

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16th March 2016

PRESENT: DCllr Haine, Cllrs Jones, Naish (Chairman), Pratt, Rawlins, Smith, Trotman, CCllr Rose; Parish Clerk: Jenny Miller; 24 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Collett

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Cllr Haine declared current planning applications; Cllr Rawlins declared the planning application 16/00585/HHD The Laurels.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The February minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC

Parking outside The Hare: Whilst there is much support for the opening of the pub, concern was expressed regarding increased and potentially dangerous parking outside and along lower end of High Street. Cllr Haine informed PC that the planning officers have noted the increased build-up of traffic on this stretch.

Dog fouling: PC was informed that there is a team of volunteers seeking to highlight the dog fouling problem in the village. It was suggested more dog waste bins are required along Elm Grove/Frog Lane/The Sands. PC to look into WODC dog waste bin provision. Particular concern about fouling on village green and allotments. Suggestion made that dogs being banned altogether on the green or kept on leads.

Allotments: Request for the website to provide clear contact details for residents seeking to rent an allotment. It was suggested that a second tap be installed to service Welfare Trust allotments. Cllr Trotman suggested this could be done at little cost with a small team of volunteers and will be raised at next Allotments meeting.

The Heath: Thanks extended to Cllr Naish for support during recent period of heavy rainfall.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Weed control: Cllr Trotman awaiting contact details.

Grass cutting: Cllr Haine reported that the MSA have paid for an extra cut on the football field this month.

6. FOOD VANS

6.1 Consideration of whether to charge mobile food/drink vans

Discussion followed. Consideration should take into account the benefit offered by the service and the benefit a hire fee could bring to the village as well as alternative locations such as the lay-by. Pizza van has offered to make a donation. Elsewhere, vans are charged £50 per month for one night per week. It was proposed that £25 should be charged per van per month. This was seconded and the vote carried in favour of asking for a hire fee. Clerk to look into insurance.

7. USE OF RECREATION GROUND TENNIS COURT FOR CHILDRENS' TENNIS COACHING

7.1 Consideration of a hire fee and booking system for commercial use.

Discussion followed about the suitability of the court with particular concern registered for young children being injured as area often scene of anti-social behaviour, drinking etc. It was suggested that Lengthperson could do extra sweep of the court prior to organised activities and a hire fee could contribute to this cost. Before a decision is made, PC to look at state of court and Clerk to contact tennis coach to draw attention to the concerns expressed here and insurer. It was agreed that informal taster sessions could take place at the coach's own risk. Risk assessments will be necessary if not currently in place for this area.

8. PLAY EQUIPMENT

8.1 Seating area

Cllr Rawlins gave update on progress of installation. Currently on hold due to wet conditions. Top soil to be deposited in copse. Idea proposed for a covered seating area adjacent to new equipment. Cost is subject to any additional fundraising. Sub-committee to present range of seating options to PC before decision made.

8.2 Opening ceremony

A Sunday towards end of April has been proposed for official opening with discussion about who could open it.

9. QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY 'PICNIC IN THE PARK'

9.1 Date/time suggestion of 15th May 12-2.30pm.

Local musicians, hopefully school children, to provide tasteful background music; marquee to be hired; MSA ablutions to be available for event.

9.2 Consideration of bouncy castle hire.

Clerk to check with insurer.

10. CHURCHYARD LIME TREES

Cllr Trotman reported that following recent storms, large branches have fallen down but more dead wood remains. Clerk to obtain quote for maintenance works.

11. CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

11.1 Parking on verge in front of cemetery

It was reported that grass between road and cemetery hedge is being churned up by cars parking indiscriminately. Temporary 'No parking' notices have been erected but permanent measures required. Query as to whether grass belongs to PC or OCC. Cllr Rose informed PC that any intervention needs to comply with Highways specification which Cllr Rose will provide. Proposal to go ahead with any work to deter parking on grass verges outside cemetery in principle was passed and vote carried.

12. ALLOTMENTS MAINTENANCE

12.1 Tap replacement

Existing tap support post in need of replacement. Probable total cost for materials is £10 with Milton Volunteers doing the work. Motion to proceed with work. All in favour, vote carried.

12.2 Corner markers

Numbered markers suggested to more easily identify plots. Probable cost estimated at £47 + VAT for each side of allotments and Allotment team to do work. Motion to proceed with work. All in favour, vote carried.

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

13.1 Notification of neighbouring properties

A comment made by a member of the public on the WODC planning portal about the involvement of the PC in planning applications was discussed. The PC was in agreement that it is not for the PC to advise neighbouring properties of a nearby planning application. The yellow signs displayed outside properties are to alert neighbours and the PC encouraged the public to register with the WODC planning portal for an alert should any neighbouring properties submit a plan. Cllr Jones to display this information on the website. Clerk to write to the residents concerned.

14. LITTLESTOCK BROOK

To be deferred until Cllr Collett is present with information regarding advice by Environment Agency.

