Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 20th November 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:
Cllrs Allcock (GA), Boulton (NB), DCllr Haine (JH), Vice-Chair Pratt (JP), Cllrs Rawlins (PR), Chairman Trotman (CT), Young (PY), Ward (PW). Parish Clerk: Mrs J. Miller. 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence
None**.**

2. Declaration of Interests
JH declared an interest in Planning items.

3. Proposal to approve the minutes of the October meeting.
It was proposed to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Vote taken; all in favour, motion carried. CT signed the minutes.

4. Matters arising from the October meeting:
None.

5. Public session for all items related to this Agenda
None**.**

6. To receive the following reports:

6.1 Chairman's Report (CT)

St Jude's Meadow pedestrian access: CT has been in discussion with OCC and Mactaggart & Mickel about the safety barrier. CT has suggested that the chicane should be reversed to improve the safety. The developers have followed the planning conditions stated by WODC but there is concern about the safety particularly for children at this access point onto the High St. Hedge in front of the crossing needs to be cut back and crossing signage will be installed by OCC shortly.
Littlestock Brook spiling: The middle section was washed away during heavy rains. The willow stakes could be hammered into the bank further along whilst the rest of the debris will be discarded.
Kissing gate onto Green: OCC do not approve of the grid proposed to improve the access so the Cotswold Wardens will use alternative methods which will be confirmed at a later date.
D of E student: CT wished to express his appreciation of dedication shown by Tom Williamson during and beyond the period of his D of E course and which hugely supported the work of the PC.
High St obstruction: School bus met major obstruction on the High St and was prevented from following its usual route due to inconsiderate and prohibited parking on white lines. While the PC sympathise with those affected, this is a police matter and the PC has no authority to intervene.
M&M funds: MUWAGA has received a grant from M&M.

2. District Councilllor's Report (JH)

JH reminded parishioners eligible to vote to register for the upcoming election.
CAB: JH commended the CAB to the PC for consideration of a donation since they help a large number of residents in the Parish.
Oxfordshire Plan: Covers period up to 2030 and works alongside the Local Plan. JH is heavily involved and looks forward to updating the PC in future months.

3. County Councillor's Report (LL)

St Jude's Meadow: LL will follow up to ensure the correct safety signage near the crossing.
School crossing: LL is still pursuing costings for the crossing near Milton Service Station, with dropped kerbs on either sides and safety signage. JH suggested advertising the role of a Lollipop person in the Wychwood Magazine. PW also met with OCC regarding the Jubilee Lane/The Sands bend where HGVs have eroded the bank severely. This would be repaired once building work had finished.
Hedge at The Sands/Ansell Way: The hedge alongside the sub-station is in need of work to improve line of sight and this is the responsibility of Cottsway. Clerk to make contact.
PY commented that the state of the road from the village towards High Lodge Farm is in need of repair following heavy use during the building work.

7. Neighbourhood Plan update (PY)

CFO is collating all the information on behalf of the NPSG in order to present to the PC before the public are given the opportunity to view it.

8. Consideration of developing a Welcome Pack for new householders (CT)

The PC has requested a draft Welcome Pack which is being put together by Shipton PC. It was suggested that this should be discussed at the next Wychwoods Together meeting which is to be organised by Ascott-under-Wychwood.

9. Proposal to review total Precept for 2020-21 (JP)

Discussion about the proposal. The Parish will be increasing in number due to the additional building developments which in part justifies the reduction. PR suggested that the PC should spend more annually on the Village Green; he fears that if in future the PC wished to increase the precept again, it would be very difficult to do so if it is now reduced. The rate of inflation has increased since the precept was originally set at £50,000. PY suggested that rather than reducing the precept, the £5,000 could be rather spent on a specific item. JP noted that the PC will be receiving £400 per year from interest in the new Money Manager account opened recently. In light of the discussion, JP withdrew his proposal. It was decided to keep the precept at £50,000.

10. Proposal to object to the extinguishment of the footpath running behind The Sands alongside Calais Cottage (JP)

JP proposed to submit the draft letter of objection to the extinguishment of the footpath which is the subject of the PC's DMMO application accompanied by the 80 DMMO survey responses to OCC on loan for their review. CT affirmed that before any costs are involved, the PC would take a further vote before proceeding. JP confirmed that if the County Council decide the DMMO case has merit, they will meet all expenses. It is the understanding of the PC that if WODC receive any objection to the formal consultation, it will be referred to the Secretary of State so the PC should not incur any expenses at this point. Vote taken; 6 in favour, 2 against. Motion carried.

