

Little Milton Parish Council
Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th September 2021

Present: Cllr. Francois van der Merwe (Chairman)
Cllr. Steve Sidhu
Cllr. David Wakeling
Cllr. Adam Sheppard
Mrs Andrea Oughton (*Parish Clerk*)
Members of the public: Three

01/09/21 Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs Denby (Personal) and Harrison (Personal).

02/09/21 Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests.

03/09/21 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 14th July 2021.
The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

04/09/21 Matters Arising

Cllr Sheppard reported Monument Pools had promised to commence work on the hardstanding for the Grundon bins in August. He has chased Monument Pools numerous times without a reply. He will continue to pursue. It was agreed Cllr van der Merwe will obtain another quotation should Monument Pools renege on their commitment to do the work.

Cllr van der Merwe has written to Mr Hue Williams regarding complaints about some guests attending the event in July not observing parking instructions.

Cllr Sheppard reported he had spoken to Maisie Banks of Thames Water who said the next phase of works to clear drains will commence on 20th September. CCTV footage had identified a few leaks. Maisie was unsure whether further pumping lorries were needed. Once all the information has been collated it will be sent to the Parish Council.

05/09/21 Report by District / County Councillors

County Councillor van Mierlo had sent his apologies.

District Councillor Newton had sent her apologies and a brief message related to concerns about rubbish collections, particularly the suspension of garden waste collections but also the erratic collection of other waste bins.

The National shortage of HGV drivers may be the cause - but together with colleagues Caroline is pushing SODC to tell residents what they are doing to solve the problem; when garden waste collections will be renewed; and whether SODC are considering refunding garden waste bin customers (or maybe more sensibly extending the period of their contract to give them, in effect, an extra month or so at the end of their contract period).

SPM

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In the meantime, please continue to report missed collections and let Caroline know where there are repeated issues.

Post meeting note: SODC are to hold an additional Full Council meeting on 24th September 2021 at 2pm to discuss the issue of the garden waste service.

06/09/21Planning

P21/S2860/FUL - Land between The Plough House and Frogmore, Stadhampton Road
Proposed new access

RESOLVED to Object to the application

- Safety. The extant access is not particularly safe, the proposal moves the access further along the road, where traffic is travelling faster.
- The previous access was put in for agricultural purposes but there is no evidence the field has ever been used for this purpose.
- The application does not set out plans to mitigate against the loss of wildlife habitat and biodiversity.
- There does not appear to be any reason to move the access unless it is part of a plan for future development on the site.

The proposals do not comply with the following policies in Little Milton's Neighbourhood Plan:

- LM4 – Conservation of Heritage Assets
- Para 6.10 Green Belt.
- Para 10.15 Safe Access to and from New Developments

P21/S3246/HH - 3 Blenheim Cottages, Blenheim Lane

Proposed single storey side extension

RESOLVED to support the application

P21/S3759/HH – Hillview Cottage, High Street

Replacement of two detached sheds with a detached garage/home office.

RESOLVED to support the application

P21/S3760/LB – Hillview Cottage, High Street

Replacement of two detached sheds with a detached garage/home office.

RESOLVED to support the application

To **note** the District Planning Authority has granted permission for the following applications:

P21/S2665/LB - The Manor House, Church Hill

Essential repairs to the main entrance door porch of a grade II listed manor house. Including temporary support of the roof and triangular broken pediment, replacement of collapsed & deformed capital to the east side column & reinstating roof & pediment & repairs to wall junction.

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P21/S2664/HH – The Manor House, Church Hill

Essential repairs to the main entrance door porch of a grade II* listed manor house.

P21/S1350/HH - 15 Milton Manor Drive

Converting the existing glazed roof of the conservatory-style front porch to a tiled roof in keeping with the existing roof of the house. To replace the existing uPVC uprights below the porch roofline with Bradstone brick piers which match the structure of the house.

P21/S1618/FUL – Simeons, Gold Street

Raising roof of existing garage building to allow for conversion of 1st floor to provide ancillary accommodation. Rooflights and dormers added to roof (as amended by new application form to reflect granny annexe in detached building and drawing nos. 010-100 PL2, 031-102 PL2, 031-103 PL2, 031-104 PL2, 031-105 PL2, 032-102 PL2, 032-103 PL2 and 032-104 PL2 to reduce height of building, remove external staircase, rear rooflight and chimney flue; internal re-configuration and fenestration changes, received on 9th June 2021).

The Appeal Decision (APP/Q3115/C/20/3260176) – Land west of Old Belchers Farmhouse was noted.

07/09/21 Joint Local Plan 2041

It was noted that South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are working together to prepare a Joint Local Plan to 2041, which once adopted, will replace the current Local Plans for both districts. As part of this the Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change will run for a six-week period from Thursday 19th August to midnight on Thursday 30th September 2021.

08/09/21 Public Consultations

Thame Neighbourhood Plan Review – The clerk reported that having looked consultation she was of the opinion that current proposals would not significantly impact Little Milton. It was agreed not to send a formal response.

Oxford Plan 2050 – Cllr van der Merwe reported he had attended one of the webinars. The 2050 plan was a high-level strategic document focused on future development. It was agreed to seek advice from County and District Councillors van Merilo and Newton on how the Parish Council might respond to best influence the plan regarding local problems i.e. traffic on A329.

Oxford-Cambridge Arc – County and District Councillor advice will be sought as above.

09/09/21 Recreation Ground

Cllr Wakelin has researched alternative litter bins and consulted with the volunteers who empty the bins. The preference is for a bin with a 2 x 120ltr capacity which will double the current capacity, at a cost of £450.00 excl, VAT. A concrete hardstanding will be needed at an additional cost. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a new bin and apply to County and District Councillor's grants to purchase the bin and provide the hardstanding.

