

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 18 September 2013 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Collett, Rawlins, Haine, Marsden, Naish, Smith, Laura Jones and Helen Jones. 30 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: None

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

Cllr Smith declared an interest in planning application 13/1268 relating to 29 Wychwood Close.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 August 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC:

Mr Gibbs addressed the Parish Council regarding The Heath and pushing for the Council to confirm what is happening. Mr Hunt (OCC) is waiting to hear from the Council for the work to go ahead. Chairman reported that Mr Hunt has confirmed that he is in the process of preparing cross section drawings of areas of the banks of the brook that the Parish Council can then present and use in any application they may wish to submit to the Environment Agency. The Parish Council has agreed nothing at this stage.

Mr Hall representing many of the residents attending the meeting tonight reported on the planning application of the Quart Pot. The Parish Council has a hypocritical change of decision by objecting to the original planning application of a detached dwelling and then discussing at the July meeting the proposal by the developer of 8 flats on the site to help fund the refurbishment of the Quart Pot and that the Council would be prepared to loose the bus shelter. The bus shelter is a village asset and was given to the village by the generosity of a resident. A fair point made that an asset of the village is being lost to enable the Quart Pot to be re-developed. Residents feel that 8 flats are totally inappropriate and most concerned about parking provision for this development and for the Pub. The High Street and Poplar Farm Close are already burdened with parked cars.

A Youth Club is being set up at the Baptist Church on a Friday evening for older youths aged 14+.

There has been much vandalism in the village recently. It is vital that residents report all cases to the police. If reports increase then the police will treat as a priority. Some residents know who the culprits are and it is a shame that they will not come forward.

Mr Gibbs updated the Council regarding the finger post sign for top of Church Road. It seems that there are 4 interested parties and in favour of adding to the existing sign at a cost of approximately £1000. Quotation will be forwarded to the Parish Council when received.

MATTERS ARISING:

Cllr Rawlins reported that he has cut the hawthorn at Fettiplace and repaired the railings on the Village Green opposite the hairdressers.

The development for Extra Care Housing behind Shipton Road has now started.

Mr Pratley has quoted £498 (inclusive of VAT) to alter and extend the tree guard for the oak tree on the Village Green. All agreed to this quote.

Letters have been sent to those residents whose branches of trees overhang at Reade Close.

Chairman will be speaking to Millfield Groundwork regarding the drainage work at the swings on the Village Green.

ALLOTMENTS:

Letters of complaint have been received from tenants concerning the state of some of the plots. Mr Trotman has suggested the formation of a committee/association to be set up to manage and maintain the allotments, but still report to the Parish Council and Welfare Trust. The Parish Council agreed that this was the best course of action. A Committee could be set up with 2 members from each of the Welfare Trust and Parish Council along with representatives from the Allotment tenants. Mr Trotman was brought into the meeting - he has agreed to communicate with Allotment tenants and establish a working committee and arrange a meeting to come up with ideas. The Clerk will let Mr Trotman have a list of all current Allotment tenants. The Council could give the Committee an allowance per annum, which would allow the unkempt allotments to be maintained. It was agreed to leave the Rules to the Allotments as they are for the time being until the committee move ahead.

Cllr Marsden reported that he is in agreement with this in principal and that this is a good idea. This will take some of the burden away from the Council, as the Allotments will become self-policing. The Council is responsible for the plots not let.

The Welfare Trust is in favour of a Community Orchard and has been looking into how best this can set up. The easiest way is for the Milton Volunteers to rent the area as an Allotment and pay an annual rent.

YOUTH SHELTER/YOUTH CLUB:

Cllr Laura Jones reported that Mrs Lorna Raye has worked hard to set up and run the Youth Club at the Baptist Church which is being held on a Friday, 6.30 – 8.30pm for young people aged 14+, and would encourage young people to attend. This is moving forward and it is hoped that the Youth Club will develop further.

The type of youth shelter requested has now been circulated to Councillors and will cost approximately £11K. The idea is that the young people will fund raise and help with the project. It will be an ideal meeting place for young people and the police are supportive of the idea. It was agreed that until the problem of vandalism in the village is sorted that this project will be put on hold.

MONITORING GRASS CUTTING:

There were no complaints or issues at this time.

Now would be a good time to cut back the basal shoots on the lime trees on the Village Green.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

During the month and for information only:

13/1162 The Green, Shipton Road. Change of use of premises to Veterinary Surgery with ancillary offices. No objections.

For discussion at this meeting:

13/1221 Heathfield House, Church Road. Conversion of outbuilding to holiday let.
No objections.

13/1232 Spring Cottage, Green Lane. Erection of 2 storey and single storey rear extension.
No objections.

13/1242 The Old House, Upper Milton. Alterations to include erection of 2 storey side
& 13/1243 extension. No objections.

Cllr Smith left the meeting at this point.

13/1268 29 Wychwood Close. Single storey side extension. No objections.

Cllr Smith returned to the meeting.

13/1235 Quart Pot, 3 High Street. Erection of single storey rear extension to existing public house and construction of 8 flats together with associated parking facilities and landscaping.

