Milton-under-Wychwood Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 16th October 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 September meeting.
It was proposed to approve the minutes of the September meeting. Vote taken; all in favour, motion carried. CT signed the minutes.

4. Matters arising from the September meeting
None.

5. Public session for all items related to this Agenda
British Legion Poppy Appeal: Brenda Symonds is the new Poppy Appeal representative.
Proposals to developments on the Village Green: Concern expressed about recreational development on the Village Green and the inevitable increase in noise. Concern that anti-social behaviour may be exacerbated in areas which are out of sight from public view. Anecdotally, there have been reports of anti-social behaviour problems at skate park developments in Carterton and elsewhere.

6. To receive the following reports:
6.1 Chairman's Report (CT)
Condolences: CT expressed condolences on behalf of the PC to the family of Pat Edgington who passed away last month. He was remembered as a man of great community spirit who was generous with his time, often working behind the scenes on behalf of the Parish.
Church Wall: The tender has been advertised in the Witney Gazette and the PC will review the tenders in November.
St Jude's Meadow pedestrian access: CT visited the site this week and discussed a number of issues with the developers, including the access between the dry-stone wall and the path, the safety barriers, and the stepped wall at the one end of the development. He was informed that the building work is on course to finish on time. The site was recently awarded A1 standard in a Health and Safety inspection. It was reported within the last few days that a near collision happened at the end of the pedestrian safety barrier.

6.2 District Councilllor's Report (JH)
JH noted that new tenants in St Jude's Meadow whom he knows personally are very happy with the quality of their new homes.

The WODC Planning Committee has decided that there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the footpath behind The Sands should be stopped up and a formal consultation will be issued shortly to which the PC can respond.
Special need housing: WODC has found that the housing made available in Chipping Norton for those in need of emergency short-term accommodation has been very positive and a second property in Carterton is being considered for purchase for the same purpose.
Village litter pick days: Equipment is available to borrow from the WODC if Milton PC were to consider organising a Village Litter pick.
Electric vehicle charging points: WODC will be promoting the charging points throughout the district.

6.3 County Councillor's Report (LL)

Erosion of road at Jubilee Lane: Deterioration resulting from Spitfire development was noted and LL has reported this to Highways.
OCC Transformation programme: The changes intended to save £15mill is not on target and the plans will be reviewed.
Bus services: LL intends to follow up the Council's commitment to improving bus services in order to create a greener county.
PW expressed his concern that OCC has no policy about roads damaged by heavy use during the course of Development. LL replied that in future this issue will be remedied and OCC will have more control over the planning conditions in relation to the road maintenance following development.

7. Neighbourhood Plan update (JP/PY)

NPSG is waiting for CFO to return the draft Neighbourhood Plan.
NPSG met with those involved with the MacTaggart & Mickel wetland area included in St Jude's Meadow development. The area will be designated as a green space. The land may be returned to the Hartley family to manage. It is being discussed whether the land can be given instead to the Wychwood Project or that a covenant can be put on the land to ensure its protection if it is handed back to the Hartleys. JH reminded the PC that the use of the land cannot be changed so there is no danger of it being developed due to the planning conditions laid out when the development was approved.
PW is also now in discussion with the Watsons about designating the bottom half of the field behind The Sands as a green space.

8. Consideration for recipients of donations raised at Carols around the Tree (CT)

JH proposed that the proceeds should go to the Wychwood Day Centre. Vote taken; all in favour. Motion carried.

9. Consideration of better interest rate on PC Deposit account (JP)

JP proposed that £50,000 should be moved into a Business Money Market for 3 months only at a fixed interest rate of 0.68%. This would be instead of 0.2% from the existing deposit account.
Clerk to renew this on a continuous basis every 3 months until further notice. Vote taken; all in favour. Motion carried.

10. Grant for community projects (NB)

NB wished to highlight the Building Communities Fund which was created to support local projects and good causes. Any charity, community group, sports team, school or similar in or near the new developments may apply for a donation of up to £1,000 to fund anything from new equipment to travel costs. The PC cannot apply on the behalf of groups but any interested group should apply directly by completing the online form available on the Mactaggart & Mickel website. There are 4 amounts that can NB suggested designing a questionnaire to target children in the village to find out how the PC could improve recreational provision in the village.

