

**Little Milton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Present:**

Cllr. Howard Harrison  
Cllr. Steve Sidhu  
Cllr. Francois van der Merwe  
Cllr. David Wakeling  
Mrs Andrea Oughton (*Parish Clerk*)  
Members of the public: Seven

**01/09/22 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies received from Cllr Adam Sheppard (Personal) and Cllr Giles Denby (Personal).

**02/09/22 Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members**

There were no declarations of any pecuniary interests.

**03/09/22 Approval of Minutes**

**Resolved** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**04/09/22 Matters Arising**

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

**05/09/22 Planning**

P22/S2896/HH – The Bridle Path, Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7PP

Side extension to replace conservatory, rear dressing room extension, upgrading and rendering exterior walls and replacing windows.

**Resolved to SUPPORT** the application

P22/2997/FUL – The Post Office, Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7PP

Change of use / conversion from E(C) (Financial and Professional Services) to C3 (Dwelling houses).

**Resolved to OBJECT** to the application on the following grounds:

- Loss of very viable commercial premises which currently accommodate a successful business providing local employment.
- The proposal is against Little Milton Neighbourhood Plan Policy LM15.
- Unneighbourly – the occupier of the residential property connected to The Post Office already experiences the impact of noise from the commercial business. This will increase to 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year if it were to become a residential property.

P21/S5075/FUL – Land West of Old Belchers Farm, Church Hill, Little Milton, OX44 7QB

Amendment No. 1 dated 26 August 2022

Change of use of land to provide sculpture park (existing agricultural use maintained). (As amplified by email and letter from agent dated 26 August and accompanying revised drawings).



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**Resolved to OBJECT** to the amendment with the following comments:

- The amendments do not address the concerns previously raised by the Parish Council and residents regarding the movement of HGVs on and off the site. HGV movements to and from the site should be limited to Monday-Friday between hours of 10am and 2pm to limit the impact on traffic flow through the village and avoid school drop off and pick up times.
- Members expressed disappointment at the approach of the applicant and requested a planning application seeking permission for commercial use of the site is submitted. Although currently advertised as being open to the public, it is clear the sculpture park has, to date, been used primarily as a conduit for the applicant to display and sell pieces of art.
- If the application is granted permission, it is anticipated the applicant will exploit the park to maximise business potential which any business would naturally aim to do. This will have an adverse impact on the village, particularly related to HGV movements to and from the site.
- The Parish Council has received complaints about the impact on traffic congestion and the damage caused by HGVs when entering and leaving the site. The access is not suitable for commercial HGV traffic, which has already had a significant adverse impact on residential properties in the immediate vicinity. The amendment does nothing to address these concerns or those of privacy for nearby residents.

To **note** the District Planning Authority has REFUSED permission for the following application:

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

Erection of five two-bedroom detached starter homes with associated infrastructure. (As amended and amplified by plans and documents accompanying letter from agent dated 7<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and additional energy information received 8<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022).

To **note** the District Planning Authority has GRANTED permission for the following application:

P22/S2438/HH – 7 Greystones, Chiltern View, Little Milton, OX44 7QP

Single storey rear extension. Conversion and extension to existing garage to form annex (amendment to previous planning application P22/S0080/HH as approved 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to replace reconstituted bradstone walls to proposed rear extension with stone coloured rendered block work).

**06/09/22 Report by District / County Councillors**

District Councillor Caroline Newton had given her apologies and circulated a report. It was noted that the SODC Capital Grant Fund is open for applications. Discussion took place as to whether to submit an application for funding to refurbish the MUGA lighting. Agreed Cllr van der Merwe will contact Cllr Newton to see if an application submitted now will preclude the Parish Council from applying for further grant funding for refurbishment of the MUGA in the future.

County Councillor Freddie van Mierlo, apologised that he had not submitted his monthly report and said it would be circulated shortly, in the meantime he highlighted a few items.



