

**Little Milton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Present:**

Cllr. Francois Van Der Merwe (Chairman)  
Cllr. David Wakeling  
Cllr. Howard Harrison  
Mrs Andrea Oughton (*Parish Clerk*)  
Members of the public: One

**01/06/21 Apologies for Absence:**

Cllrs Sidhu (Personal) and Sheppard (Personal)

**02/06/21 Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests.

**03/06/21 Casual Vacancy**

Two applications had been received for the casual vacancy which had been circulated to Councillors. The Chairman called for the vote to be by ballot rather than a show of hands, this was agreed.

On being put to the vote it was **RESOLVED** that Mr Giles Denby be Co-opted onto the Council and he will sign his admission to office at the July meeting.

**04/06/21 Approval of Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

It was noted that the Clerk was drafting the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to be noted at the July meeting and approved at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2022.

**05/06/21 Matters Arising**

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) had responded to the Council's letter regarding the A329. OCC promised a more detailed response once officers had considered the issues raised.

As agreed at the last meeting Cllr Sheppard had responded to CPRE questionnaire regarding sewage, water and flooding issues in the village. He had raised issues of inadequate pumping capacity and the impact of potential future developments in the village and at Chalgrove.

Cllr Sheppard confirmed, as outlined in their letter, Thames Water were due to start works on 21<sup>st</sup> June. He will contact them at the end of June to arrange a meeting.

Cllr Sheppard had contacted Monument Pools to arrange a site visit and start date finalise the arrangements for the hard standing for the bins.

The Chair had emailed Mr Hue Williams to inform him of the Parish Council's decision to offer half the Recreation Ground for car parking with conditions related to the use of temporary matting, adequate insurance cover for damage or injury and adequate stewarding but had not received a response.

Cllrs Wakeling and Sheppard have started to monitor use of the car park and will observe the use of the Recreation Ground for overflowing parking at the event on 4<sup>th</sup> July. It is anticipated that one lane of cars parked next to the hedge on the left when entering the Recreation Ground

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will be provide adequate overflow parking for 40-50 vehicles for events. Cllrs Wakeling and Sheppard will report their findings and recommendations to a future meeting.

The Clerk reported she had received a response from Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association regarding signage at the Recreation Ground, MUGA and playpark. It was agreed the Clerk will contact the Parish Council's insurance broker to obtain further advice.

#### **06/06/21 Report by District / County Councillor**

The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Freddie van Mierlo to the meeting and congratulated him on his recent election.

County Councillor van Mierlo reported his main focus at present was to try and attend the majority of Parish Council meetings within the Ward in person for the first meeting and to learn about local issues. His monthly newsletter will focus on parishes and local issues. Applications to the County Councillor Priority Fund had just opened. Total value of the fund is £15k, spread over two years. Cllr van Mierlo invited applications to the fund and said funding would not be reserved for the second year.

The Chairman said the Parish Council looked forward to working with Cllr van Mierlo and set out the current three main priorities for the Council related to OCC:

1. A329 – The Chairman had sent Cllr van Mierlo a copy of the letter to Oxfordshire County Council.
2. The new initiative changing the management of the verges / hedgerows and other public open spaces in the village to create greater biodiversity. The project had made a great start and had local support but will need funding in the future.
3. MUGA & Tennis Court were built in 2004 and were in need of refurbishment. A working party has just been formed to look different options.

District Councillor Caroline Newton had circulated her June report. Cllr Newton added the planning application for development on Chalgrove airfield had been withdrawn. It was very likely Homes England will submit a new application relocating the airfield to the north of the site and housing on the existing airfield.

A brief summary of the issues of flooding caused during heavy rain was provided to Cllrs van Mierol and Newton. Thames Water have been reasonably reactive, and the Parish Council has developed a good relationship with them over the years. There is capacity in the system to cope with Little Milton's needs but developments in Great Haseley and excess rainwater entering the sewerage system during periods of heavy rain caused flooding on Haseley Road and in extreme cases this back flowed onto the A329.

