Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th April 2026

at Milton-under-Wychwood Village Hall

Present: Cllr Graham Smith, Chair
Cllr Alan Allday
Cllr Jeff Haine
Cllr John Pratt
Vanessa Oliveri, Parish Clerk
Chris Trotman, RFO
County Cllr Liz Leffman
District Cllr Adam Clements
5 members of the public

26/063 Apologies for Absence: Cllr Rawlins, Cllr Blackman and Cllr Ward.

26/064 Declaration of Interests: Cllr J Haine and Cllr A Allday declared an interest in item 11 Section 137 grant applications as Cllr Haine is the Treasurer to the Village Fete Committee and completed the Section 137 grant form. Cllr Allday is the Chairman to the Village Fete Committee.

26/065 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th March 2026: Cllr Pratt proposed to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th March 2026. Cllr Allday seconded the proposal. All were in favour of the proposal.

26/066 Matters arising from the meetings of 18th March 2026: None.

26/067 Minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 23rd March 2026: Cllr Pratt proposed to approve the minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 23rd March 2026. Cllr Haine seconded the proposal. All were in favour of the proposal.

26/068 Public session for all items related to this Agenda: None.

26/069 To receive the following reports:

1. **District Councillor Adam Clements report –**
   - At a full District Council meeting it passed a motion calling for Thames Water to be placed under public ownership.
   - The District Council's Local Plan is on course for Regulation 19 consultation in June .
   - A Community Grants fund of £185K has been established through the District Council with up to £30K available per application. Two grant applications can be made in one year per applicant.
   - Cllr Clements confirmed he could attend the Parish Council's APM on 10th June 2026.
2. **County Councillor Liz Leffman's report –**
   - Re-organisation of Council's – not due to hear anything until July 2026.
   - Devolution – The Government asked for expressions of interest on a mayoral authority for Thames Valley. A decision on submissions won't happen until after the May elections
   - The Fire & Rescue Service consultation has now concluded and recommendations will be considered by OCC next week. That is likely to include a move to recruit more full time firefighters at Witney and Chipping Norton fire stations. The Clerk asked if OCC could offer an incentive to businesses to allow some of their workers out on fire calls in the day time, as this was the period when the Fire Service were struggling to recruit fire fighters.
   - OCC has twenty-five teams filling in pot holes in the County and are getting through filling in a large number of the pot holes reported. Some of the repairs are temporary

(because of the water present at the time of repair) and will be filled on a permanent basis in the summer months.

- OCC have been undertaking road resurfacing works in the County, with some of them already completed, eg near Charlbury.
- Upper Milton 20mph speed limit extension is still planned and should be implemented in July 2026
- The improvement to pedestrian areas in Frog Lane will also be undertaken in this financial year
- OCC are investigating the issue with the spring coming up through the road in Upper Milton, Cllr Leffman will find out the result of the investigation.

26/070 Planning

1. **Planning application - 26/0050/FUL Greenacres, Upper Milton -** Erection of a self-build single storey dwellinghouse with associated parking and landscaping, demolition of agricultural shed, and associated works.
   COMMENT: The Parish Council agreed that this application should be refused as it goes against Local Plan Policies OS2, OS4, H2 and EH2. It is also not in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan Policies CH1 and Area F or the Cotswold National Landscape (AONB).

   This is a case where the local farmer wishes to retire to much smaller accommodation without moving out of the area. The applicant's agent is clearly aware that the application is not in accordance with Local Plan Policies and makes the case that the redundant timber farm buildings could be replaced with a single storey, flat roofed dwelling, in timber, which according to her would blend in with the remaining farm buildings. This is an attempt to disguise the building from being a house which the Planning Committee do not agree with. The Planning Committee do not like the design or the materials of the proposed dwelling as it considers that it would look very much out of place.

   The Planning Committee have noted that there are two substantial, residential dwellings next to the redundant, timber farm buildings proposed to be demolished which do not look out of place in the area. The Planning Committee wish to advise the Planning Officer that if an application were to come in for the replacement of the redundant farm buildings with a modest, two bed bungalow, in stone and tile, in that location or close by, the Parish Council would not object subject to the dwelling being made subject to an Ag Tag.

   The Planning Committee considers that the Ag Tag is important as it would retain the proposed dwelling in agriculture and give a clear indication that unfettered development would not be acceptable.

2. **Planning application – 26/00191/HHD Quartern, The Heath, MUW -** Removal of existing conservatory and side extension. Erection of two storey side extension and single storey extensions to create front and rear bay windows to sitting room.
   COMMENT: The Parish Council support this planning application.

26/071 Finance

1. RFO report- The RFO reported that the first half of the precept had been received. The CNL grant money of £10,000.00 had been received towards the car park resurfacing project as have most of the other donations. The Council therefore approved the RFO to pay the ODS invoice for the car park resurfacing now the work had been completed. Cllr Pratt proposed to approve the RFO report. Cllr Smith seconded the proposal. All were in favour of the proposal.
2. March summary – Cllr Haine proposed to approve the March summary. Cllr Allday seconded the proposal. All were in favour of the proposal.

3. Q4 Statement – Cllr Pratt proposed to approve the Q4 statement. Cllr Haine seconded the proposal. All were in favour of the proposal.
4. End of Year Statement – Cllr Pratt proposed to approve the End of Year Statement. Cllr Haine seconded the proposal. All were in favour of the proposal.
5. Review of 2026/7 budget – The Council reviewed the 2026/27 budget. Cllr Pratt proposed to approve the amended budget. Cllr Haine seconded the proposal. All were in favour of the proposal.

