

A meeting of Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council was held on Wednesday 19 September 2012 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Collett, Rawlins, Haine, Marsden, Naish, Smith, Laura Jones and Helen Jones. County Cllr Rodney Rose and 5 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: None

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

Cllr Helen Jones declared a personal interest in matters relating to planning application 12/1373.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 August 2012 were amended under Any Other Business, paragraph 4 – Cllr Marsden is responsible for the Fuel Allotments and has agreed that the Council should have a tougher approach. The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC:

Highway sign knocked over at Long Road. County Cllr noted this and will deal with the matter.

Resident came forward representing the youth of the village with proposal for something more structured for use on the Village Green. The BMX track on the Green is no longer used and the area is very boggy. Something in its place would be appropriate. The ramp at Shipton is used constantly. Resident was asked to put together a scheme with costs for the Parish Council to discuss. Could look at the Big Society Fund for grant.

MATTERS ARISING:

Cllr Rawlins reported that the overhanging branches at Hillborough Guest House have been cut back.

Cllr Haine reported that the overhanging branches at 7 High Street should be cut back next week.

Clerk has written to owners of Amelia Cottage, High Street via Estate Agents to cut back plants that are overhanging the pavement.

Cllr Naish has list of graves that are uneven. Clerk will check if Parish Council has charged levelling fee to see who is responsible and will liaise with Cllr Marsden.

Cllr Haine put right any confusion the Council has regarding the Precept for the next financial year. The Council will be able to increase as they want for next financial year but there may well be a limit in future years. The Council will need more money and this will be discussed in November when looking at the Precept. The Parish Council will not be re-visiting the request for funds from the Village Hall Committee to help with resurfacing the car park at this time, but the Precept could be increased to allow for this in next year's budget. This increase in Precept will have little effect on householders' council tax.

Chairman has spoken with Mr Pratley regarding the village green entrance gate opposite the Deli. The gate will be hung the other way round as soon as possible.

Mr Trotman has ordered the oak tree for the village green to commemorate the Jubilee. Protective fencing will also be in place. The Company who provide the tree will plant another tree in woodland as a gesture of goodwill also. A book of remembrance is to be presented to the Queen.

Cllr Laura Jones has emailed all Cllrs with draft website details. There is a fee of £5 per month for the website and all agreed to this.

Chairman is in the process of getting the notice board at 1 High Street removed.

The Council agreed to have the 1 free bag of salt from OCC highways and to purchase 1 additional bag for the winter.

Consecration of the Cemetery has been arranged for Sunday 16 December 2012.

#### AREA STEWARDSHIP FUND:

The Council has approximately £2200 to spend on Highway projects. The Council agreed to request boundary gates on the grass verge along Bruern Road just inside the parish boundary before the houses. The village sign currently by the Allotments will also be moved to this point. County Cllr Rose reported that he would support this request.

Big Society Fund – The Council need to do something about this and not let it go. County Cllr has £10,000 to be spent in the Wychwood area. Applications need to be in by 30 September.

#### MONITORING GRASS CUTTING:

No major problems at present.

Contractors concerned about dog fouling at Wychwood Drive. They think it is the same dog that is deliberately taken there.

There are overhanging branches at Lancut footpath.

There is a red Peugeot car parking on the grass on the village green.

Cllr Smith reported that she was aware that a headstone had been damaged at the Cemetery. Grass Cutting Contractor has taken a look but it is not something he has done. The Parish Council has been made aware. The loose memorial can be cemented back to the base slab.

Cllr Marsden reported that the hedge at the Allotments is sprouting. One of the Allotment tenants has cut the area. Mr Naish (Welfare Trust) or Cllr Marsden will ask Mr Coombes if he could cut the area.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Cllr Helen Jones left the meeting at this point.

12/1373      22 Church Meadow. Erection of 1<sup>st</sup> floor side, single storey rear extensions and front porch. This application constitutes a re-submission after concerns with the roof design raised by the planning officer in relation to application 12/1232. No objections.

Cllr Helen Jones returned to the meeting.