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Cllr Wakelin reported he had attended a Routine Playground Inspection training organised by Gloucester Open Playing Fields Association in conjunction with the Open Playing Fields Association.

Cllr van der Merwe reported he will consult with various stakeholders in the village to form a working group to establish a plan for upgrading the recreation ground including the tennis courts and MUGA with a view of applying to the SODC Capital Grant and other potential funding opportunities.

10/09/21 Finance

Approval of Council expenditure (Retrospective: paid in August)

Colourplus: August newsletter	£252.77
Raymond Fergusson: Month 5 2021-22, Editor	£69.30
Andrea Oughton: Month 5 2021-22, Clerk	£206.92
Windmill Landscapes: 2 cuts July 2021	£286.40
South Oxfordshire District Council: Dog Bin emptying Qtr. to 30 th June 2021	£107.64

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software August 9 th – Sept. 9 th 2021	£24.00
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Approval of Council expenditure

Colourplus: September newsletter	£252.77
Raymond Fergusson: Month 6 2021-22, Editor	£69.30
Andrea Oughton: Month 6 2021-22, Clerk	£205.85
Raymond Fergusson: Reimbursement of Council expenditure 6 months to September 2021	£122.23
Windmill Landscapes: 3 cuts August 2021	£430.20

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software Sept. 9 th – October 9 th 2021	£24.00
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Bank reconciliation available for review

It was **RESOLVED** that village organisations will receive 50% discount on advertising rates.

11/09/21 Verges / Hedgerows

Cllr Sidhu reported an additional cut to the verges is due to take place this week. The arisings from the cut will be collected to improve biodiversity and wildflower growth. After consultation with the BBOWT representative the areas where arisings need to be collected had been identified. Cllr Sidhu will update the grass cutting map.

RESOLVED that an additional cut take place at a cost of £400 excl. VAT.

The Chair requested that Cllr Sidhu consider further and improved means for the Council of communicating with the village and community regarding its activities and initiatives, including the new wilding strategies for certain verges in the village.

12/09/21 Faster Broadband

Cllr van der Merwe reported the Parish Council had first contacted Airband when the company was awarded the DEFRA contract to supply faster broadband to businesses and on the back of that would roll out a residential scheme.



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Initially there was good engagement with Airband who were keen to help and engage with the community. Cllr van der Merwe tried to contact them in July and again this week without a response.

The Digital Infrastructure team at Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) noted the Chair's frustrations in dealing with Airband and stated their willingness to assist the parish in investigating and implementing a refreshed initiative to gather interest in Faster Fibre to the Premise (FFTP) broadband and gathering viability quotations from alternative providers such as Openreach. The Chair will liaise with the Digital Infrastructure team to obtain any helpful materials or leaflets they have and will commence the process of gathering initial interest in the scheme from residents.

The Parish Council can either continue to try and pursue Airband or start afresh with BT Openreach and gather support from residents interested in the scheme. OCC have a leaflet explaining fibre to the premise and how it works. Cllr van der Merwe has requested copies of the leaflet to use when promoting the scheme.

13/09/21 Correspondence

The Parish Council have received a formal response from Mr John Disley of OCC regarding HGV traffic travelling through the village on the A329. In summary OCC have said they sympathise but do not have any money in the budget to undertake any work.

Discussion took place on possible next steps. It was important now contact had been established to continue dialogue with OCC. Cllr van der Merwe will speak to County Councillor van Mierlo about a traffic survey and formulating a response to the Freight and Transport consultation due to be published in October.

A resident had written to the parish Council about traffic in the village. The views were noted. The resident had also written with concerns regarding the planning application for land between The Plough and Frogmore. These were considered when the application was discussed under agenda item 06/09/21.

A letter had been received asking the Parish Council to consider support for an extension to the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It was agreed more information on possible consequences for the village, advantages and disadvantages, of extending the boundary was needed before a formal response could be considered.

Cllr van der Merwe reported he had received a complaint from a resident regarding the overgrown hedge at Oldfield and the state of the footpath. It was agreed the Clerk will raise the issue with Soha and request them to cut back the hedge sufficiently so as not to obscure the footpath. The Chairman will report the footpath via Fix My Street.

Cllr van der Merwe had received correspondence from residents concerned about the sale of the Lamb Public House requesting the Parish Council consider applying to have it listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

The Council decided not to take any action on this for now given the Council has an existing agreement, dating from 2014, with current owners of The Lamb. The Council may consider this in future should the community express a demand for it.



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14/09/21 Exchange of Information

A revised list of Councillor Responsibilities will be discussed at the next meeting.

15/09/21 Date of Next Meeting

The Meeting of the Parish Council will convene at 8pm on **Wednesday 13th October 2021** at **Pine Lodge**.

The meeting finished at 10.15p.m.

Parish Forum

A resident raised the following:

1. When did the Parish Council expect the hardstanding for the Grundon bins to be completed? This had been covered under matters arising.
2. The verges had been cut 1m from the roadside outside the parish boundary sign. In an ideal world he would like this to continue through Little Milton. The verges looked a mess and he felt the underlying feeling was that residents did not like it. He suggested the Parish Council survey residents to gauge support.

Cllr Sidhu responded weather conditions had led to exceptional growth of the verges which had not been anticipated. An additional cut was planned for July which unfortunately did not take place. A full cut is planned to take place this week. The project was 'work in progress' and if it didn't succeed the Parish Council would revert to the original management plan.

Signed by:

Chairman.....



Date.....

13 Oct '21