

**Little Milton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Present:**

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

Mrs Andrea Oughton (*Parish Clerk*)

Members of the public: Two

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

There were no apologies for absence.

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

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests.

**03/01/22 Approval of Minutes**

**Resolved** to approve the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**04/01/22 Matters Arising**

Cllr Denby reported the Emergency Plan had been updated. Electronic copies had been sent to the Parish Clerk and to the two co-ordinators named in the Plan. The Parish Clerk will forward a copy to Oxfordshire County Council's emergency planning team.

**05/01/22 Report by District / County Councillors**

District Cllr Newton had sent her apologies and circulated her report ahead of the meeting.

County Cllr van Mierlo had circulated his report and added that a number of consultations were now open including the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) consultation, Libraries and Heritage Strategy 2022-2027 and the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan consultation.

Funding for Oxfordshire Youth Services is a first step towards universal youth work being openly available to all children and young adults. The service aims to be operational by the end of February 2022.

Oxfordshire County Council has once again been named as best performing County Council for waste disposal in England.

**06/01/22 Oxfordshire County Council – Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP)**

It was noted the LTCP document and supporting strategies for freight, active travel and innovation were approved by the County Council's cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for public consultation. The public consultation is now open and will run until 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

*Handwritten signature*



**Little Milton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

County Cllr van Mierlo further reported a motion was passed at Full Council in December, stating that many rural roads were not made for HGV traffic and resolved to base the new freight strategy on the principle of “avoid-switch-improve”. The County Council agreed to establish a regional network of well-served HGV through routes and bring in measures to reduce movements through rural roads. On 5<sup>th</sup> January, the Cabinet member for travel and development strategy, Cllr Duncan Enright, approved a recommendation to ‘push ahead’ with developing area wide restrictions in Oxfordshire. At the same meeting, a decision was made to end the HGV experimental limit in Burford in favour of a holistic county wide approach.

It was agreed the Parish Council will draft a response to the LTCP consultation for discussion at the next meeting. County Cllr van Mierlo agreed to share his response to the LTCP.

Cllr van der Merwe will write to County Cllr Duncan Enright welcoming his recommendation to ‘push ahead’ with developing area wide HGV restrictions in Oxfordshire.

**07/01/22 Planning**

P21/S5075/FUL – Land West of Old Belchers Farm, Church Hill

Change of use of land to provide sculpture park (existing agricultural use maintained)

**Resolved** to raise No Objections to the application but include comments regarding HGV movements to and from the site and suggested mitigation (below) to be conditioned should the District Council grant permission.

- A maximum of 18 pieces of art to be displayed at any one time.
- Installations shall not be moved on / off site between months of April and October (when the park is open).
- HGV movements to and from the site to be limited to Monday-Friday between hours of 10am and 2pm so as to limit the impact on traffic flow through the village.

**08/01/22 Finance**

Approval of Council expenditure

Colourplus: January Newsletter 2022	£252.77
Raymond Fergusson: Month 10 2021	£68.90
Andrea Oughton Month 10 2021/22	£205.85
Society Local Council Clerks	£98.00
HMRC PAYE Months 7-9 2021-22	£292.80
Howard Harrison – Reimbursement for Meadow seed	£35.86

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software Jan. 9th – Feb. 9th 2022	£14.40
--	--------

Bank reconciliation available for review

Financial appeal: Citizens Advice	£150.00
-----------------------------------	---------

Budget & Precept 2022-23

The draft budget had been revised following discussions at the last meeting.

**Resolved** to approve the Budget for 2022-23 as presented.

**Resolved** to approve to set the Precept at £13,500 for 2022-23





**Little Milton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**09/01/22 Reports from Councillor Representatives**

**Recreation Ground, Open Green Spaces**

Cllr Harrison circulated an update on proposals for the verges, hedgerows, recreation ground and open green spaces.

**Resolved** to purchase three benches to be installed on the recreation ground (together with teak protector and teak cleaner).

