Milton Under Wychwood Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 15th February 2023, 1930hrs

Milton under Wychwood Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Rod Blackman (RB)
District Councillor Jeff Haine (JH)
Councillor John Pratt (JP)
Councillor Peter Rawlins (PR)
Councillor Graham Smith (GS)
Councillor Pat Ward (PW)

Parish Clerk: Mrs L. Jacques (LJ)
4 members of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence**

   Glynn Alcock (GA)

   Liz Leffman (LL)

   Chris Trotman (Chairman)

   In light of both the Chairman and vice-Chairman being absent, PR is acting Chairman for the meeting.

2. **Declaration of Interests**

   JH – Planning and Village Hall

3. **Proposal to approve the minutes of the January PC meeting**

   PR proposed

   JP seconded

   All in favour

4. **Matters arising from January meeting**

   Dealt with under Village Hall

5. Standing down of current Chairman and Election of Interim Chairman

JH and GA (by email) proposed GS as Interim Chairman

RB seconded

No further nominations

All in favour of GS being elected as Interim Chairman

PR stood down.

GS accepted the role of Chairman.

6. Public session for all items relating to this Agenda.

Liz Rendall, MOP, provided comment relating to planning application 23/00008/FUL

LR commented on the application stating the proposed detached garages will have as low as possible pitch to screen them from the road, further screened by mature trees which will be planted. All trees / hedgerows that will be planted will be 1 to 2 metres in height and above.

LR pointed out the proposed detached garages were similar to a nearby planning application which was approved in 2021 and provided paperwork to this effect.

LR confirmed that damage to the verges by Lansdowne will be repaired as soon as practicable.

7. To receive the following reports:

7.1.– Chairman's Report (CT)

- Kings Coronation

CT has made contact with the following:
CofE church - Liz Watts elizabethw@bfocus.co.uk
Baptist Church - John Witts john@wychwoodbaptist.org.uk
Scouts - Jonathan Ayres 1stwychwoods@gmail.com
Guides - via Jonathan
All have offered help in preparation and on the day.
WI - on the day with their refreshments - Linda Dixon
brianandlinda1@btinternet.com

- CT Responsibilities

Charity work - CT hopes to continue with this with PC's agreement the completion of transfer of burial ground.
Allotments - A committee of CT, LJ and Steve Whiting and CT will report back to PC.
Burial Ground and Admin - RB has offered to take this on
Kingham Garden Services will now liaise with LJ and RB

Website – CT hopes to continue with this with the PC's support
Pound Parking - There has been some reluctance to settle outstanding underpayments. CT recommends a proper contract is devised to include a termination clause. PR offered to see the tenant who is in arrears, and will report back at the next PC meeting.

- *CT writes - It is a disappointment to me that I cannot continue as chair until the next elections in '24. I have enjoyed my work and hopefully as a PC we have made Milton a better place to live. We have become more transparent and open to opinion and I believe this is all to the good.*

7.2. District Councillor Report (JH)

The Council Tax for 2023/24 will be £2177.35 per annum for Band D property. Made up of Parish Precept 67.66, District Council £119.38, Police £256.28 and County Council £1734.03.

Band C – Council Tax £1935.42

Band E – Council Tax £2661.21

An increase of roughly 5%.

7.3. County Councillor Report (LL) ***(added retrospectively)***

February 2023: Report to Milton Parish Council

OCC budget: At the meeting on Tuesday, OCC approved the new budget for 2023/24. Although we have had to make significant savings we are able to make some investments and these include:

£2.3 million cost of living grants to vulnerable households

£1 million for improvements to pavements and cycle paths

£2.3 million additional funding for road maintenance

£1.2 million investment in community transport – this will benefit the 210 bus that runs from the Wychwood to Witney

£3 million for tree planting as a measure to combat climate change and provide shade.

£0.6 million additional spend on flood alleviation and drainage.

£1.2 million in two new children's homes – this will unlock a grant from government of £5.4 million and will allow children who currently have to live out of county to be nearer their families

All of these are issues that I know are important to Milton residents and to the parish council.

