Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th February 2026

at Milton-under-Wychwood Village Hall

Present: Cllr Graham Smith, Chair
Cllr Alan Allday
Cllr Rod Blackman
Cllr Jeff Haine
Cllr John Pratt
Cllr Peter Rawlins
Cllr Pat Ward
Vanessa Oliveri, Parish Clerk
Chris Trotman, RFO
District Cllr Adam Clements
6 members of the public

26/025 Apologies for Absence: were received from Cllr Nick Gibson who had sent apologies and also had notified the Chairman that he could no longer be a Parish Councillors, due to having a new job and would not be able to attend any Parish Council meetings. The Clerk was to notify the Electoral Team at WODC of the resignation.
County Cllr Liz Leffman apologised that she could not attend the Parish Council meeting and had forwarded her report to the Chairman prior to the meeting.

26/026 Declaration of Interests: None.

26/027 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st January 2026 and minutes of the Extra-ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 3rd February 2026: Cllr Rawlins proposed to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st January 2026 and the minutes of the Extra-ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 3rd February 2026. Cllr Pratt seconded the proposal. All were in favour of the proposal.

26/028 Matters arising from the meetings of 21st January and 3rd February 2026: None.

26/029 Public session for all items related to this Agenda: None.

26/030 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 –**
   - The District Council were due to set their budget on 28.2.2026 with an expected increase of 3.9%.
   - The District Council were planning to put forward a motion to OCC on the number of houses to the mobile car charging points in the area.
3. **County Councillor's report –**
   - A link had been added to OCC's website to take people to the three proposals put forward on a Unitary Authority. The consultation dead line to receive comments by has been set for 26.3.2026.
   - Cllr Liz Leffman agreed to contact Chris Grain at OCC to update the contact details for the Super User for Milton-under-Wychwood.
   - OCC had set their budget for 2026/27 last week. 3.2 million pounds had been put into the budget for clearing the gullies in the County.

26/031 Planning

1. 26/00170/HHD 2 Forest Close Milton Under Wychwood Chipping Norton
   Construction of a side porch and alterations to windows and doors.
   COMMENT: No objection.
2. 26/00154/HHD Chestergate Frog Lane Milton Under Wychwood
   Erection of single storey rear extensions, demolition of rear orangery, and associated works.
   COMMENT: No objection.
3. 25/03093/HHD Lovegrove, Upper Milton, Milton-under-Wychwood
   Installation of ground mounted solar panels'
   COMMENT: No objection.
4. 26/00287/HHD Hollytree House, Shipton Road, Milton-under-Wychwood
   Conversion of garage into additional living space, and associated works.
   COMMENT: No objection.
5. 26/00166/HHD Bagnor, 3, High Fields, Milton-under-Wychwood
   Construction of a car port with storage space.
   COMMENT: The Parish Council object to this planning application as the build will go further into the open countryside. The car port contravenes with the Parish Council's planning policies. The roof of the car port is proposed to be a zinc roof, this will look totally out of place in this location.

26/032 Finance

1. RFO report- The PC received and unanimously approved the RFO report for January 2026.
2. January summary – Cllr Haine proposed and Cllr Pratt seconded, and the PC unanimously approved the January 2026 summary.
   The RFO recommended the PC look into opening a bank account with Unity Trust in the new financial year as a lot of Parish Council's use this bank. This will be an agenda item for a future PC meeting.

26/033 Section 137 grant applications – no new applications received.

26/034 Village green

1. Football pitch improvement update – Cllr Smith is meeting the Oxfordshire FA rep on 17/3 at the Village Green to do an updated pitch assessment which is required before a grant application can be made to the Football Foundation.
2. Car park re-surfacing update – Cllr Smith is meeting the selected supplier, ODS, at the car park on 26th February to discuss the specification and programme of works. Their intention is to start work on 16th March for completion by 31st March 2026.
   Cllr Haine recommended notifying the vendors at the Village Green car park, The Hare and the Co-op of the dates when the resurfacing of the car park is planned. Cllr Haine agreed to put a notice on the van window screen which is parked in the layby adjacent to the Village Green car park. The Parish Councillors agreed to remove the metal gates to the entrance of the car park and put them safe whilst the resurfacing work is carried out. ODS agreed to have a word with OCC regarding the highways piece of land from the metal gates of the car park to the road, as this required to be resurfaced and it would be a good time to have the work done whilst the contractors were on site.
3. Play equipment safety checks and remediation – Cllr Smith confirmed that safety checks have been carried out as per schedule – Cllr Allday conducted the latest set of checks on 8th February, next inspection is by Cllr Pratt on 22/2.

26/035 Website and email addresses

1. To discuss provision and potential modification of the website and provision of gov.uk email addresses. – This was not progressed as Nick Gibson had resigned. Cllr Smith agreed to speak to someone else to get advice on moving forward with this subject.

26/036 Biodiversity plan

1. Update on initial work to clear the bank of Simmonds Brook per the Management Plan, and on provision of signs in Sarah's Meadow – The bank of the stream has been cleared by a group of volunteers working over the last few Sundays. Signs have been ordered, awaiting an eta.
   A new programme of work will be drawn up for the rest of the year based on what is in the management plan. The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens had helped plant 330 metres of hedging in two sessions. The Clerk was to send them an official thank you letter. Cllr Ward was to pass on the contact details of the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens to the Clerk.

26/037 Tree survey actions on priorities – Cllr Smith confirmed that tree surgery had taken place on 17th February 2026 as planned.

26/038 Speed Reduction Measures – Cllr Smith confirmed that he had submitted a grant application to TVP Community Fund for some speed indicator devices for the village. The PC will be notified within the next two months if the grant application had been successful. Cllr Haine stated that the speed indicator devices are not in keeping with the village surroundings.

26/039 British Heart Foundation 65th Anniversary Living Memory Bench – The bench base had been laid by Glynn Allcock assisted by Cllr Smith and Cllr Ward earlier in February. The bench was installed on 16th February by Glynn supported by Cllr Smith and Cllr Ward.

26/040 Grass Cutting Contract – The PC discussed the issues with the grass cutting contractor. Cllr Rawlins agreed to contact them. The RFO will check the bank balance to see if the refund had been received.

26/041 Contact Details of Charity Websites for MARC and the Recreation Ground – The PC agreed to update the contact details of the Charity websites to the Clerk's contact details.

26/042 Public session for non-Agenda items

- A resident asked if there was going to be an election in the Village this year. The PC confirmed that there wouldn't be one this year.
- A resident asked what had happened to the road crossing across Shipton Road. The PC confirmed that OCC had not approved one in that location.

26/043 AOB

- Cllr Pratt confirmed an update received from Thames Water on the sewerage work up grade which would deal with 46 litres per second which was three litres more than the previous one. The upgrade was due to be completed in the Village by August 2026.
- It was reported that riparian farmers will receive funds over the next twenty years, as they will be encouraged to keep some areas as grass land rather than farm it.
- Cllr Ward reported that the school had agreed to plant some trees.
- Cllr Ward reported that 300 metres of trees were planned to be planted down the Lyneham Road by the end of February 2026.
- Cllr Rawlins stated that a hedge was coming over the road by The Sands. Cllr Rawlins agreed to put this onto, 'Fix My Street'.
- The RFO asked for a MARC meeting after next month's PC meeting as Pat and Trudy want to come along to discuss the allotments and a having a community allotment.
- The RAF Falcons had emailed to ask the PC if they could use the recreation ground for parachute training on a day between 30th March and 10th April 2026. The PC unanimously approved this request but stipulated that they must avoid using the village green at the weekend.

26/044 Date of Next Meeting: 18th March 2026

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm.