

Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th October 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Boyle (KB), DCllr Haine (JH), Cllrs Pratt (JP), Rawlins (PR), Smith (CS), Chairman Trotman (CT), Ward (PW), Young (PY); Parish Clerk: J. Miller; 14 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: CCllr RR

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

JH declared an interest in all planning applications. CT in planning app 16/02851/OUT.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Sept draft minutes were considered. CT moved to approve. All in favour, motion carried.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Neighbourhood Plan: Preliminary steps to proceed are underway. Planning Committee will make NP an Agenda item before any cost is involved in order to proceed further subject to PC approval.

Land adjacent to The Hare pub: Planning application has been refused and it is likely to be appealed so Planning Inspectorate will have final decision.

Grass cutting contract renewal: Tenders received for 2017-18 contract to be considered at November meeting following advertisement in newspaper and online today.

5. PUBLIC SESSION FOR AGENDA RELATED ITEMS

Village Green: Residents of houses adjacent to north side of the play areas reported inconsiderate use of speakers by older teenagers during summer months in particular and drug dealing by groups of youths has been noticed beyond the new play equipment which is of great concern. PC were asked to bear this in mind when considering positioning of new play area seating. Also of concern is the BMX track which is developing at an alarming pace with large holes which may result in injury to people or animals.

6. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:

6.1 Chairman's Report (CT)

Milton Volunteers: working towards completing the installation of the posts along the cemetery verge as well as planting the Woodland Trust trees received last year around the perimeter of the cemetery. The bushes at Elm Grove have been cut back and added to the new grass cutting contract.

Littlestock Brook: permission being sought to begin work from landowners.

Speed survey: results from 24 hour survey were received today and have not yet been seen by PC, but preliminary report from Police suggests that there was no further action required based on the survey.

Church Road drainage from Green to Church: referred to OCC for investigation.

Clerk's role review: process to review 1) job description and hours 2) Clerk's salary is in line with job description and hours.

Newsletter: 1000 glossy copies printed at cost of £80 and acknowledgment that the Autumn issue is late this year. Quarterly publication will resume from Christmas.

6.2 District Councillor's Report (JH)

In response to report last month from RR regarding OCC Unitary Council proposals, JH gave a comprehensive update on the current position of WODC in these proposals. He suggested that outcomes of the OCC proposal would result in car park charges in Oxfordshire and more service cuts as opposed to service modifications to reduce costs. WODC also claim that the proposed area covered by the Council would fail to recognise the needs and differences of each area. He concluded by reinforcing that WODC wish to work collaboratively with other District Councils and OCC to reach a solution.

7. CONSIDERATION OF TREE PRUNING (CT)

7.1 Village Green/Cemetery: Proposal to seek professional advice from WODC regarding large Lime trees on Village Green and a leaning Poplar at the cemetery boundary, both of which are deemed to be potentially dangerous. CT made a proposal to proceed with remedial work on trees should it be regarded as urgent to prevent an accident. Vote taken, all in favour. Motion carried.

7.2 English Yew in Churchyard: PCC requested that PC consider removing a large yew tree causing shading to Benefice Office. PC will consider a quote for pruning the tree.

8. REVIEW OF CHARGE FOR COMMERCIAL USE OF THE TENNIS COURT

PC considered the suggestion of introducing a fee but it was felt that the tennis court was intended for the free use by villagers for enjoyment of sport. JH proposed that the tennis court continue to be offered for free. Vote taken, all in favour. Motion carried.

9. LITTLESTOCK BROOK (CT/JP)

Site meeting will take place on 14th November for all parties concerned to consider the positioning of the woody dams. PC have two sources of trees for project. It is envisaged that work will begin late November pending the licence from the Environment Agency.

10. REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL/WELFARE TRUST ALLOTMENT RENT (PR)

The PC were reminded of its' duty to raise rent annually in line with the Welfare Trust (WT). There will be a discrepancy in September 2017 when PC plot rent will be £1 less than WT. Unfortunately the PC were unaware of the WT's intention to raise their rent and it is now too late to increase rent for 2017. However, the PC and WT will discuss both Farm rental and Allotment rental to make a proposal in July 2017 to bring them in line with each other.

11. PLANNING

The following planning applications were considered:

11.1 16/03551/HHD *18 The Sands* No Objection.

11.2 16/02851/OUT *44 houses on Milton Road*

Objection registered during the month due to insufficient school parking and problematic site entrance which will create more traffic dangers at a site which is already very difficult during peak times.