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The consultation for the installation of 5 'traffic filters' in Oxford is ongoing and closes on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has become the first in the country to adopt a new approach to planning called 'Decide and Provide'. This will mean when OCC are consulted on planning matters the response will be based on sustainable and active transport OCC wants to see, rather than 'predicting' the number of car journeys and trying to accommodate them in the road system thus building more sustainable communities from the outset.

The 20mph rollout continues with Little Milton scheduled for implementation in November. OCC have new ANPR powers in Oxfordshire. New highways maintenance scheme has been approved to include preventative measures.

**07/09/22 Food Bank**

District Councillor Newton offered to coordinate donations to the local food bank in Thame if a food bank is located in the village. After discussion it was agreed that residents were more likely to contribute to existing food bank collection points and thanked Cllr Newton for putting forward the idea.

**08/09/22 Bus Service**

Cllr van Mierlo's enquiries about extending the No. 46 bus route to serve Little Milton and Great Haseley villages has been pushed back by OCC Officers as there is no funding. The Parish Council asked Cllr van Mierlo to find out the cost of extending the route and who to lobby. It was agreed Cllr van Mierlo will organise a call between Officers and the Chairmen of Little Milton and Great Haseley Parish Councils.

**09/09/22 Civility and Respect Pledge**

**Resolved** to adopt and sign the national Civility and Respect Pledge.

**10/09/22 Traffic Management and Pedestrian Safety**

Discussion took place on what action can be taken to mitigate concerns about increased traffic in the village, in particular along the Haseley Road such as making the turn onto Haseley Road a right angle. As a first step it was agreed that a vehicle survey is carried out on the Haseley Road and that the Chairman speak with Cllr van Mierlo about further actions.

**11/09/22 Faster Broadband**

The Chairman reported that since the agenda had been published the Haseley Road scheme had reached sufficient pledges to go forward and there was no longer a requirement for the Parish Council to be a Legal Entity for the scheme.

Separately, OCC has advised that the voucher scheme is now closed. There is to be a follow-up programme for 'left behind areas' but no one can confirm whether Little Milton will be part of the follow up scheme.

**12/09/22 Gold Street**

The issue of erosion to the bank, damage to trees and parking at the end of Gold Street has been ongoing over many years. The area is not under the control of the Parish Council but is



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the responsibility of OCC. County Councillor van Mierlo noted the discussion and concerns. The Parish Council agreed to monitor the situation but not take any action.

**13/09/22 Parish Noticeboard**

It was agreed the Clerk will investigate designs and costings for a new parish noticeboard to be located in the village hall car park.

**14/09/22 Finance**

Approval of Council Expenditure

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Retrospective Approval of Council Expenditure

Colourplus September 2022 newsletter	£2223.33
A. Oughton Month 6 2022-23	£209.50
Editor (R.Fergusson) Month 6 2022-23	£70.50
NBB Recycled Furniture (Planter)	£696.00

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software September 9th – October 9th 2022	£14.40
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NBB Recycled Furniture (2 picnic benches)	£1644.00
Barcham (balance due on tree purchase)	£419.35
Broxap (2 litter bins + fixings)	£671.94
Garden Kings - concrete base for litter bins (quotation)	£134.00

Bank reconciliations were circulated prior to the meeting and noted.

A request from Little Milton Primary School to purchase football goalposts to be installed on the recreation ground has been received. It was agreed that on his return Cllr Denby will circulate quotations for the goalposts to Councillors.

**15/09/22 Reports from Councillor Representatives**

**Recreation Ground / Open Green Spaces**

Two oak trees have been planted at the far end of the Recreation Ground. The small trees will be left for present with a view to moving them when the new trees are established. Verges around the Recreation Ground have been cut, thanks to a resident who volunteered to do the work. Two more heavy duty picnic benches have been purchased and placed in the far corner of the Recreation Ground and near the play area. The benches can be moved if the locations do not prove popular.

Verges in the village are due to be cut in October. A new planter has been placed on Haseley Road green and planted with cyclamen and pansies for autumn.