15. PURCHASE OF PRINTER FOR CLERK

Consideration of whether £50 for a recommended printer for Clerk is a reasonable expense for PC to cover. Motion passed for clerk to purchase printer. All in favour, vote carried.

16. ANNUAL SALARY REVIEW

16.1 Clerk

It was proposed that both Clerk and Lengthperson salary should increase on 1st April 2016 in accordance with NALC rates. Vote carried.

16.2 Lengthperson

No formal contract in place to date and statutory holiday pay is owed. It was proposed that prior to paying retrospective holiday entitlement, a contract to be drawn up ASAP and holiday entitlement to be reviewed by Cllrs Trotman and Pratt with Clerk with guidance from OALC/NALC. All in favour, vote carried.

17. SHARBA CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman read out correspondence from Clerk and Kathryn Ventham of Barton Wilmore. Chairman stated that the statement made by Ms Ventham acting for Sharba Homes (*"in reaching the decision not to object the PC actively consulted residents"*) was reference to her own enquiries of around 60 residents in the village and therefore the statement was not incorrect as previously discussed. Therefore no further action will be taken.

18. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Rose gave an update on the Didcot Power station accident as well as the latest bus service news. He has been involved with promising discussions with Stagecoach. There is hope of possible funding to mitigate the bus cuts. The PC was told that should a unitary council be established, the PC would be directly impacted.

19. PLANNING:

19.1 16/00585/HHD The Laurels, Jubilee Lane

Objection

19.2 16/00426/FUL Green Mount, Frog Lane

No Objection

Previous applications decided by WODC:

16/00192/HHD	4 Sunnyview	App withdrawn
15/04253/HHD	52 High Street	Approved
15/04194/HHD	Malt house, Shipton Rd	Approved
16/00005/HHD	Orchard Bungalow, Shipton Rd	Approved
16/00142/HHD	Cotswold, Shipton Road	Approved
16/00277/HHD	17 Poplar Farm Close	Approved

20. CORRESPONDENCE

All Councillors had received correspondence ahead of the meeting and those matters relevant to the Council were raised. These included

20.1 Tesco community grant for allotments. Cllr Trotman has registered and will pass on further information when available. Possibility of £8000 grant for community use.

20.2 Motocross riders – The riders have been given permission to be on private land but will be reminded of the public footpath routes. Farmer requests that walkers keep to public footpaths particularly around miscanthus fields where paths around private land have developed – concern that tractors will not expect to see walkers on these paths particularly in harvesting periods.

21. VILLAGE GREEN

Field mats at gate: Topsoil from play equipment installation to be put under field mats at entrance to green.

Driveway resurfaced: Cllr Haine reported that this had been paid for by the MSA.

22. ACCOUNTS

Clerk reported that payments in and bank balance were unavailable since February/March bank statements had not yet been received for this month. Cheques were signed by 2 Councillors. Chairman moved to approve payments. Vote carried. January/February bank statements were signed by the Chairman.

23.1 Payments out approved:

i.	Playdale	£ 11,762.24
ii.	Alfred Groves bin bags	£ 10.53
iii.	OALC subscription (subject to approval)	£ 314.23

iv.	OPFA subscription (subject to approval)	£	50.00
v.	Community First (ORCC) subscription (subject to approval)	£	70.00
vi.	Clerk salary	£	320.23
vii.	Lengthperson salary	£	128.81
viii.	FC Harriss railings repair	£	264.00
viii.	Nicholsons Nurseries hedging for cemetery	£	51.90

TOTAL	£ 12,971.94
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Cash book (in absence of bank balance) as of 29.02.16 £83,936.45

23. PUBLIC

Tennis coaching: Request that the tennis court be maintained in order to encourage use by local people.

Suggestion that a disclaimer might deal with any potential injuries during a tennis coaching session.

Seating area in park: Reference made to the covered seating in Shipton park which has not been damaged or abused. Request that location of seating be carefully considered so as to dissuade anti-social behaviour.

Sharba "silent majority": concern expressed that the reference made by Sharba to the WODC about those the Chairman spoke to who were in favour of the development, has left a lasting impression with the planning officers.

Anti-social behaviour in village: Question as to what can be done about this increasing problem.

Part-time employees: ACAS suggested as good point of contact for questions of salary and entitlement for part-time employees.

Littlestock Brook: Subsidence in recent rainfall has narrowed brook to 1m in places.

Opening ceremony: Suggestion made of combining opening ceremony and the Queen's birthday celebrations to afford maximum attendance.

24. AOB

Community First Local Plan information day: Cllr Pratt was glad of the opportunity to attend.

OALC New Councillors training day: Cllrs Pratt and Trotman attended and reported it was very useful.

Milton Volunteers: Willing to take on Cemetery as a long term project. Clerk to check regulations regarding cleaning of memorial stones.

Greensquare/WODC grants for play equipment: Cllr Jones requested copies of play equipment invoice for records. Should there be any press release regarding new play equipment, logo is to be prominent.

25. CLOSE

Cllr Naish closed the meeting at 9.40pm.