Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council

Wednesday 16 August 2023 at 1930.

Minutes

Present:

District Councillor Jeff Haine (JH)
Councillor John Pratt (JP)
Councillor Peter Rawlins (PR)
Chair Graham Smith (GS)
Councillor Chris Trotman (CT)
Councillor Pat Ward (PW)
Councillor Glynn Allcock (GA)

Minute taken by GS

1. **Apologies for absence**
   Councillor Rod Blackman (RB)

2. **Declaration of Interests**
   JH - Village Hall & Planning.

3. **Proposal to approve the minutes of the July meeting**
   Proposed by PR, seconded by JP, all in favour.

4. **Public session for all items related to this Agenda**
   Three members of the public recited their objections to 23/01957/FUL Threeways, Bruern Road.

5. **Review external auditor's comments and proposal to submit a revised AGAR form (CT)**
   CT described the proposed responses to the questions raised by the external auditor and proposed submission of a suitably revised AGAR form to be signed by GS. PW seconded the proposal and all were in favour.

6. **Planning (PW/PR)**

6.1 23/01957/FUL Threeways, Bruern Road. PW summarised the assessment of the planning sub-committee which had reviewed the proposed development against the relevant policies of the Local Plan and of the AONB. PW proposed objecting to the development due to conflict with several policies of the Local Plan including those associated with AONB, PR seconded and all in favour (except JH non-voting).

7. **Proposal to fund the costs of the mosaic sited at the entrance to the Recreation Ground (GA)**
   At its January meeting the Parish Council (PC) had agreed to fund production of the mosaic in the sum of £439.86. Subsequently the actual costs were higher at £618.24. GA proposed

that the PC should fund the higher costs, CT seconded and all in favour. CT will investigate recovery of VAT.

8. **Maintenance of benches in the parish (GS)**
   At the July meeting the PC agreed to oversee maintenance of benches on PC land. Subsequently it was noted that the PC has funded installation of benches on non-PC land. It was therefore suggested that the PC should oversee maintenance of all benches on public land. GS will update the draft policy document, list all benches and their location and obtain indicative costs for undertaking maintenance.

9. **PC website updates for made Neighbourhood Plan (JP)**
   JP outlined the changes and simplifications made to lodge the made Plan on the PC website and to enable digital access to the Plan. Printed copies of the Plan will be lodged in the library and copies made available to the members of the Planning Sub-Committee and members of the NP Steering Group. The latter may have a role in reviewing the plan at its annual and five year anniversaries.

10. **Electronic Vehicle Charging points- Expression of interest form from OCC (GS)**
    Joanna van de Poll had shared an email received by her in connection with her role at the Village Hall. The email from OCC invited expressions of interest from various bodies, including parish councils, to apply for funding to install public electronic vehicle charging points.

    The only location which might be feasible from a PC point of view is the Recreation Ground. However, given the number of vehicles using the parking beside the pavilion and the narrow access to the area by the pavilion, councillors were of the view that it would not be an acceptable location for what is likely to be a modestly used facility currently. That may change if significant demand becomes apparent.

11. **Public session for non-Agenda items**
    One MOP stated that they are increasingly disappointed by the state of the village. The cemetery looks unkempt with hedges needing trimming, the allotment area is very untidy, some footpaths in the village have become difficult to negotiate because hedges and shrubbery have not been kept under control, and gutters and kerbs have weeds growing in them. CT responded that he has contacted allotment tenants responsible for four plots which have been neglected to ask them to tidy their plots or relinquish them. Action is in hand to tidy all four.

12. **AOB.**

12.1 JH asked about progress in resolving the concerns about the colour of the recently installed roof to the Groves business centre. GS referred to an email received from WODC in which the agent for Groves has proposed painting the roof grey so that it is visibly less intrusive than currently. PR will check with the person who raised the issue of the white roof to check that it will be acceptable if painted grey, especially if it is a matt finish.

12.2 GS asked about progress with the enforcement action the PC has requested in relation to Dashwood House. JH will provide an update.

12.3 GA referred to the rubber pour in the play areas on the Recreation Ground. He and PR met to discuss proposals to improve those areas. GA will obtain a firm quote for the work and bring a proposal to the PC for S106 funding to cover the cost.

12.4 GA questioned the current cost of the ROSPA inspections for the play areas. An estimate has been obtained from another company (Sovereign) which would be significantly cheaper. GA proposed switching to Sovereign. PR seconded and all in favour subject to GA confirming that there is no obligation to use ROSPA by the PC's insurers.

12.5 PR raised the issue of grass cutting to the edges of the rubber matting. It has not been done despite a request to the contractor. PR to discuss it again with the contractor and if they won't do it then an alternative contractor will be sourced.

12.6 PW referred to a number of complaints received about the cutting of the grass in the cemetery. CT confirmed that he has spoken to the contractor.

12.7 PW provided an update on the transfer of the Eco area to PC ownership (the solicitor has said it will be dealt with as a matter of priority). Richard Hartley Ltd has said that it will provide a letter covering maintenance of hedges and ditches.

12.8 PW advised that Wild Oxfordshire have been in touch to say that a memorial bench in memory of Sarah Olney will be installed on the Eco area imminently.

The meeting closed at 20:38.