**Playground**

The seat on the aerial cableway has broken. Cllr Wakeling has obtained a quotation of £640.00 exc. Vat., from the original suppliers of the play equipment. Cllr Wakeling will check whether the seat is covered under the extended warranty.

The new waste bins have arrived, and the concrete base will be laid early next week.



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**Highways**

Cllr Sheppard had sent his apologies and provided the following update:

Thames Water

I have spoken to the Thames Water representative regarding the ongoing issues with sewage. She said they are still doing ongoing investigation works in parts of the network to reduce leaks into the sewage system. Thames Water have a plan to line 900 m of pipework and drainage pipes to limit the amount of water from the surrounding fields into the sewage network. This work is booked-in but no start date has been given yet. However, it is anticipated that by mid-autumn this work will begin. During the hot summer months, it was a difficult task to ascertain where water was getting into the network as the drains were dry. This investigation works will continue now.

Highways

There have been several repairs made to manholes and drain covers on the main road during the last two months. The local highways maintenance manager has marked up the main high street and main village peripheral roads for repairs, to be completed within the next two months.

I have not called in any repairs under Fix my street for lesser B roads and lanes in the village. If anyone sees potholes appearing or damage to non A and B roads or pavements, they should notify me via the village Facebook page. I do a fortnightly walk around the minor roads and pavements to check for damage. The highways maintenance team check the main roads monthly for damage.

20MPH Zone

I have emailed our Highways contact regarding the 20mph rollout, regarding a potential start date for changing the signage. He has not given me a date yet, although autumn was mentioned.

I am waiting on a reply from the police regarding keeping or recalibration the speed camera when the 20mph limit comes into force.

**16/09/22 Correspondence**

Cllr van der Merwe reported he had received an email from a modular building company looking to open a new depot in Chalgrove enquiring what the load limits were through Little Milton. Typically, the company will be moving a maximum of 3.3m wide loads 3-4 days a month with 8 loads per day maximum.

Cllr van der Merwe replied stating heavy and wide load traffic through the village is a key issue. The A329 through Little Milton is unsuitable for heavy or wide traffic and blockages and near misses regularly occur. There is a weight limit on the Haseley Road coming into the village and the Parish Council is currently campaigning, as part of the County's new Freight Plan to restrict heavy and wide traffic through the A329. Although there are currently no official limits on the road Cllr van der Merwe urged the company to consider using alternative routes that are suitable for heavy and wide traffic.

The Clerk reported Orchard Pre-school had contacted her to request that the huge thistle bush and nettles at the back of the pre-school are cut back as they are taking over the fence and dangerous to the children. Cllr Harrison agreed to cut back the thistle bush.





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**17/09/22 Exchange of Information**

Cllr van der Merwe reported he had received information from a representative of Global Climate Buddies initiative, a growing and impactful community movement, who is keen to make a presentation to the Parish Council. Agreed to put the item on the next agenda.

**18/09/22 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022, commencing at 7.30pm at Pine Lodge.

The meeting finished at 22:00 hrs

**19/09/22 Parish Forum**

A resident raised concern about bollards being installed at the end of Gold Street to preserve the green space. Many residents, local to the area, rely on the area for occasional overflow parking. To request bollards feels like a premature reaction, erosion of the bank is clear, but the trees look perfectly stable and fine. The benches are fine, but generally covered in bird droppings which minimises their attraction.

A further resident had contacted Cllr Harrison to re-iterate the fact that Gold Street was being continually widened by vehicles parking along the edge and requested the parish council try and do something to arrest the widening. The road bank in the dip by the pumping-station is also subject to vehicle erosion resulting in tree roots being exposed.

Another resident raised concern about increased traffic through the village and what can be done. Especially along the Haseley Road which is used as a cut through by vehicles and where families use the road for walking and cycling. The resident had undertaken internet-based research and explored the possibility of installing a cycle path along the Haseley Road.

Signed by:

Chairman.....



.....Date.....

12 Oct 22