

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th November 2015

PRESENT: Cllrs Collett, DCllr Haine, Cllrs H. Jones, L. Jones, Naish, Rawlins, CCllr Rose, Cllr Smith. Parish Clerk: Jenny Miller. 100 (approx) members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Marsden

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: DCllr Haine – planning applications; Cllr Collett – Alfred Groves related planning application.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The October minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC

WODC planning committee meeting Re: Land south of High St: Mr Young extended thanks to Cllrs Smith and Rawlins present at meeting and particular thanks to Cllr Haine.

Several members of the public queried why the WODC meeting was first time PC had explained their views about application in public. Concern expressed about transparency of the PC in this matter and suggestion made that the PC are in breach of the WODC code of conduct. In response, Councillors reminded those present that Public session in PC meeting is opportunity for public to bring issues to attention of PC. PC listen but is under no obligation to respond and it is not a time of debate or discussion, and discussion will not happen if an item is not on Agenda. Cllr Rawlins suggested that over the course of several months each Councillor, has shared their views on this application privately and all but two have shared publicly. Both Cllr Rawlins and L.Jones acknowledged more transparency might have prevented such anger from public and gave assurance of more transparency in future. Mr Young proposed a vote of no confidence in the PC as a whole and majority of those present were in favour. Chair confirmed the Appeal will be on December Agenda.

Sharba hospitality: request for PC to clarify if Sharba Homes offered hospitality to PC. Suggestion was very firmly denied by all members of PC.

Wychwood Day Centre: Mrs van de Poll outlined current and long-term funding for Centre which supports 7 MuW residents. In short, OCC funding will cease shortly and Centre is looking into ways to reduce costs. Financial support sought from PC as in previous years.

MATTERS ARISING

Little Stock Brook: Contractors have completed work.

Play equipment: Broken equipment has been repaired.

Kissing gate by tennis courts: Gateway has been levelled by OCC.

Christmas tree: To be delivered on 11th Dec.

Ansell Way/Fettiplace walkway hedge: Cllr Rawlins still to investigate

OCC OXFORDSHIRE TOGETHER PROPOSALS

Chair informed PC that OCC budget cuts will mean PC have option to take on various non-statutory services currently provided by OCC. The extent of the cuts is still to be finalised.

BUILDERS EDE LAND IN CHURCH MEADOW

Cllr H.Jones summarised issues around land in Church Meadow. PC discussion followed as to whether the PC should take ownership of land on condition that Builders Ede retain strip around land. Complicated due to lack of clarity over boundary line plus a resident who has adopted some of land. PC has consulted WODC regarding trees who conclude they are in good condition and do not need to be dealt with currently. It was proposed and seconded that PC do not take over land due to high costs of maintenance, complicated issues mentioned and the strip of land that Builders Ede wish to retain. Cllr Haine suggested PC take over land between Church Meadow and Brookfield Close to maintain at a higher standard. PC to enquire of the owner of this land.

TREES

Community Trees delivered but not suitable for screening on village green. The trees will be potted and watered at PC expense by Christine Hart while PC decides where to plant them. Residents of Paddocks reported to be enjoying views of village green so consideration must be given to them too.

ALLOTMENTS

Thanks extended to working party dealing with overgrown allotments. Minor changes to rules to include prohibit carpets from being used as they are heavy to move and toxic. Kevin Grant to trim cleared plots.

DEFIBRILLATOR FITTING FOR ST SIMON AND ST JUDE CHURCH

Shelter for final defibrillator is to be erected this month and PC asked to cover cost of electrician work to install it. Cllr L.Jones proposed to approve work; proposal seconded and all in favour. Cllr H.Jones pointed out to those checking the defibrillators, that care should be taken to check defibrillators are functional in very cold weather as this may depend on the wiring of the casing as another parish has experienced.

PRECEPT

Cllr Haine informed PC of OCC budget cuts leading to potential extra costs to be covered by PC. Without any precept at all and average annual income and expenditure, there would be a £30,000 deficit. Cllr Haine proposed to keep £50,000 precept which was seconded and all in favour of doing so.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

CCllr Rose summarised current position at OCC. Of most significance is need to make savings of £50m and so consultation underway of proposals to devolve non-statutory services to Town and Parish Councils. Response can be made to OCC budget cuts and more details of extent of cuts to follow in December.

