

Little Milton Parish Council
Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023

Present: Cllrs Giles Denby, Howard Harrison, Francois van der Merwe, Adam Sheppard,
David Wakeling

Mrs Andrea Oughton (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public: Three

Parish Forum

A member of the public raised the problem of drainage. Firstly, the stream that runs past the school to Frogmore. The riparian landowners have a responsibility to clear the watercourse alongside the main road. Secondly, the pumping station at the bottom of Haseley Road. Historically, if excess rainwater builds up from the A329 Thames Water provided relief by organising tankers to pump out the excess water. Effluent is now running into the stream. Is Thames Water still providing this service?

01/11/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Ed Horwell.

02/11/23 Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members

There were no declarations of any pecuniary interests.

03/11/23 Election of Deputy Chairman

The Chairman called for nominations for Deputy Chairman. It was proposed and duly seconded that Cllr David Wakeling is elected Deputy Chairman. **Resolved** that Cllr Wakeling being appointed Deputy Chairman for 2023-24.

04/11/23 Approval of Minutes

Resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th October 2023.

05/11/23 Matters Arising

Cllr van der Merwe reported that despite chasing, there is no further update on Fibre to the Premise. He will continue to push for coverage for the village.

Two reports of hedges encroaching onto the highway have been received. It was agreed that Cllrs Denby and van der Merwe will contact the owners of the properties.

06/11/23 Planning

No planning applications had been received, there were no matters to discuss.

07/11/23 Report by District / County Councillor

Cllrs Freddie van Mierlo and Geogina Heritage had given their apologies. Their reports were circulated in advance of the meeting.



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It was agreed that Cllr Harrison submit an application to the District Rural Businesses and Organisations grant seeking funding towards the purchase of Speed Indicator Signage for the village. The closing date for applications is 24th November 2023.

08/11/23 Little Milton Village Shop

Discussion took place on the extent to which the Parish Council can support the village shop and what form the support might take. It was agreed that the parish council, the village hall and the village shop will provide two representatives each to meet informally to look at; the legal structures of the village hall and shop, explore grant funding streams, further explore the possibility of fitting solar panels to the village hall and to draft a village wide consultation.

It was agreed the village shop will continue to provide financial updates to the parish council.

09/11/23 A329 Speed and HGV Issues

Installation of new bollards

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) have submitted an invoice for 50% of the cost of installing two new bollards on the A329 near Little Milton School. The Clerk confirmed the invoice had been paid. It is hoped the work will commence shortly.

Speed Indicator Device Signage

Three quotations for the supply of Speed Indicator Device Signs (SIDs) had been circulated. Typically, the cost of each sign is £2,900/£3,200. OCC will install the signs and have suggested possible locations, residents near to the proposed sites will be consulted:

- 1) Haseley Road just before the main dip and 20mph start – this will slow traffic before the 20mph sign.
- 2) On a post on the stretch of road by Plum Tree Cottage in the centre of the village – this location allows for good vision and distance to speed.
- 3) By a telegraph pole by Manor Cottage at the top of the hill – this will warn vehicles to slow down approaching the school.

Cllr Harrison will apply for grant funding towards the cost. County van Mierlo has indicated he will approve £1,200 from his County Councillor grant fund on receipt of an application.


Resolved to purchase two SIDS to be installed at locations 1 and 3 above. A third sign will be purchased when funds are available.

Application to Oxfordshire County Council for a Weight Restriction

The data from traffic surveys carried out last week is expected shortly. It might be prudent to organise a similar survey on Haseley Road. The information together with historic monitoring data will form part of the application pack to be submitted to OCC for a weight restriction on the A329. Engagement with residents to request information / photographic evidence of near misses, accidents, etc is vital to put together a comprehensive dossier.

Community Speed Watch

There has been a good response to the call for volunteers to engage with a Community Speed Watch.



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10/11/23 Footpaths / Public Right of Way

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

11/11/23 Finance

Approval of Council Expenditure

Colourplus November 2023 newsletter	£252.54
Clerk (A Oughton) Month 8 2023-24	£226.98
Editor (R Fergusson) Month 8 2023-24	£76.50
Francois van der Merwe (Microsoft Licences - Oct)	£18.24
Play Inspection Company	£138.00
Oxfordshire County Council (contribution to 2 no. bollards A329)	£867.19
South Oxfordshire District Council (Dog Waste Bin emptying)	£237.94

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software November 9th – December 9th 2023 £16.80

Bank reconciliations for October had been circulated.

12/11/23 Recreation and Playground

The annual safety inspection took place on 20th October 2023. The report findings were noted. There were no items that needed immediate attention. Cllr Wakeling will put together a report of actions for inclusion in the 2024-25 budget, including a quotation to replace the fencing.

13/11/23 Reports from Councillor Representatives

Recreation Ground / Open Spaces

The grass will be treated in the spring to improve the sward and reduce weeds. The hedge behind the MUGA is due to be trimmed next week, together with bramble clearance around the Recreation Ground. The cutting of the verges has been delayed to later in November as growth has slowed.

Soha has given approval for a bench to be placed in Old Field (opposite the existing bench). If the application to the District Councillor Grant Fund is successful it is proposed to place a bench in the opposite corner of the recreation ground to the existing picnic bench.

An order for bark chippings, to be spread along Church Path, will be placed next week at a cost of £117.00.

One of the goalposts on the recreation ground has been repaired. The goalposts will be repositioned to avoid the ground getting too muddy.

Village Hall

Cllr Denby attended an Electric Vehicle Charging seminar. 100 charge points throughout the county are being funded by South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC). SODC has received 200+ applications which are being processed and graded. Focus is on car parks which can be used at night.



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Utilities and Highways

In response to concerns raised by residents and during public participation this evening, Cllr Sheppard reported he had requested via Fix My Street that OCC clear the gulley where the stream passes under the road. The parish council will also contact riparian landowners who have a responsibility to maintain the watercourse alongside the main road in an effort to reduce the flood risk.

Cllr Sheppard reported, via social media, that Thames Water released effluent into the stream on 5th and 6th November 2023, for a total of 16 hours, during heavy rainfall. Thames Water publish a map on their website showing when and where effluent is released.

14/11/23 Correspondence

No further correspondence to that already circulated had been received.

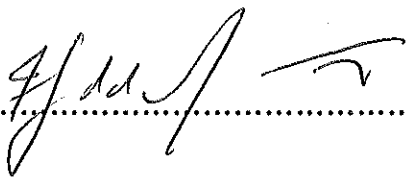
15/11/23 Exchange of Information

Nothing to report.

16/11/23 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th December 2023, commencing at 7.30pm at Pine Lodge.

The meeting finished at 9.40pm

Signed by:  Date: 13 Dec '23
Chairman.....