

**Little Milton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Present:**

Cllr. Francois van der Merwe (Chairman)  
Cllr. David Wakeling  
Cllr. Howard Harrison  
Cllr. Giles Denby  
Cllr. Steve Sidhu  
Cllr. Adam Sheppard

Mrs Andrea Oughton (*Parish Clerk*)

Members of the public: Five

**01/03/22 Apologies for Absence:**

There were no apologies.

**02/03/22 Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members**

There were no declarations of any pecuniary interests.

**03/03/22 Approval of Minutes**

**Resolved** to approve the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**04/03/22 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising that were not covered on the agenda.

**05/03/22 Report by District / County Councillors**

Cllr Freddie van Mierlo reported the budget was approved in February. The budget increases investment to support some of the most vulnerable residents in the county, including in SEND provision, adult social care, and youth and children's services. Other priorities to receive funding boosts are the climate emergency, buses, traffic enforcement, and road safety. The budget also takes into account a backlog of underfunded major infrastructure projects.

A pilot of a small area of central Oxford has begun to test technology that will be used for the Zero Emissions Zone (ZEZ). The full ZEZ will come into force in 2023 (subject to a public consultation).

Cllr Caroline Newton reported South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) has confirmed its sympathy with the people of Ukraine and its readiness to respond should it be asked to support refugees in this district. SODC lists on its website official routes for donating money to help the efforts.

From Monday 4th April, new charges are to be introduced at SODC car parks across the district. There will be a new charging period from 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday, and an increase in parking fees. As part of a District wide Electric Vehicle (EV) project, EV charging points will shortly be installed in the SODC car park in Thame (behind Co-op).

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**06/03/22 Oxfordshire County Council – Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP)**

It was agreed the Chairman will submit a formal response to the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) incorporating text printed in the March newsletter.

Cllr van der Merwe confirmed he had emailed County Councillor Duncan Enright offering the Parish Council's support with the draft OCC Freight Strategy.

**07/03/22 Planning**

**P21/S1663/FUL – Land at Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7QF**

**Amendment No. 1**

Erection of five two bedroom detached starter homes with associated infrastructure (As amended and amplified by plans and documents accompanying letter from agent dated 7th February)

**Resolved** that the amendments do not alter the Parish Council's original recommendation to **Object** to the application.

**08/03/22 Finance**

**Approval of Council Expenditure**

Colourplus: March 2022	£267.26
Raymond Fergusson: Month 12 2021/22	£69.30
Andrea Oughton Month 12 2021/22	£205.65
Raymond Fergusson – Council expenses	£44.72

**Direct Debit**

Intuit: Accounting software March 9th –April. 9th 2022	£14.40
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Bank reconciliation was reviewed and signed.

The latest financial statement and estimate to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 was tabled for discussion. It was expected that the closing reserve figure will be higher than predicted. Attention was drawn the comment made by the auditor a few years ago that the Parish Council must justify the level of reserves held.

It was agreed there was a need to keep a watch on the level of reserves. However, future projects such as refurbishment of the MUGA and management of green and open spaces will require funding.

**Resolved** that the Clerk and Editor's salaries are increased in line with the National Salary Award 2021/22 agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) and that the 1.75% increase is backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

**09/03/22 Reports from Councillor Representatives**

**Recreation Ground, Open Green Spaces**

Cllr Harrison tabled a progress update on work to the Recreation Ground and Open Green Spaces around the village. Confirmation has been received from District Councillor



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Newton that the Parish Council will receive a £900.00 grant towards the purchase of two oak trees and a new dual bin for the recreation ground.

The contractor has carried out agreed hedge trimming around the village, however the council acknowledges concerns from several residents regarding the timing and nature of the cut on the recreation ground. Councillors have subsequently met with a resident with expertise in wildlife and biodiversity management and will establish a village working group to consider how the green spaces can be better maintained in future to maximise the wildlife we are fortunate to enjoy in the parish. Such considerations may include moving the hedge cut on the recreation ground to the autumn to avoid any conflict with a variable and unpredictable commencement of spring.

**Resolved** to employ a contractor to deal with the mole problem on the recreation ground, the contractor will make 6 to 8 visits at a cost of £40 per visit.

Soha have cut the hedge at Old Field, Cllr Harrison will check the condition of the footpath and contact Oxfordshire County Council if necessary.

BT has been contacted about the possibility of the Parish Council adopting the red telephone box on Haseley Road Green. The application is quite simple. It was agreed to wait until BT has repaired the door, which was damaged during the recent storms, and improve the general condition of the box before submitting an application to adopt the box. Once adopted the Parish Council is responsible for the ongoing maintenance.

**Communication**

Cllr Sidhu has looked at various options for the new website and concluded the best way forward was that suggested at the meeting in January. One website for all parties in the village to use. The Parish Council, Village Hall and Church will have subpages on the website with redirects for others. Cllr Sidhu is prepared to develop the website but it will take time.

**Village Hall / Village School / Orchard Nursery**

Recent storms damaged the shop and village hall roofs. Quotations for repairs are being sought. The new sign is due to be installed in the next couple of weeks.

**Highways**

Cllr Sheppard has completed the Fix My Street Super User training and is now qualified to identify and raise orders directly with OCC for road repairs up to 1m x 2m x 40mm depth on roads in the village. This does not include 'A' roads which are inspected monthly by OCC Highways. It was agreed that potholes / damage be reported to Cllr Sheppard via the Clerk.

Traffic signs on the Haseley Road have been repaired. Cllr Sheppard will chase OCC for an update on work to the school car park to resolve the sewage problem.

**10/03/22 Correspondence**

Cllr Sheppard will contact companies at Warren Barn Farm industrial units regarding the significant and increasing amount of pollution, in the form of both littering/debris and liquid pollution in the ditch.

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A resident raised concern regarding two tall trees on the Haseley Road (nr. 30mph speed signs) that look as though they are in the final stages of falling into the road. The Clerk has confirmed the trees are not on Parish Council land and advised the problem is reported to Highways.

The village defibrillators have been registered on The Circuit, the national defibrillator network which is also connected to South Central Ambulance Service. The registration means the devices are more likely to be used in an emergency.

**11/03/22 Exchange of Information**

No items were raised.

**12/03/22 Date of Next Meeting**

The Meeting of the Parish Council will convene at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at Pine Lodge** (note the meeting has been brought forward due to the number of apologies received if the meeting were to be held on the second Wednesday of the month as normal).

The meeting finished at 9.15p.m.

**13/03/22 Parish Forum**

Two parishioners spoke ahead of discussion of agenda item 7/03/22, P21/S1663/FUL – Land at Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7QF, Amendment No. 1. Concerns were raised about the drainage network which will need regular maintenance and clearing to prevent blockages, this will need to be undertaken regularly for the lifetime of the dwellings. Have the proposed flow valves been used in a domestic setting?

There was some doubt around the accuracy of figures provided by Thames Water. It is not the new houses that will suffer but the existing ones.

Signed by:

Chairman.....

Date.....

8/4/22