Cllr Haine queried funding of Chipping Norton Community Hospital. Cllr Rose replied that OCC had never intended the Hospital to offer high level of care, staffed with NHS nurses as it is now and can no longer support it. OCC plan to remove NHS staff and replace with Orders of St John staff in conjunction with the Care Home next door at a much lower cost.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications:

- a. 15/03554/FUL Erection of new dwelling with associated parking, Wisteria Cottage, 4 The Terrace **No objection**
- b. 15/03525/FUL Greenhouse, The Paddocks **No objection**
- c. 15/03356/FUL Erection of 2 dwellings, Owl's View, Shipton Rd **Objection**
(*due to precedent set previously relating to reduction in gap between Shipton and Milton which maintains them as distinct villages*)
- d. 15/03868/FUL Erection of 5 dwellings, Alfred Groves **No objection**
- e. 15/03870/FUL Ground floor office to retail, Alfred Groves **No objection**

Applications refused:

Ref 15/03128/OUT Erection of up to 62 dwellings, Land south of High Street, MUW

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter requesting correspondence related to Sharba application under FoI
Email enquiry into overgrown trees in Church Meadow
Letter responding to Oct PC meeting and planning related issues

VILLAGE GREEN

New Play equipment: Cllr Rawlins reported that an order has been placed. Discussion followed regarding installation date, options being January and risk potential churning of village green with wet conditions or early Spring. Suggestion made that agreement be made by company to make good any damage done should it be installed in Jan. Cllr Rawlins to look into this. Thanks extended once more to Mr Gibbs for his part in play equipment fundraising.

DONATIONS

Wychwood Day Centre: Cllr Smith proposed £500, which was seconded and all PC in favour of this donation given the importance of this service to villagers.

Citizens Advice Bureau: Cllr Haine proposed £100, an increase from last year - which was seconded and all PC in favour.

ACCOUNTS

a. Payments out were authorised and cheques signed:

1. M. Ricketts Length person salary	£	123.35
2. J. Miller Clerk salary & expenses	£	309.59
3. Kevin Grant grass cutting	£	1,400
4. Alfred Groves	£	4.64
5. Oxfordshire Association for the Blind	£	200
6. Wychwood Day Centre	£	500
7. Citizens Advice Bureau	£	100

TOTAL £ 2,637.58

b. Payments in:

1. Play equipment donation	£	20,000
2. Allotments	£	7
3. Precept	£	25,000.14

TOTAL £45,007.14

Bank balance as of 31/11/2015: £111,221.06

Accounts were approved unanimously by PC.

PUBLIC

Planning appeal to Land south of High St application: PC agreed the appeal would be an agenda item at next meeting.

Christmas carols: Suggestion that 'Carols around the tree' be relocated to The Paddocks.

Payroll changes in schools: Changes have resulted in chaos following

Oxfordshire-Hampshire partnership. Cllr Rose confirmed OCC working to improve situation.

Allotments: Thanks extended to working party.

New Play equipment: Thanks extended to sub-committee responsible for new play equipment. Query about how decision was made to new equipment provider. Cllr Rawlins explained the process whereby sub-committee sought tenders, of which most competitive was presented to PC. Playdale were most competitive, have been used before with positive feedback and RoSPA approved. Reduction in price given was £6060.63.

Request for information: Claim that correspondence is missing from what was received. Cllr Smith requested copies of the original letters it is claimed were sent to the PC.

Defibrillators: Query about whether any of defibs have been used. Reply given that none have been used as yet. They continue to be checked every month.

Entrance to village green: drain remains blocked in spite of intervention by OCC Highways. CCllr Rose to investigate.

Lollipop lady: Comment made that school crossing is essential as and when PC consider which services to take over from OCC.

AOB

Unscrupulous behaviour by an anonymous resident: Cllr Smith disgusted at reports of hurtful behaviour and comments directed at both Councillors and residents in favour of the Sharba planning application, extending even to anonymous and potentially career-destroying correspondence. Likewise, Cllr Collett disappointed by defamatory comments made by the anonymous author of the Grapevine publication. He expressed sadness at vote of no confidence and reminded public that planning is just one part of what PC do and there is

much more which PC achieve that is unnoticed but important. The May election is the opportunity for the public to respond.

Overgrown hedge, upper end of High St: hedge is encroaching on path and needs to be dealt with.

Cllr Naish closed the meeting at 9.05pm.