12/1295      Inns Keep, Church Road.  
&12/1296      Internal & external alterations to include insertion of 2 roof lights and 1 window to the rear elevation and a reconstructed dormer window to the front elevation.  
No objections.

WODC has granted:

12/1052      Milton House Cottage, Green Lane. Erection of dwelling.  
12/1139      27 Church Meadow. Alterations and erection of front porch. Installation of new side window.

Notice of Appeal:

10/1136      Hoplands, Shipton Road. (Site visit 8.5.12)  
Demolition of existing garage and erection of dwelling. The Appeal is dismissed.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

Request received from Allen & Son, Funeral Directors to add inscription of Annie (Nancy) Hawtin on the existing memorial of Mr Ralph Hawtin. Subject to the usual conditions this was agreed.

The Parish Council agreed and confirmed that there would be no charge for additional inscription on memorial stones at the Cemetery.

BDO LLP has been appointed as external auditor to audit the annual return of Milton-under-Wychwood for five years from 2012/13.

The Clerk has various circulars.

## VILLAGE GREEN:

Clerk has obtained quote from Playdale to repair the walk the plank. It was agreed that the Clerk would meet with Cllr Rawlins to sort out other repairs that are required to obtain a quote from Playdale to have all works carried out at the same time.

Mr Trotman is resigning from the Milton Volunteers.

The picnic benches in the children play area have been vandalised and one has been uprooted and put with the other. It needs to be put back.

Cllr Rawlins asked if councillors could meet on the Green to rake and fork over the bark. Sunday 7 October at 10.00am was agreed to do this.

Cllr Marsden reported that some of the railings have separated and some have snapped and broken. Mr Pratley will be asked to look at these at the same time as he looks at the gate.

The Council agreed to ask the grass cutting contractors to roll the green at a cost of £65.00.

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

E Parsons	- salary	228.80	M Ricketts	178.10
	- expenses	12.50	S A Barnes	594.00
Alfred Groves & Sons		7.04	R J Caswell	833.00
Playsafety Ltd		118.80	BDO LLP	480.00
HMRC		280.48	Treetech Arb. Services	984.00
Business Focus		90.00		
			TOTAL	£3806.72

Payments received:

Bank interest	£2.64
Pound rents	£162.50
Donation to Village Green from proprietor of fish & chip van	£50.00

BDO LLP Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2012 was approved and accepted by the Council.

Issues arising from the Report:

The Asset Register does not contain all assets and the Clerk will update this information. Staff Costs and other payments – Mrs Ricketts salary has not been included as a staff cost and therefore listed in the wrong box on the Annual Return. In future this will be allocated to the correct box and note will be made accordingly for correction in next year's audit.

PUBLIC:

The Grass Cutting Contractors will be asked to remove the nettles from the edge of the Village Green. The basal shoots from the lime trees on the green are currently being removed and the hedge is cut back once a year.

County Cllr Rose invited Cllrs to attend open day at Drayton Highways Depot on Saturday.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr Rawlins requested that trees on the Village Green be an item on next month's Agenda to be discussed.

Cllr Smith reported that there are bollards (cones) left in the bus shelter. Mr Scott of 7 High Street has had his car vandalised. People should be vigilant.

Cllr Marsden reported that there has been produce theft at the Allotments.

The ground has worn away at the position where the post was located at the gate to the Allotments. It

now protrudes and is causing a hazard. Mr Coombes has been asked to replace the post. Chairman will have a look at this. The Clerk will mention this when letter is sent to him for the Allotment rent.

The Clerk will chase OCC highways regarding the re-instatement of the road markings at Ansell Way.

Chairman will obtain costings for the repair of the wall at the Pound.

Cllrs are invited to an Open Evening of the Youth Club at Shipton next Monday evening.

Mrs Hart has returned the Emergency Plan to the Council. This matter will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

The Council agreed to purchase copy of Sanding Orders from OALC at a cost of £25.00.

For the benefit of the new councillors the Chairman gave a brief history of the BMX track on the village green. The BMX track is no longer in use.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 17 October 2012