a change to Witney.

MuW Volunteers: Group would like to start new projects and suggestions sought over potential projects, but Chairman has specified PC do not wish to take advantage of their generosity. Suggestion they manage Elm Grove hedges to keep under control. Cllrs to consider further projects.

Stonecroft: Chairman looks on purchase of land favourably so as to add to PC funds and to take responsibility for land away from PC. Question over whether resale of land is permitted in title deeds and possibility that it may need to be put through public auction. Clerk to look into sale documents and further advice to be sought.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.