26/072 The Annual Parish Meeting – The Council discussed the proposed topics and format of the Annual Parish Meeting – Cllr Smith and Cllr Pratt updated the Council on the proposal to focus on the WODC Local Plan 2043 which is nearing its final consultation stage. District Cllr Clements confirmed that he will attend the APM on 10th June 2026 to talk on WODC's Local Plan 2043, and hopes to be accompanied by Hugo Ashton and Andrew Thomson. Cllr Allday agreed to help organise the drinks and nibbles for the APM.
The Council agreed to invite the Chairman of MARC to talk about the community allotment at the APM. The RFO will consult with him to see if he is available on 10th June 2026.

26/073 Section 137 grant applications

1. Section 137 grant application for the Village Fete Committee to purchase a marquee. Cllr Pratt proposed to award a grant of £1,500.00 to the Village Fete to purchase a marquee.Cllr Smith seconded the proposal. All were in favour of the proposal. Cllr Haine thanked the Parish Council for the generous grant approval.
2. Section 137 grant application for MUW Primary School to help purchase wooden sheds to store wellington boots. The Council asked that the Primary School apply for grant funding using the Section 137 grant form available on the Parish Council website. The RFO will contact the applicant accordingly. The Parish Council will assess the grant application at the May PC meeting, and ask for the form to be submitted at least a week prior to the PC meeting.

26/074 Village green

1. Football pitch improvement update – Cllr Smith has created a Pitch Power Account and is awaiting contact from the Oxon FA rep as to how to complete the grant application.
2. Car park re-surfacing update – ODS completed the drainage works on Friday 10 April and the car park resurfacing project is now complete. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to have a plaque to acknowledge all contributors to the funds needed to pay for the resurfacing. Cllr Smith agreed to draft some words for the plaque and circulate to the Parish Councillors for comment. The Council agreed to Cllr Smith obtaining quotes to repair/renovate the gates to the entrance of the recreation ground car park.
3. Play equipment safety checks and remediation – Cllr Smith confirmed that safety checks are being carried out per schedule (Cllr Haine had carried out his inspection most recently), Cllr Smith will do his on the coming weekend. Cllr Smith proposed to get a group together to do a general clean up of the recreation area and agreed to put out some publicity for volunteers to help. This will need to be when the weather improves, probably in May or June.
4. Latest response from the Charity Commission – the CC has responded reiterating its previous view that the charity must stand, despite a note from Cllr Smith setting out that research at the Oxford History Centre established that the charity was established by the PC for a specific purpose and that purpose ceased in 1982. The Parish Council agreed to Cllr Smith consulting with Simon Randall as to how best to respond to the CC.
5. Tree work proposed by Muddy Spades – Muddy Spades had proposed work for the oak tree on the Green, and a willow overhanging the play equipment. The Council agreed for Cllr Rawlins to ask Muddy Spades to provide a quote for the work recommended to the ground area around the oak tree. Cllr Smith noted that the recent tree survey had shown that a dozen trees required work carried out by June this year. Quotations will be sought from tree surgeons for

the work required, including the willow tree overhanging the play equipment area.

26/075 Biodiversity plan (GS/PW)

1. Update work planned for Sarah's Meadow for the rest of the year – a programme of work (much of it derived from the Management Plan) has been created, with the intention that it will be undertaken by volunteers recruited by Elaine Brittan. The next activity will be spreading wildflower seed on an area created with the mini digger a fortnight ago. Cllr Smith reported that the 60 tons of stones removed from the car park had been spread at Sarah's Meadow and Calais Field to improve the foot paths, some on the allotment car park, in Dog Kennel Lane and in the Wild Garden to provide some hard standing area and improve paths.
2. Proposal to approve a spend of £200 in connection with maintaining the Meadow – Elaine has proposed purchase of various items to support the work of BMAG at the Village Fete and with the school and other children/youth groups, namely:
    - children's books about wildlife such as butterflies, bugs, plants and birds
    - bug viewers
    - children's binoculars
    - consumables such as colouring pencils, paper, card, glue, craft materials
    - equipment for pond dipping
    - garden flower seeds and compost for "gardens and butterflies" project
    - wildflower seeds

    Cllr Smith proposed to approve £250.00 towards the list of items above. Cllr Haine seconded the proposal. All were in favour of the proposal. Cllr Haine stated that the Village Fete would be a good place to advertise the plans for maintaining the Meadow.

26/076 210 Bus Report

1. 210 bus service report for March 2026 – The Council received the 210 bus service report for March 2026. Cllr Ward was to be asked to contact the co-ordinator of the 210 bus service to enquire into the amount of single trips being taken and not so many returns.

26/077 Police Crime Commission Community Fund

1. The Council noted the PCC have awarded £4,000 from their Community Fund towards purchasing one or more speed detection devices. Cllr Allday is going to attend a presentation event on 8th May 2026.

26/078 Royal Air Force Parachute Display Team

1. The Royal Air Force Parachute Display Team thanked the PC for granting permission for use of the village green to practise their parachute jumps in March. They have asked if they can have permission to use this facility again for another parachute jump from 20th April – 1st May. The PC agreed to this request but to carry out the parachute jumps in the week and not on a Saturday or Sunday when the Village Green is well used. The Clerk agreed to respond to the request.

26/079 Public session for non-Agenda items – None.

26/080 AOB

- Cllr Pratt thanked Cllr Smith and Cllr Ward for their hard work carried out on the paths.

26/081 Date of Next Meeting: 20th May 2026

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.