#### **07/06/21 Planning**

##### **P21/S1350/HH -15 Milton, Manor Drive, Little Milton**

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.

**RESOLVED** to support the application.

##### **P21/S2247/LB - Owl Barn, Church Hill, Little Milton**

1st floor rear extension over an existing ground floor extension

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It was noted this was the Listed Building application linked to P21/S1869/HH supported at the last meeting. No further comment.

**08/06/21 Recreation Ground/Playground**

The Chairman reported the tennis club was in the process of setting up an online system for court bookings which was being trialled by a small number of people.

Cllr Sidhu had contacted Grundon regarding the bins and concluded the only option would be to have an additional bin in the car park and remove the small bins in the park altogether. It was agreed this was a risky strategy.

It was agreed the existing bins were not adequate and new larger bins should be purchased. The Clerk will circulate the link to Broxap and Glasdon to Cllrs Sidhu and Wakeling to investigate and bring a proposal to the next meeting. The Parish Council may consider applying for funds from the County Councillor Priority fund to purchase bins.

**09/06/21 Finance**

Approval of Council Expenditure

Colourplus June newsletter	£252.77
Editor (R. Fergusson) Month 3 2021-22	£69.30 (est)
Windmill Landscapes 2 cuts May 2021	£286.80
BGG : Verge cut May 2021	£390.00

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software June 9 <sup>th</sup> – July 9 <sup>th</sup> 2021	£12.00
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Bank reconciliations were available for inspection.

A cash flow projection for the first three months of the new financial year will be provided to the next meeting. Please inform Raymond Fergusson of any future potential large expenditure items.

The Internal Audit Report was noted. There were no issues that needed to be reported and the Internal Auditor had completed and signed the Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21 on page 4 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 – Part 2.

**External Audit / Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020-21 Part 2**

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council meets the requirements to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

**RESOLVED** that Section 1, the Annual Governance Statement on page 5 of the AGAR be approved.

**RESOLVED** that Section 2, the Accounting Statements 2020-21 on page 6 of the AGAR be approved.

**10/06/21 Parish Council Meetings**

The success of conducting Parish Council Meetings virtually was noted. However, this was no longer an option as Government legislation permitting it had not been extended. A similar number of members of the public had attended virtual meetings as had attended face to face

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meetings prior to the pandemic. Discussion took place on whether there was an appetite for members of the public to continue to join meetings online rather than in person at Pine Lodge.

As attendance had not significantly increased for virtual meetings during the last year it was agreed to offer County Councillor van Mierlo the option to attend virtually and reconsider offering virtual access to members of the public should there be a demand.

**11/06/21 Verges / Hedgerows**

Cllr Sidhu had sent a report as follows, there had been a few teething issues with some of the verges, but all were now cut pretty much as intended. The Brief will be amended so it is easier to follow in time for the next scheduled cuts. The playing field and triangles in Old Field, up against the reserve are cut by different contractors whom Cllr Sidhu will contact. It was noted that the Village Green will need to be cut on a regular basis. There has been a phenomenal amount growth since the verges were cut and some were almost back to the length they were before!

Two types of orchid have been identified on one of the verges, a positive result and also flowers which would not otherwise have been seen had the grass cutting schedule not changed. Cllr Sidhu had received an email from a resident in full support of the scheme.

**12/06/21 Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee**

As part of a year-long celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee there will be an extended Bank Holiday from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 which will provide opportunities for communities to come together.

It was agreed the Chairman will contact the Village Hall Committee to ask them to take the initiative in organising a community celebration on the recreation ground involving all the village organisations, school and nursery.

**13/06/21 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**14/06/21 Exchange of Information**

None.

**15/06/21 Date of Next Meeting**

The Meeting of the Parish Council will convene at 8pm on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Pine Lodge**. Cllr Francois van der Merwe gave his apologies for the next meeting,

The meeting finished at 21.20p.m.

**Parish Forum**

There were no matters raised.

**Signed by:**

Chairman..........Date.....14/7/21.....