Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th October 2025

at Milton-under-Wychwood Village Hall

Present: Cllr Graham Smith, Chairman
Cllr Alan Allday
Cllr Rod Blackman
Cllr Jeff Haine
Cllr Peter Rawlins
Cllr Pat Ward
Vanessa Oliveri, Parish Clerk
Chris Trotman, RFO
County Cllr Liz Leffman
10 members of the public

25/160 Apologies for Absence: were received from Cllr J Pratt.

25/161 Declaration of Interests: None.

25/162 Minutes of the 17th September 2025: Cllr R Blackman proposed to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th September 2025. Cllr P Ward seconded the proposal. All were in favour of the proposal.

25/163 Matters arising from the September meeting: None.

25/164 Public session for all items related to this Agenda: Residents spoke of their strong objection to the planning application submitted reference – 25/00744/FUL The homestead, Frog Lane, MUW.

25/165 Co-option of a Parish Councillor – The Parish Council had received an email from a resident of the village expressing an interest to become a Parish Councillor. The Chairman agreed to meet with the person to discuss the role and this would be an agenda item for the November Parish Council meeting.

25/166 To receive the following reports:

1. **Chairman's report –** There were no items to report as all items are on the agenda.
2. **District Councillor's report –** Not present at the meeting and no report received.
3. **County Councillor's report –**
    - Congestion Charge – Cllr Leffman updated the Parish Councillors on the congestion charge which was going to be implemented on 29.10.2025.
    - Local Government Organisation – All three options were to be published on 31.10.2025.
    - The latest OFSTED report will be published within the next three weeks.
    - There was to be a review of the Fire Service to move away from relying on calling in part time fire fighters and to employ more full-time fire fighters. This will go to a consultation.

25/167 Planning (PW/JH)

1.1. 25/00744/FUL The Homestead, Frog Lane, MUW - Erection of a dwelling and detached garage with associated works. (Amended plans received).
COMMENT The Parish Council regret that the revised planning application does nothing to overcome the previous objections to this application. In the Parish Council's view the revised application is still over development of the site and destroys the green open space which currently respects the landscape character of the site. The revised application does not accord with the natural beauty of the Cotswolds and the purpose of the Cotswolds National

Landscape. Our Neighbourhood Plan Policy CH1 states that any infill development should be limited to avoid a significant change in the overall open and green character of the area and be in keeping with current build densities. The application does not accord with Local Plan Policies OS2, OS4 bullet point 2, EH1, EH2 and the relevant sections of the NPPF.

The Parish Council notes OCC Highways comments but would advise that there have been two accidents resulting from restricted visibility and narrowing of the road, one to a young cyclist and the other a two-vehicle collision. Both these incidents can be solely attributed to the building of the two houses on this site. There has been extensive disruption to traffic and pedestrians using The Sands/Frog Lane intersection caused by trade vehicles parking there and we feel strongly that no further development should be permitted.

1.2. WODC Salt Cross area action plan policy 2 – main modification consultation – 6 week period 3.10.2025 – 14.11.2025.

25/168 RFO report

1. RFO report – The Parish Council received and unanimously approved the RFO report for September 2025.
2. September Summary – Cllr R Blackman proposed to approve the September 2025 summary. Cllr P Rawlins seconded the proposal. All in favour.
3. To approve Q2 report – Cllr P Rawlins proposed to approve the Q2 report. Cllr J Haine seconded the proposal. All in favour.
4. The PC received and reviewed the External Auditor's comments for year ending 31st March 2025. The comments will be discussed with the internal auditor.

25/169 New provider for the web site and .gov.uk registration – The PC received three quotations to supply a website and gov.uk email addresses. The PC agreed to go with Town & Parish Council websites at £499.00 + VAT per annum which includes an annual cost for website hosing. There will be a set up cost of £300.00.

25/170 Village green

1. Football pitch improvement update (GS) - GS is still trying to get a meeting arranged between the FA representative and representatives of the football teams.
2. Car park re-surfacing update (GS) – Cllr Smith reported that an ad was placed with the Witney Gazette requesting tenders for re-surfacing. The specification was also sent to four companies which previously submitted tenders. All tenders were to be sent to the Clerk's email address and placed in a sealed envelope until the Finance Committee meet where the envelopes will be opened. This will be an agenda item for the November PC meeting.
3. Play equipment safety checks and remediation (PR/GS) – Awaiting a date from Playdale to carry out the work. Once that work has been done it is proposed that we resume the rota of fortnightly safety checks once. Rota to be confirmed at the November PC meeting.
4. Update on visit to the Oxford History Centre (GS) - GS has made one visit and will be returning on 16/10 to look at data which has just been archived/catalogued.

25/171 Biodiversity plan (GS/PW)

1. Update on fencing of ponds in Sarah's Meadow – Cllr Smith reported that the fencing work was to be done in the week commencing 17/11. Notices advising people of the impending work to be posted the week before.
2. Update on provision of a management plan – Cllr Smith reported that the first few maps and associated sections of the plan have been received in draft. The full plan will be circulated when received.

25/172 Tree survey actions on priorities (RB) – Cllr Blackman reported that he was in the process of

getting three quotations for the tree survey. This was to be an agenda item for the November PC meeting.

25/173 Pedestrian Exit to St Judes (GS) – Update on request for hedges to be trimmed. Cllr Smith has exchanged emails with a representative of St Judes who is going to request that the service company which maintains their grounds trims the hedges.

25/174 Update on potential use of Speedwatch signs (GS) – Several members of the public have complained about speeding vehicles and asked about ways of checking/monitoring speeds. Cllr Smith has obtained information from Shipton PC about devices they use, but AA has also contacted TVP Speedwatch scheme and is getting information about their training and support.

25/175 Revised geographic allocations per councillor (JP) – The Parish Councillors received Cllr Pratt's proposed area allocation and unanimously approved the proposal.

25/176 Bus Route 210

1. 210 bus usage **–** The PC received figures for the 210 bus usage for information.
2. To discuss email received requesting assistance in funding the 210 bus service. The PC unanimously agreed for this to be an item for the November PC meeting as the email had only just been received the day of the meeting.

25/177 Public session for non-Agenda items – None.

25/178 AOB –

- Bowls Club thanked the PC for the grant towards the repair of their club house roof which has now been repaired.
- Cllr Haine apologised for not be able to attend the November PC meeting.
- Cllr Haine will not be able to organise the carol singing around the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. Cllr Allday and the Parish Clerk offered to help with organising the event.
- Cllr Smith offered to contact Bruen Farms for a Christmas tree.
- It was noted that Muddy Spades were not cutting the football pitch short enough. Cllr Rawlins agreed to have a word with Muddy Spades.
- Letter to be posted to the residents in the High Street who were leaving their rubbish bins on the footpath, blocking access for pushchairs, wheel chairs and mobility scooters.
- It was noted that the Welfare Trust were giving away £550.00 in grant money.
- Cllr Smith agreed to organise a wreath to be laid at the War Memorial on Remembrance Day on behalf of the Parish Council.
- The PC noted that Muddy Spades had overcharged for grass cutting. The RFO had contacted Muddy Spades who had agreed to repay the overpayment to the PC.
- Cllr Rawlins had agreed to meet Muddy Spades to discuss cutting back overhanging trees in Elm Grove.

25/179 Date of Next Meeting: 19th November 2025

The meeting closed at 8.28pm.