

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 17 September 2014 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

APOLOGIES: Ian Marsden

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: Councillor Naish about the Post Office

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.  
One small amendment to change 2014 to 2015.

PUBLIC:

Mr Chapple, representing the Milton under Wychwood Action Group (MUWAG), made a request that minutes of the PC meetings should be made available before the next meeting, he also maintained there was an option for further housing on the proposed site and there had been permission from the village fete organisers to allow members of MUWAG to obtain signatories against the development at the fete. He hoped the PC would provide support to oppose the SHABA plans and step up to the challenge. He wanted to know the PC response to the Local Plan by WODC and whether working with CPRE and Shipton Council on the matter.

The Chair responded that the PC had decided to support the Local Plan and had submitted a response to the consultation to that effect. It had not discussed the plan with CPRE or Shipton PC. Also noted the point on the minutes but confirmed they are not published until ratified and that happens at the next meeting. On the option on the land Mr Hartley had publicly said no option and takes that as his public statement as made to the PC. One councillor on the fete committee and he was not aware of permission being given for signatures to be sought for the petition at the fete.

Also updated that the cemetery gates have now been fitted. Currently fixed at open until people get used to them being there. These were partly funded by Cllr Rose's community budget.

MATTERS ARISING:

Chair – will obtain a quote for the bus shelter tile replacements.

Re. Little Stock Brook, he had resubmitted an application following advice of Daryl Buck, Bio Diversity Officer. Resubmitted to Environment Agency. They have said they will give a decision within 50 days. The urgency of the matter had been stressed.

Councillor Haine – The defibrillator to be fitted at the village hall on 24 September

PLAY EQUIPMENT:

Councillor Rawlins gave an update. There has been another meeting and an application has been submitted to WODC. Also meeting with Michael Bishop re possible funding support, Bruern Abbey. The Community Action Group has raised £5,000 and £2,000 from Cottsway. The plans are available to see and hope to be able to start work in Spring 2015.

Cllr Haine raised concerns about the shelter in the plans. Cllr Rawlins said this was not set in stone. Cllr. Laura Jones said no decisions would be made without the PC seeing the plans.

Thanked the PC for their pledge of £20,000 and hope to receive a similar sum from WODC. The sub-committee have met with Shipton PC to hear about their experiences and Martin Gibb helping with the bid.

#### POST OFFICE:

Laura Tarling from the Post Office gave a short presentation on the future of Milton Post Office. She thanked John and Edna Naish for their long service. Since John indicated he would be leaving the Post Office they have looked for alternative accommodation. Had hoped this could be the Co-op but they have decided they can't take on the branch. Now need to look at other options to explore so that an outreach service can be offered in Milton. This would be offered by another fulltime Post Office manager. Possible premises to explore are the village hall, sports club. The Library is not able to take it on. The offer would be four sessions a week for three hours. Speed now of the essence. Happy to look at all options. Current provision will finish at the end of November.

Discussion followed. It became clear not a viable financial option to continue as it is with offer from PO. Locations suggested included also Wychwood Estate Agents and vets. Peter Rawlins has not been approached by the PO re. his property where it is currently sited.

#### DEFIBRILLATOR:

Clarification of funding donated to PC. Go ahead given to purchase two. Need acceptance from Mr Bigg of his donation before the PC can purchase a third. The Sports Club will also have one from Sport England. Sites for two being purchased are the Baptist Church and Prews garage.

#### COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT:

Councillor Rose updated on the latest Cabinet reshuffle. He now has additional responsibilities for Fire Service, Emergency Planning and Corporate Plan.

He had met with Four Square re. the road markings outside the development on Shipton Road. New road markings and changes to curb should now happen. They have offered a shared noticeboard with PC for village hall.

The Broadband cabinet outside the old Post Office has been relocated to correct position. Broadband now went to 10,000 properties.

Other news – schools in West Oxfordshire continued improvement in GCSE results. The changes to libraries are starting to take place and bedding in well. Volunteers signing up to help. 300 so far for 21 libraries. Hope they will be in place by January.

Annual budget settlement for February is looking dismal.

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Two planning applications received this month.

#### Applications

14/1230      Erection of single storey extension at 33 The Sands  
                 No objection

14/1263      Windrush House, Shipton Road

Erection of rear conservatory  
No objection

No update on the Quart Pot or Sharba Homes. Cllr Rawlins had circulated to councillors the conversation he had had with owner of land on Church Road and his possible plans for development. No application to date.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Wild Garden and annual donation of £500 request. Agreed this could be paid but the clerk to ask for an annual reminder to be sent to the PC for consideration.

Archery – request to use local land to run archery classes. Not something for PC land. If they come back could advertise in the newsletter.

Two letters re. plants getting overgrown in Elm Grove. Cllrs agreed to meet on Sunday 23 Sept at 9.30am to agree a way forward on this. Also to discuss the response to the Parish Survey.

Salt Bins – Clerk to order one bag of free salt.

**VILLAGE GREEN:**

Agreed notices could be put on the railings if they relate to village events but not to advertise. Gap at end of the Green that needs some planting.

One quote to sort the hedge on the Green by Pear Tree Close houses has been submitted.

Another two bids would need to be obtained as over £500. £125 agreed for tree cutting at No 6.

Cllr Rawlins had a meeting re ROSPA report. Some ground work to fill in and a mirror to be replaced. He will fit and has ordered it.

**ACCOUNTS:** The following payments were agreed:

August:

Citizens Advice Bureau - £50

C Redman – salary and expenses £241.50

M Ricketts Salary - £170.44

Grass Cutting - £2,530.50

Alfred Groves - £55.84

Playsafe Rospa Inspection - £199.20

Total £3,247.28

Payments in

Cemetery £75

September

Clerks salary and expenses £241.30

Stamps and stationery £23.86

M Ricketts £149

Tree Surgeon £660

Grass Cutting - £1,608.75

Alfred Groves - £3.52

BDO LLP audit - £396

Two defibrillators £3,376.20

HMRC Tax - £305.40  
Cemetery Gates - £2,124  
Total £8888.03

Payments in  
Cemetery £275  
Defibrillator donations £1,386  
Total £1736

#### PUBLIC:

Suggestion Quart Pot could reopen with the Post Office as part of it.

Member of the public raised concerns about the manner people had spoken at the last meeting re. proposed new homes. If fields and gardens hadn't been built on many people wouldn't currently be able to live in the village. Felt some people behaved disrespectfully towards the PC at the meeting and maybe they should think about putting their names forward at the next PC elections. John Naish said it was two and a half years since he said he wanted to step down. He wants to keep the PO but the salary being offered would not be enough to cover costs as a stand alone business. Thanks for getting the box moved.

Mr Chapple expressed the villages thanks to Mr and Mrs Naish for their time at the Post Office. He requested a salt bin for Upper Milton. Asked outcome of Lyneham Road planning application. The PC had objected to this on the grounds it would set a precedent for other development and in AONB. The plans had been rejected by WODC.

Request made re. removal of trees in Elm Grove that it is a play area for local children and take account of this in any plans.

Is there WIFI facility at the village hall and any plans to install it?

A new clerk to the PC has been appointed. Mrs Jenny Miller.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr Helen Jones continuing to try to get interest in welcome pack. Little appetite from local business. Will put one last advert in the newsletter.

Cllr Rawlins said the Welfare Trust has decided to increase allotment fee from £7 to £9. Welfare Trust has given £700 to local people and institutions.

Cllr Haine said Candice Hatwell had approached him. They would like to put a bench on the Green in memory of George Hatwell. This idea was welcomed.

Pound Wall in poor state. The Chair will find someone to tidy this up.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.