For the benefit of the members of the Public present at the meeting Cllr Haine explained the background of the Quart Pot development. The owner wants to get as much money as he can from the site. The pub is currently an empty shell and his intention was to sell as a dwelling. With talking to WODC planners they came up with the idea of a development of 8 flats with some of the sale proceeds being injected into the pub to refurbish it and giving the opportunity to re-open as a going concern. A single development would not generate enough cash to fund the refurbishment of the pub. The alternative is for nothing to happen. The bus shelter is not mentioned in this application, although this was mentioned previously. Parking is of major concern as there are only 5 spaces allocated for the pub and 10 spaces for the flats. There is no mention to any internal refurbishment to the pub and what is proposed is not enough.

Councillors agreed that there is a major problem concerning parking for this development and the effect this will have on the High Street and Poplar Farm Close. The proposed development is over crowded and not in keeping with the village. There is no proposal put forward to what is going to happen to the pub. Considering there was a lot of input from WODC planners, it is difficult to accept. It is a shame to see the loss of the pub. The Council were being forced into making a decision to save the pub.

The Council took a vote on this matter: to accept this planning application as presented to the Council.

In favour – 1 vote, Against - 6 votes, Abstention – 1.

A letter of objections will be sent to Planners as discussed.

WODC has granted: (Reported under Any Other Business)

- 13/0932 Lancut House, Lyneham Road. Erection of carport/store.
- 13/0935 Alfred Groves & Sons Ltd, Shipton Road. Alterations to rebuild the existing DIY shop destroyed by fire incorporating new first floor offices.
- 13/0989 Harry's Cottage, Upper Milton. Conversion of garage to create self contained annex.
- 13/1097 22 Poplar Farm Close. Replace flat roof with pitched roof.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Councillors were reminded to let WODC know of any changes to their registers of interest.

Cheque received from Milton Sports Association representing £1.00 peppercorn rent and £100.00 donation to the Village Green.

Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association is holding its AGM on Thursday 17 October 2013 at 7.30pm and members are invited to attend.

Letter received from resident concerning the bus shelter and the Allotments.

Playbus – Mobile Santa's grotto is available for visits. Cllr Jones will forward this information on to possible interested groups.

Following an agreement between Thames Valley Police and WODC, police front counter services in Chipping Norton will soon be moving to a more convenient town centre location with extended opening hours.

Community emergency planning events are being held on Wednesday 23 October or Thursday 7 November, 6.30 – 8pm at Council Chambers, Abbey House, Abingdon.

The Council agreed to receive 1 free bag of bulk salt and also to purchase 1 additional bag at £100 from OCC Highways for the Winter.

Cllrs were reminded of the informal evening with Ascott and Shipton Parish Councils on Tuesday 24 September 2013 at the Wychwood Inn at & 7.30pm. Very much an informal evening to swap ideas.

The consultation exercise for the review of subsidised bus services is now in progress.

The Council agreed to a donation of £100 to West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau.

There were no objections to a request from tenant to keep 4 hens on his allotment providing it is within the Rules.

The Clerk has various circulars and email correspondence.

VILLAGE GREEN:

Cllr Rawlins reported that new proposal for the play equipment will be circulated and is costing approximately £60K. Mr Gibbs is looking at grants available and it is hoped that the Parish Council will help fund as the precept has been increased to help fund this project. The equipment is for the upper age limit and children have been asked what they would like.

The committee is aware Shipton made a really good job of replacing their play equipment and many grants were obtained.

It was agreed not to do anything about the tennis nets until next Spring.

Mr Grant will be asked to remove the basal shoots from the lime trees.

ACCOUNTS: The following payments were agreed:

E Parsons	- salary	228.80	M Ricketts	118.28
	- expenses	12.50	Shipton PCC	15.00
Alfred Groves & Sons		7.04	K Grant	1340.00
HMRC		281.80	Citizens Advice Bureau	100.00
			TOTAL	£2103.42

Payments received:

Pound rents	162.50
Cemetery	75.00
Milton Sports Association	101.00

PUBLIC:

Mr O'Keefe reported on Neighbourhood Action Group and agreed to email the Parish Council on a monthly basis of matters arising. He informed the Council that they would have to be registered if they were going to use CCTV cameras.

The Parish Council was thanked for their decision on the Quart Pot. There is still concern that the pre-application discussions will allow the application to be acceptable. The developer is getting away with the bear minimum.

The Council were asked what was happening at the site where the paddling pool used to be on the Village Green. This is now over grown where there was a BMX track and should be tidied up.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllrs Helen Jones reported that she has not heard anything from Builders Ede regarding the pollarding of the trees at Church Meadow.

Cllr Smith reported that highway sign at High Lodge T-junction is missing. This matter was passed to County Cllr Rose.

The grass has been cut at the entrance gates to the village at Bruern Road.

Chairman will remove the fence at Elm Grove.

There has been a recent increase in crime and anti social behaviour within the community and a lack of presence of our PCSOs. Cllr Marsden put a suggestion forward for the Parish Council to consider funding a patroller. This would act as a deterrent. Residents are finding it difficult to get through by telephoning 101 for the police.

Chairman informed the Council that the Clerk has handed in her notice. It was agreed a note should be put in the forthcoming newsletter.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

NEXT MEETING - Wednesday 16 October 2013