

Little Milton Parish Council
Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th November 2022

Present: Cllr. Giles Denby
Cllr. Howard Harrison
Cllr Adam Sheppard
Cllr. Steve Sidhu
Cllr. Francois van der Merwe

Mrs Andrea Oughton (*Parish Clerk*)

Members of the public: Three

Parish Forum

A resident reported that the edge of the A329 through the village and the white lines in the middle of road are difficult for drivers to see during periods of heavy rain or bad weather. He had witnessed a 'near-miss' when a vehicle had clipped the roadside and veered towards him. The Chairman replied to say that members of the Parish Council had met with Officers from the Highways team at Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to help them better understand how dangerous the A329 through the village is for both drivers and pedestrians. Their response was that the new 20mph speed reduction will help, and that there is adequate signage warning drivers that the road narrows before the bend.

The Parish Council will suggest to the Highways team that the white lines are remarked when the 20mph speed reduction is implemented.

Another resident asked that pressure be put on OCC re the implementation of faster broadband in the village. It was not good to have a two-tier broadband structure. The Chairman reported there is to be a follow up programme for 'left behind areas' but at present no one can confirm whether Little Milton will be included in the follow up scheme.

01/11/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Wakeling.

02/11/22 Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members

There were no declarations of any pecuniary interests.

03/11/22 Approval of Minutes

The first sentence of item 10/10/22 was amended to read:

Recreation Ground / Open Green Spaces

Cllr Harrison reported that a resident with expert knowledge had offered advice on which plants would do well in playground.

Resolved to approve the amended minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th October 2022.

The Chairman will sign the minutes at the next meeting.

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04/11/22 Matters Arising

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

05/11/22 Planning

P22/S2896/HH – The Bridle Path, Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7PP
Amendment No. 1 – As amplified by information received 26th October 2022

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

RESOLVED to continue to SUPPORT the amended application

Harrington

It is important to state from the outset that the proposal and its associated publicity and 'consultations' are still completely speculative and are not in any way part of a South Oxfordshire District Council wide local plan for additional housing.

District Councillor Caroline Newton provided a report on the new concept proposals to build a new town of 6,500 homes at Harrington, off the M40 at J7 between Tetsworth, the Haseleys and Milton Common.

A series of roadshow events have been held, with a further Community Planning Weekend to be held on 11-15 November at the Belfry, Milton Common. The development will be divided into three settlements and include a country park, residential and commercial development and schools. Developers are promising improved biodiversity, sustainability with dwellings being built to a high sustainable standard. There will be sustainable transport hubs and mention of a railway, however, there are no railways near the site and no indication from Network Rail that any are planned.

The site access could either be adjacent to the M40 slip road or along the A40 at Tetsworth with a tunnel under the motorway. Beyond the location and scale, Summix have provided little detail. Their ambitious timescale is to start on site 2027-2028.

It is suspected that the timing of this public consultation is purely a way for the plans to be considered for inclusion in the new Joint Local Plan. It is Caroline's belief that there is not a need for this many additional homes in the District and unlikely that the forthcoming Housing Needs Assessment planned for summer 2023 will support an additional 6,500 across the District.

Caroline will continue to work with local stakeholders, including local parishes and residents to oppose the development.

06/11/22 Report by District / County Councillors

County Councillor Freddie van Mierlo had sent his apologies and circulated his monthly report.

District Councillor Caroline Newton provided an update on the proposals for Harrington (see Planning item above) and will circulate her monthly report following the meeting. The main

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highlights are the district housing team continue to see an increase in demand for housing services resulting from the cost-of-living crisis and the Ukrainian refugee situation. Cost-of-living crisis - a roundtable meeting took place in October with voluntary sector representatives and councils across Oxfordshire. Officers are mapping out the availability of 'warmer spaces' across the District.

Cllr Newton agreed to contact the District Waste Team to request that they schedule a tidy up of the layby on the A329. Cllr Newton will also make enquiries as to whether the District Council can monitor the layby / ditch to identify illegal fly tipping.