Cllr Harrison reported Soha was continuing to seek a quote to trim back the hedge from Old Fields to the A329 to clear the footpath.

Cllr van der Merwe reported the electrician has tested the lighting at the MUGA and discovered a connection problem between the poles and the ballast has rusted. The electrician will provide two quotations; one to repair what is already in-situ and the second to upgrade the existing fixings to LED.

Cllr Denby reported electricity use for the MUGA is paid for by the Village Hall. The Village Hall is on a 2yr fixed price contract for electricity which is due to expire in May. Prices are expected to rise by 300%. The Village Hall Committee have agreed not to enter into a new fixed year contract for the time being.

Cllr Wakeling reported he has purchased a stronger latch for the playground gate. Cllr Sheppard reported he has topped up the mulch under the play equipment.

**Planning**

Cllr Wakeling reported the target decision date for the application for five houses on Haseley Road has been extended to February. SODC has given up fighting appeals, at present as they cannot prove a 5yr housing land supply leaving the district open to speculative development.

The application to change the access at Plough Lane had been discussed at the District Planning Committee earlier this evening. District Cllr Newton had spoken against the application, as ward member and made good points for refusal. Unfortunately, the Committee voted 10-1 in favour of granting permission.

**Communications**

Cllr Sidhu reported he has investigated options for a new website and proposed one website for all parties in the village to use. The Parish Council, Village Hall and Church will have subpages the website with redirects for others. This will enable the Parish Council to be more 'visible' to the community.


There is an upfront cost of between £50-£80 and a monthly cost of £10-£15 for software hosting (which allows for multiple users). Cllr Sidhu volunteered to build the website with a view to launching late spring / early summer.

**Resolved** that Cllr Sidhu goes ahead with progressing a new village website.

**Village Hall, Village Shop, Orchard Nursery**

Cllr Denby reported the sign for the shop & school needed to be replaced and will obtain quotes. The Village Hall will ask the shop for a contribution towards the cost.

There has been a good response to the defibrillator course being held at the Village Hall.





**Little Milton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Utilities and Highways**

Cllr Sheppard reported he has submitted the application to OCC requesting Little Milton be considered for a 20mph speed limit and received an email acknowledgement. Cllr Sheppard thanked County Cllr van Mierlo for his endorsement of the application.

There were no planned maintenance works on the highways. Cllr Sheppard has spoken to Highways regarding the replacement of the faded signs but no date yet for the remedial work.

Cllr Sheppard has contacted Rebecca McNaught at OCC to register as a Highway Super User for Little Milton.

Cllr Sheppard has contacted Thames Water for an update but not received a response. *[Post meeting note: Update received - Thames Water will be laying 920 metres of lining to existing pipes between Great Haseley and Little Milton and sealing existing manholes to stop ground water getting into the network and overwhelming the foul water sewer network at end of the first quarter/beginning of second.]*

It was noted that HGVs are using the layby for overnight stops, the litter bins are overflowing and the area is unsightly. It was agreed Cllr Sheppard will contact Highways to find out what steps need to be taken to close the layby.

**Superfast Broadband**

Cllr van der Merwe reported he had spoken with Openreach today. After an initial quotation from Openreach (which is largely generated by an algorithm and suggested the project is unviable) the next step is to get a more precise quotation which will involve surveying the village and the path of the fibre spine from Great Milton. This surveying exercise may shave significant costs (the algorithm sometimes assumes incorrect engineering works needed for ducts, etc.) from the original quotation and hopefully bring the project costs to an affordable level.

**10/01/22 Correspondence**

There was no further correspondence to that already circulated.

**11/01/22 Exchange of Information**

No items were raised.

**12/01/22 Date of Next Meeting**

The Meeting of the Parish Council will convene at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at Pine Lodge.**

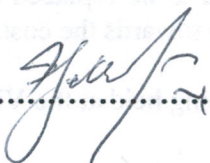
The meeting finished at 10.30p.m.

**13/01/22 Parish Forum**

No items were raised.

Signed by:

Chairman.....Date.....



9 Feb 22