11. Planning (PY/PW)

Please refer to www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning for further details of the following applications. The following planning applications were considered and voted on:

11.1 19/01774/FUL Conversion of barn to dwelling with associated works.
Springhill Farm, Upper Milton **No objection.**

11.2 19/02521/HHD Conversion of existing garage to domestic use and extension to form new garage
58 High Street **No objection.**

12. Correspondence

The hazard of crossing Shipton Road at the end of Frog Lane was acknowledged as an issue that has been raised before but no further action has been taken.

13. Village Green

13.1 Update on RoSPA recommendations (PR)

PR reported that he has sought a quote for all repairs considered most urgent. Since the quote was above the threshold after which further quotes were required, discussion followed about which repairs could be carried out without further PC approval. It was proposed that the sleeper repair should be removed from the quote and the pricing should be discussed with Robin Perry to permit the urgent work to take place as soon as possible.

Trees: Contractors have been contacted to carry out a tree safety survey along with works required on the low branches overhanging the car park. It was noted that the Horse Chestnut tree needs some branches removed.

Bins on Green: Lengthperson has reported that some of the bin frames are missing the inner section and need to be replaced. PR to find out how many need to be ordered.

Trees in the corner of the Green: CT reported that the Volunteers have cut back some of the self-sown trees in the copse.

14. Discretionary donations (CT)

14.1 Approval of donation to Royal British Legion for poppy wreath

JH proposed that a donation of £50 should be made for a poppy wreath. Vote taken; all in favour. Motion carried.

15. Accounts

15.1 To approve the Sept receipts and bank reconciliation and October payments.

Bank balance at 30th September 2019: £136,868.22

September Receipts	
Pound Parking	188.50

VAT refund	2,738.44
Allotment rent	104.00
Precept 2/2	24,462.50
WODC precept grant	537.50
Cemetery	370.00
Interest	32.50
TOTAL	**28,427.48**
October Payments	
Printer ink	35.30
Play equipment repair	1.22
Noticeboard replacement	82.64
Autumn newsletter	61.30
Household waste collection 2/2	310.32
Willow spiling	2,300.00
External audit	360.00
Witney Gazette Church wall tender advert	265.68
Dog waste bags	69.65
Tap washers	0.67
Lengthperson materials	5.53
Bus shelter Painting materials	57.01
Jubilee Clips	3.06
Roofing bolts	1.66
Lengthperson materials	3.51
Clerk basic salary	376.53
Lengthperson salary	169.01
Employer pension contributions	24.27
Employee pension contributions	40.45
September grasscutting	1410.00
Village website domain renewal	85.00
OALC course mileage reimbursement	30.02

Spring and Summer newsletters	147.06
Printer paper	19.99
PAYE July-Oct	172.60
TOTAL	**£6,032.48**

15.2 To sign September bank statements (CT)

CT signed the bank statements.

15.3 To approve statement of accounts for second quarter (JP)

The statement of accounts shows where overspending is occurring. JP thanked the Clerk for the presentation and proposed to approve the statement of accounts. Vote taken; all in favour. Motion carried.

15.4 To accept the External Audit for 2018-19

The External audit has concluded that the AGAR is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to their attention which give cause for concern. It was noted that section 2 (Accounting statement) of the AGAR should be approved before section 1 (Annual Governance statements) in future. The report will be published on the PC website. It was moved to accept the External Audit. Vote taken; all in favour. Motion carried.

16. Public session for non-Agenda items

Gate to The Paddocks: Query about what could be done to improve the condition of the path through the kissing gate. CT said that OCC and the Cotswold Wardens have this in hand.

Hedge on the corner of The Sands and Ansell Way: Overgrown hedge needs cutting down and maintenance as it is encroaching on private properties as well as reducing line of sight on the road. LL will make enquiries at OCC.

17. AOB.

Cemetery maintenance: PR has asked Kevin Grant to blow the cuttings and leaves from the gravestones.

Bench: The seat near the allotments has been cleared of stinging nettles.

Bridleway tree: The tree with branches overhanging the bridleway to Milton off the Lyneham Road has now split and should be cut down. LL will report to OCC.

Sec 106 bids: Bids need to be finally approved by WODC after approved by the PC. The first tranche will be released following the first occupancy.

Christmas tree: Clerk to request the tree from Astor Estates and Clerk to enquire whether the Naish family may host.

CT closed the meeting at 9pm.