Sustainable warmth grants: Home energy efficiency grants can be applied for online (Deadline: March 2023). OCC secured funding from the government's Sustainable Warmth Fund. Homes connected to the mains gas grid can apply for up to £10,000 and homes not connected can apply for up to £25,000 (means tested)

Call for hosts - Homes for Ukraine: A campaign encouraging people to come forward who are willing to accommodate families from Ukraine has been launched. While the government is reducing payments from the current £550 to £350 in April, or £500 for those hosting beyond 12 months, OCC has committed to maintaining the current rate of £550.

Active travel: OCC has secured over £0.5M from the government's Active Travel Capability Fund to invest in improving access to active travel. The county is also developing a plan for a 'Strategic Active Travel Network 'that will link towns and villages. While only a plan at this stage, the data collected and planning done puts OCC in a good position to bid for government money when it arises.

Potholes: Freeze thaw conditions over the past couple of months has seen a large number of potholes emerge. OCC are dealing with the backlog but will take some time. Please continue to report potholes using the 'fix my street 'app (reporting each pothole separately).

Coronation: Apply for up to £10,000 funding from the national lottery. See also the government's guide on street parties.

Electric buses: First vehicles in a fleet of 159 electric buses set to arrive in September.

Verges: Revised policy to go to Cabinet in February, with a call for trial sites from parishes

8. S106 (GA)

8.1.– Update on Caloo Site Visit (JH)

JH met with Caloo to work through the PC concerns on the tennis court surface with the site team. Following the meeting Caloo sent JH a report citing their findings.

Caloo stated the base was well compacted with no signs of damage. The sub base was as expected and had a smooth finish. The quality is in line with what would be expected. No deviations were noted. The shockpad is in good condition. The largest deviation was 4mm and Caloo allow for up to 10mm.

The surface looked bedded in and better than December 2022. The surface is in good order. There is evidence of bike use on the court which would void the warranty.

JH proposed following the report from Caloo that the withheld balance should be paid to Caloo – no further investigation would be required.

PR seconded

All in favour

PR will research possible signage regarding not allowing bikes on the courts.

JH will chase S106 team with regards to the two HRH benches.

9. Village Green (PR)

PR met with Playdale to quote for a matted floor base by the toddler swings, toddler ship where there is a protruding rock and a few other others in need of attention. Playdale will be submitting a quote to LJ.

PR and Playdale discussed the old rocking horse requesting a quote for matting at the base. Playdale will also provide a quote for replacing the rocking horse with something similar.

PR met with Martin Harris, blacksmith to discuss the tennis net and need for it to be moveable. The prototype provided needs a bigger wheel to prevent any damage to the surface. PR will revert.

PR will gain three quotes for tennis nets for a view to approve one at the March meeting.

JH stated he had been approached by a MOP requesting a football goal be left on the field for people to play football. JH will look for a suitable location and provide costings to GA.

Once received, GA to submit the S106 application for a tennis net and a football goal.

10. Proposal to change bank signatories (JP/Chairman)

JP proposed leaving the bank signatories as they are for the interim providing CT is in agreement.

PR in agreement

GS seconded

All in favour

11. Proposal to approve the Budget Revision 2023-24 taking in to account revised S106 figures (Chairman/JP)

Following receipt of the updated S106 from WODC of £43,174, the agreed budget has been adjusted to reflect this figure.

PW proposed accepting the amendment for the agreed 2023/24 budget.

PR seconded

All in favour

12. Neighbourhood Plan Examination and Work Plan for Editing (JP)

The draft examiners report has been passed for factual corrections. The NPSG met to agree the editing of the fact checking report. This has been returned to Astrid Harvey who has submitted it to the examiner and they have returned the formal report.

The DC needs to interpret the report and give the NPSG instructions for amendments to be made. DC will then determine whether the report is ready for referendum. Although unsuccessful with LGS5 the examiner has been supportive and constructive with his feedback.