07/11/22 Finance

Approval of Council expenditure

Colourplus: November newsletter	£252.54
Raymond Fergusson: Month 8 2022-23, Editor	£70.50
Andrea Oughton: Month 8 2021-22, Clerk	£209.50
South Oxfordshire District Council – dog hygiene	£226.04
Garden Kings	£75.00
The Play Inspection Company	£107.88
Howard Harrison (Plants)	£6.00

The following payments were approved at the meeting:

Howard Harrison (Wildflower Seed)	£74.88
Thame Citizen Advice	£200.00
Giles Denby (Football Goal Posts)	£327.90

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software Nov 9th – Dec 9th 2022	£14.40
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Bank reconciliation had been circulated and signed by the Chairman

08/11/22 Global Climate Buddies

Mike Erwood presented his aim to create a community hub for residents and businesses in Little Milton to reduce the carbon footprint, reduce energy costs and the effect on global heating. Although a small community there is lots that can be done that will make a difference.

The hub will be a group of enthusiastic people, motivators who can pull the community into a new strategy for a sustainable future for generations to come. A lot can be learnt from local communities who are very active and productive with established projects and organisations in Oxfordshire who can provide help and advice.

The Parish Council are very supportive of Mike's aims to create a community hub and offered to help publicise the idea. It was suggested a first step could be to hold a public meeting at Pine Lodge with a key speaker on one of the identified topics.

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09/11/22 Reports from Councillor Representatives

Recreation Ground and Open Green Spaces

Following a visit to the village by representatives from OCC Highways it is proposed to place two planters at the top of Haseley Road, on the Stadhampton side which will improve amenity and act as a traffic calming measure. It was agreed that Cllr Harrison will draw up a scheme for submission to OCC Highways for approval.

Gold Street / Haseley Road – Cllr Harrison will draw up a costed specification, for bollards to stop further erosion of the bank but positioned to allow vehicles to park. The proposal will be brought to a future meeting for discussion. If approved the proposal will need to be sent to OCC for approval and the work carried out by an approved OCC contractor.

Further wildflower seeds have been purchased to create wildflower areas in parts of the recreation ground and perhaps other areas too. The Millennium flower beds have been planted with cyclamens and pansies.

Village Hall, Shop, School, Nursery and St James' Church

Cllr Denby reported donations to the clothes bank located in the car park were steady but there was capacity for more which in turn raises further funds for Little Milton Primary School.

A first meeting had taken place with representatives from St James' church. They were pleased to connect with the Parish Council and the opportunity to raise awareness of the problems associated with the building which is in a bad state of repair. Currently there is no running water and no heating as the boiler has broken. Church representatives have been invited to attend a future council meeting.

Football goal posts have been purchased and will be installed on the recreation ground.

The village fireworks event was very good and attracted the largest attendance to date. The Village Hall Committee has agreed to show England's world cup match against the USA and provide a pop-up pub for the event. The Senior Citizens annual Christmas lunch will be held at the Lamb on 12 December.

Utilities and Highways

Cllr Sheppard has written to OCC regarding the bad state of the ditch next to the layby suggesting the layby is closed or a fence erected to help stop the litter and waste accumulating in the ditch and area immediately next to the layby.

Thames Water are planning to carry out a camera survey on 16 & 17 November to determine ground water levels. This will require a road closure for access to complete the survey.

20mph speed reduction – a public consultation is expected shortly with OCC Cabinet making a final decision in December. If approved, implementation will take place within three months.

Cllr van der Merwe provided an update on the site visit with the OCC Highways team on 21st October 2022. Officers were taken on a tour of the village and shown areas of concern. In summary there is little OCC can do, the correct signage is displayed, although some signs were obscured by vegetation and there are no restrictions on the A329.

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Officers suggested the implementation of the 20mph speed reduction will help mitigate many of the problems and the parish council should consider organising traffic surveys three months after the introduction of the speed reduction to gather data.

Street furniture could be purchased and strategically positioned to enhance the area and help with traffic calming. Any scheme must be approved by OCC Highways prior to installation.

Following the visit Cllr Denby cut back vegetation obscuring A329 highway signage.

Playground

Discussion of the annual safety report was deferred to the next meeting.

Communication

Cllr van der Merwe reported the Haseley Road faster broadband scheme will probably be installed in December. He continues to push BT Openreach for answers regarding expansion of a scheme to cover the remainder of the village but has not received a response.

10/11/22 Correspondence

Nothing further to that already circulated.

11/11/22 Exchange of Information

No items were raised.

12/11/22 Date of Next Meeting

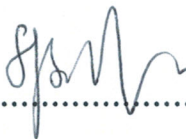
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th December 2022, commencing at 7.30pm at Pine Lodge.

Cllr van der Merwe gave his apologies for the next meeting.

The meeting finished at 20.40hrs

Signed by:

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



14/12/22