11. Proposal to consider tenders received and to accept the Church Wall Restoration tender (CT)

Two tenders were opened at the meeting. Both quotes were above the anticipated expenditure. Both come with recommendations. It was proposed to wait for the third tender before making a final decision but that withstanding CT proposed to accept the lower of the two offers should a third not be received. Vote taken; all in favour. Motion carried.

12. Play equipment (PR/CT)

12.1. Proposal to proceed with Play equipment repairs

PR proposed to ask Playdale to carry out the safety checks and repairs on their equipment. Vote taken; all in favour. Motion carried.

12.2 Discussion of the merits of a Playdale play equipment inspection in addition to RoSPA inspection

CT proposed to ask Playdale to carry out an annual safety check following the RoSPA inspection. Vote taken; all in favour. Motion carried.

13. Sec 106 funds and bids update (GA)

A meeting will take place regarding the Village Green improvements in the New Year.

14. Proposal to distribute a village-wide survey of Village Green use (NB)

NB has prepared a survey to obtain feedback from villagers about the use of sec 106 funds for spending on the Green to ensure it is spent wisely with maximum benefit to as many as possible. The survey will be distributed via Survey Monkey and paper copies for distribution to various places of amenity in the village.

15. Planning (PY/PW)

There were no planning applications at the date of publication. PY reported that the Frog Cottage appeal against the refusal of the dog grooming parlour was dismissed.

16. Correspondence

JP may attend the Wychwood Project AGM on 28th Nov.

17. Village Green

The land over the repaired drain is a little improved.

18. Discretionary donations

18.1 To approve a donation towards Wychwood Saplings and Bods

CT proposed to cover the hire of the Milton Village Hall for one year. Vote taken; all in favour. Motion carried.

18.2 To approve a donation to Ascott under Wychwood Pre-School

CT proposed to donate a sum of £100 as per budget to cover the costs of Forest School tarpaulins and a canopy sail for their outdoor play area. Vote taken; all in favour. Motion carried.

19. Accounts (JP/GA/CT)

19.1 To approve the October receipts, October bank reconciliation and November payments

The bank balance as of 31st October was **£131,209.24.** It was proposed to accept the above. Vote taken; all in favour. Motion carried.

October Receipts	
Pound parking extra top-up payment	6.50
Pizza van rent (Apr-Sept)	150.00
Allotment rent	142.00
Chip van rent (July-Sept)	75.00
TOTAL	**£373.50**
November Payments	

Village weed spray	350.00
Shooting rights share	37.50
Photocopying	35.85
Grit shovel	34.20
Bin bags	3.51
Basketball backboards	209.93
Grasscutting October	1740.00
Tennis court safety sign	17.88
Lengthperson salary	193.80
Clerk salary	376.53
Employer pension contributions	24.27
Employee pension contributions	40.45
TOTAL	**£3,063.92**

19.2 To sign October bank statements (CT)

CT signed the bank statements.

19.3 To approve the draft budget for the purposes of setting the precept for 2020-21 (JP)

This draft budget is submitted for the purpose of setting the precept. Vote taken to accept it; all in favour. Motion carried. JP requested that all Councillors submit suggestions for exceptional expenditure in January for the final draft of the budget 2020-21.

20. Public session for non-Agenda items

Oxfordshire bridleway tree: The debris from the tree that has been cut back has been discarded in the land either side. CT to contact OCC to request it is removed.

21. AOB.

Carols around the Tree: 6pm start at no.1 High Street. Clerk to advertise. CT queried whether to reduce the number of carols and to include some children reading short Christmas-themed pieces. CT to put this to JH and Agnes Hunt. John Witts who will be accompanying the singing has been approached to consider suitable festive readings.

Trees overhanging the Breakspeare Clinic car park: CT confirmed that the work will be carried out.

Horse Chestnut tree near the tennis court: Broken branch needs to be removed. PR to carry out work shortly.

The Sands field footpath across to Wild Gardens: Spitfire think it is unlikely that the footpath will be opened before February 2020.

Wychwood Magazine: GA queried whether the PC would like to request larger space for PC reports. CT suggested waiting to see what the PC collects in the coming 4 weeks.

PC Newsletter: PY requested Newsletter entries by the end of November. JP suggested an update on the NP; it was suggested that the survey could be included but it was not determined how it would be collected.

Drain near Manor Farm: Blockage here is causing a huge pothole. JP to report on Fixmystreet.com.

Village Tree safety survey quotes: Two have been received and the PC is awaiting a further response from interested parties.
Christmas cards: Steve Whiting; Mactaggert & Mickel; Christine Halliday in addition to usual list.
Cemetery bench: The family involved in the bench installation in the cemetery are now reconsidering their options so the MARC meeting planned for immediately after the PC meeting was cancelled until further notice.

CT closed the meeting at 9.15pm.