Milton under Wychwood (MUW) Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 18th October 2023, 1930hrs

Milton under Wychwood Village Hall

Minutes

Present:

Vice-Chairman Glynn Allcock (GA)

Councillor Rod Blackman (RB)

District Councillor Jeff Haine (JH)

Councillor John Pratt (JP)

Councillor Peter Rawlins (PR)

Chairman Graham Smith (GS)

Councillor Pat Ward (PW)

Clerk: Lara Jacques (LJ)

County Councillor Liz Leffman (LL)

9 MOP

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Chris Trotman (CT)

2. Declaration of Interests

JH – Planning, Village Hall

JP & GS – Wild Gardens

3. Proposal to approve the minutes of the September meeting

PW proposed

JH seconded

All in favour

4. Matters arising from September meeting

None

5. Public session for all items relating to this Agenda

None

6. To receive the following reports:

6.1 Chairman's Report (GS)

GS has negotiated bigger replacement dog poo bins for three locations in the village in order to prevent the regular overflow that is occurring.

GA and GS have spoken regarding the Risk Register. GS will be drafting this in the next few weeks with the aim to have this completed by the November meeting and signed off by the end of the year.

After a tedious few months of repeated contact, McAffee have agreed to refund the PC payment for the missing antivirus subscription.

GS has continued the dialogue with the solicitor regarding the recreation ground ownership. GS has been trying for 6 months to get the documents from the Charity Commission and is still waiting.

The transfer of the eco area to the PC is still in progress.

6.2 District Councillor report (JH)

The cross party Local Plan Working Group has been looking for appropriate areas for new housing and one proposal is that Carterton will be the location for a substantial amount of additional housing to the east of the town.

6.3 County Councillor Report (LL)

There has been a change of political control at the CC. Lib Dem and Green Party are now in joint minority administration. This has created a number of new cabinet members including a new member for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, following a poor OFSTED report. Agreeing the budget for 2024 will be a significant challenge for the new administration.

There is a new freight strategy proceeding. This will be pursued by two studies, one in Henley-on-Thames and one in the Windrush Valley. The aim is to look at how the Council can restrict HGV's in the general area. The Council will then create a model and potentially extend it to other areas.

There is now a county wide air quality website that has been created for guidance.

The Town and Parish Charter group will hold a meeting on the 31st October as part of drafting the charter. The aim being for towns and parishes to work more efficiently together.

There is a lot of work continuing with regards to improving potholes in the area. There have been a number of maintenance trials in the south of the county. One reduces carbon by 71% and speeds up the filling of potholes by 60% whilst also using recycled materials and tarmac.

Regarding the Climate Emergency UK analysis, Oxfordshire came out top of the list of county councils.

A fleet of 169 electric buses will be coming to Oxford shortly.

7. Planning

7.1- Licensing Applications W/23/01033/PRMV and W/23/01026/PRMA – PR, PW and GS met with the applicants for a full review of the applications to ensure that there will be no adverse impact on adjacent properties. PR also visited neighbouring properties to elicit their views on the applications.

In line with the Neighbourhood Plan the PC is supportive of the establishment and growth of small businesses in MUW and will not be objecting to the applications. JH was concerned about noise pollution from music being played outside, but was assured that background music will only be played inside.

7.3 – Feedback on the WODC Local Plan consultation meeting – The three attendees from MUW did not think that the meeting achieved its objectives, but that attendees for MUW and adjacent parishes made similar points about the importance of infrastructure needing to keep pace with development.

JP made the point that he would like to see how the new local plan is related to the previous plan; at the moment the new Plan documents do not mention the previous plan at all. That is concerning because the existing plan contains some excellent material.

Comments from other PC representatives indicate that MUW is envied for being a thriving, growing community whereas others feel that their villages are in decline.

8. RFO Report (CT)

8.1 – To approve the September income, expenditure and summary.

JP proposed

GA seconded

All in favour

8.2 –To approve the Q2 summary

JP proposed

GA seconded

All in favour

9. S106 Update (GA)

9.1 - GA and PR have been in talks regarding the play equipment on the village green. It was decided that the rocking horse and double swing were the most appropriate items to explore remedial works to. Council agreed that the cost of the wet pour improvements was not value for money so GA was to write to Sovereign letting them know we would not proceed with the work. The Sovereign inspection scheme was also deemed too expensive compared with the cost of using ROSPA so council decided to remain with ROSPA for the foreseeable future.

GA stated there is still circa £40k left of S106 funds which can be utilised for the play equipment. Research continues and a further proposal will be made as soon as possible.

Regarding the Certificate of Competence to inspect play equipment, anyone from the Council can train to do this which is worth considering in the future.

9.2 - Regarding the Arts project, GS is meeting with Julia Sorrell (a locally based artist who exhibits widely in the UK, Europe and the USA)to discuss potential ideas for art installations which fulfil the brief of the St Judes related S106 requirement.

10- S137 Applications (GS)

10.1 - To approve the annual £500 grant to Wychwood Wild Gardens

GA proposed

PW seconded

All in favour

The donation for the Poppy Appeal will also be due in November, GS to discuss offline with CT.

11. Public session for non-Agenda items.

MOP stated they were disappointed that WODC approved the application regarding Threeways. MOP stated it could be worthwhile for a Councillor to attend planning hearings to have the opportunity to hear how planning meetings are conducted.

MOP also raised a concern about the readability of the code on the defibrillator by the church. Subsequently RB confirmed that although the original code text is very faint, the code is in fact readable in the text above behind the glass door.

12. AOB

1. JP stated the Thames Water investment programme has been deferred by 5 years. We are waiting to hear whether this includes the Shipton sewage plant.

2. PW and WOCT have jointly submitted an application to OCC for a replacement new bus. It will be far more fuel efficient than the old and hopefully not as prone to breakdowns as the current ten year old bus.

   Richard Hartley has agreed to supplying and fitting owl boxes in the eco area. PW will request that the money left over from the M&M donation is used to fund this. PW will get prices and then bring a proposal to Council.

3. PR – Kevin Grant is coming to the end of his grass cutting contract for the current year.

   PR stated the replacement tennis net is still in his shed and CT and GA will construct the removeable wheels for it.

4. JH asked about getting a Christmas tree erected and organising the usual carols. CT normally negotiates a tree with the Astors. GA will speak to the owners of the adjacent house to where

the tree is erected. GS will contact CT

5. GS asked about the enforcement notice in relation to change of use at Dashwood House. The change of use for the property has been turned down. JH advised that an appeal would need to be submitted within two months of the enforcement notice being served.

   GS reminded Councillors of the importance of GDPR and keeping private information secure and not circulating details of individuals by email without their permission first.

   GS has surveyed all benches in the Milton area of which there were 22. The bench by the primary school needs urgent attention. To request the Milton volunteers to assist. GS will bring a proposal to the next meeting with regards to the cost of cleaning the benches.

Meeting closed 2015hrs