11.3 16/03306/HHD *36 Elm Grove*

Proposal to object on similar grounds to previous application at this site. Footprint of proposed annexe has not changed even though height has been reduced by 0.5m and basement has been removed. Vote taken, all in favour. Motion carried.

12. VILLAGE GREEN (PR)

BMX track: Whilst the PC are in favour of the BMX track in theory, it is extremely concerned that the track is being developed without any permission being sought and the current design is a potential risk to those using the green. The PC will attempt to make contact with the boys involved to clarify the problem and reach a solution.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

All Councillors had received correspondence ahead of the meeting. There were no comments.

14. DONATIONS UNDER SEC137 (JP/CT)

14.1 British Legion Poppy wreath donation last year was £50 and is an annual budgetary commitment traditionally. Proposal to approve £50 donation. Vote taken, all in favour. Motion carried.

14.2 Oxfordshire Association for the Blind donation last year was £200 and is a PC budgetary commitment this year. The charity work very closely with the JR hospital and aim to widen early intervention work and links with local government. Proposal to approve £200 donation. Vote taken, all in favour. Motion carried.

JP suggested that Clerk writes to the organisations who are included in in the 2016-17 sec 137 budget to inform them of the PC commitment and to ensure the payments are claimed before the end of financial year.

15. ACCOUNTS

Bank balance on 30th September: £78,129.26

15.1 Payments out (Oct) were approved:

Lengthperson materials	7.02
Library staffing	2032.88
Clerk salary (38hrs + work at home allowance)	470.06
Grass cutting tender newspaper advert	115.85
Lengthperson salary & holiday	300.81
Grass cutting	1668.75
PAYE Jul-Sept	155
Donation Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	50
Donation Oxfordshire Association for the Blind	200
Cemetery posts	32.87
TOTAL	5033.24

Payments in (Sept) were approved:

Interest business a/c	9.26
Pound parking	162.50
Pizza van rent	25
Allotment rent	61
Fairground contribution	50
Bank charge refund	2
Chip van rent Jun-Aug	75
VAT refund for 2015-16	9268.89
TOTAL	9653.65

15.2 CT was presented with the Sept-Oct bank statements which he signed.

16. PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS VS. BUDGET FORECAST FOR THE SECOND QUARTER

Councillors had received a copy of the accounts for the second quarter and a comparison to the 2016-17 budget. Thanks were extended to the Clerk for the clear presentation. Proposal to approve second quarter accounts statement. Vote taken, all in favour, motion carried. PC was informed that the November Agenda would include a 3 year rolling budget plan as required by the Financial Regulations. An internal auditor is to be appointed and suggestions will be considered in November meeting.

17. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (JP/CT)

17.1 To consider Councillor expenses claims: The PC was reminded that any reasonable expenses for Council related business up to the value of £50 could be claimed on production of VAT receipts.

17.2 To review the farmland rental from Sept 2018: This will be reviewed along with allotment rental in the Summer 2017.

18. PUBLIC

Bus services: Saturday service is extremely urgent especially in weeks leading up to Christmas. It was suggested that Pulham's might be approached to run their Saturday Cheltenham service on a temporary basis. PW to meet with Mr Pulham shortly and he will discuss this matter.

Village database query: PY confirmed that the priority is to set up the new PC website, which he hopes will go live in January 2017. The PC was reminded that there are a significant number of villagers who are no online and who will appreciate literature rather than being forced to find means of accessing online information or being excluded altogether.

Fallen tree: It was reported that a tree is blocking the Oxfordshire Way bridleway, approaching the Lyneham Road from Shipton. Clerk to report to OCC.

Speeding survey: Concern expressed that the outcome of the speeding survey may result in no further action in spite of a very real problem. It was suggested that perhaps the location and timing of the speed monitor was poorly chosen by OCC. PC will review the results and act accordingly.

19. AOB

Respect for those speaking in meeting: It was requested that members of the public refrain from chatting during discussion of Agenda items.

Anti-social behaviour on Village Green: PR reminded the public to approach youths on the Green with caution and if necessary to ring the police in response to inappropriate behaviour.

Christmas: Preliminary preparations will begin for the organising of the village Carols around the Tree.

PC website: Specifications will be circulated to PC in order to put out to tender.

Christmas Newsletter: Contributions requested for the issue. 'Meet the Council' will also feature.

Wychwood Magazine: CT/Clerk to write brief article based on recent reports recently circulated.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.17pm.