13. Contract for Lengthsperson Adjustment for Holiday Pay (Chairman/JP)

Following changes to legislation regarding holiday pay, there is a need to adjust the lengthsperson contract to reflect this. JP and LJ will amend and update.

14. OCC Tree Planting (PW)

OCC are planting one tree in the village but the location is not ideal. PW is dealing to ensure the tree is planted in a more appropriate location, namely the woodland walk.

15. Proposal for a link contact for Meteor Monitoring. (Chairman)

RB will now become contact for Meteor Monitoring.

16. Proposal to install a grit/salt bin – Upper Milton

The verges are not big enough for a bin to be placed and there is concern of salt run off in to the water course. The road drainage is an OCC issue and there is a drainage problem in UM made worse after the work to the verges.

LJ will contact LL to address the drainage in the first instance.

17. Planning

23/00008/FUL

The hedgerow will be higher than the proposed garages. PR stated the Council have to look at applications as they come and as the garages will be concealed he cannot see a reason to object.

PR proposed no objection

JP seconded

All in favour. No Objection.

18. Accounts (JP)

To approve January payments, receipts and end of month reconciliation.

JP proposed

PW seconded

All in favour

Bank reconciliation as at end of January		**TOTALS**
Opening Cash Book		**£33,760.73**
Add Receipts		£7848.00
Less Payments		£1810.74
Closing Cash Book		**£39,797.99**
Add: unpresented credit		£0.00
Less: uncleared cheques		£0.00
Current Account		£39,797.99
Difference		£0.00
Investment Account		£34,336.95
Money Market		£0.03
Balance as per statement		**£74,134.97**

January Payments			
	TOTALS	£0.00	£1,810.74
Date	Description	Payee	Amount
16-Jan	PAYE	HMRC	£196.45

16-Jan	Bank Charges	HSBC	£8.00
26-Jan	Village Hall S106 VAT	MUWVH	£484.91
26-Jan	S106 1st Wychwood Scouts New A/C	1st Wychwood Scouts	£50.00
26-Jan	Parish Online	Parish Online	£120.00
26-Jan	Money Owed	GA	£29.98
31-Jan	Cemetery Gardening	KGS	£265.00
31-Jan	Clerk Salary	LJ	£456.40
31-Jan	Lengthsperson Salary	MR	£200.00

January Receipts				
			TOTALS	***7,848.00***
Date	Description	Name	Method	Amount
03-Jan	Oliver Chapple Cemetery	Stoneletters Ltd	BACS	£100.00
03-Jan	A/C Closed Wychwood Scouts	HSBC	BACS	£50.00
03-Jan	Ferriman - Cemetery	Peter Smith & Son	BACS	£100.00
27	HMRC VAT Refund	HMRC	BACS	£7598.00

19. S137 Grants (Chairman)

The application from 1st Wychwood Scouts was discussed. Accompanying paperwork was provided including accounting statements and background information, however the PC was unclear of the amount being requested so agreed that a specific list of items that are required need to be provided so that an agreement can be made with regards to funding.

LJ will update 1st Wychwood Scouts.

20. Correspondence (Chairman)

None

21. Public session for non-agenda items

MOP suggested a kissing gate at the entrance to the tennis courts to prevent bikes entering. For consideration.

22. AOB

King's Coronation. JH will speak to relevant persons to gain support and update at March meeting.

Wild Oxfordshire – PW met with Ann Berkeley who will be placing a memorial bench for Sarah Olney of natural England. Sarah was heavily involved in the rewilding project.

The ground has faired well following the very heavy rain and the woods have not flooded. The water is being held upstream which is positive.

CO has been contacted regarding the transfer or land. LJ will contact the PC solicitor's to get an update.

MOP noted it is very wet by the swings on the Village Green and asked if it could be rectified. PR noted that it had been raised at the last meeting and suspected that a broken drain is the culprit. Once it is dry enough to do so PR will investigate further.

Meeting closed 2050hrs.