

Little Milton Parish Council
Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2023

Present: Cllr. Giles Denby
Cllr. Howard Harrison
Cllr Adam Sheppard
Cllr. Steve Sidhu
Cllr. Van der Merwe
Cllr. David Wakeling

Mrs Andrea Oughton (*Parish Clerk*)

Members of the public: 13

Parish Forum

Nine residents attended the meeting seeking clarification from the Parish Council on its position with reference to planning application P22/S1241/FUL – The Site of Milton House, Gold Street.

The District Councillor had called in the application having concerns on the massing of the buildings on site and impact on the conservation area. If the District Planning Officer is minded to recommend approval the application will be taken to the District Planning Committee for a decision. If this were to happen what will the parish council's position be?

Chairman, Cllr van der Merwe replied that the parish council had a duty to act on behalf of the whole community. When considering any planning application the parish council had the choice to Object, Approve or state No Strong Views. In the case of the Milton House application none of these presented a perfect choice. The parish council's approach has been to engage constructively on a range of important points it felt strongly about in order to work towards an acceptable outcome.

If the planning officer recommends approval the application will go the District Planning Committee for a decision. At the Committee meeting those wanting to speak against the application will have five minutes to put their case, those speaking in support will have five minutes and a further five minutes each will be given to the parish council and District Ward Councillor to put forward their points. If not already addressed, the parish council will make the points it has already raised which are a matter of record both through the minutes and the responses to the application on the District Council's website.

To make best use of the time allowed to put points across at the District Planning Committee meeting, the Chairman encouraged residents to co-ordinate their participation at the meeting.

01/01/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from County Councillor van Mierlo.

02/01/23 Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members

There were no declarations of any pecuniary interests.

03/01/23 Approval of Minutes

Resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th December 2022. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

Little Milton Parish Council
Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2023

04/01/23 Matters Arising

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

05/01/23 Planning

There were no planning applications to consider or matters to discuss.

06/01/23 Report by District / County Councillors

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

District Councillor Caroline Newton reported the District Cabinet has agreed the timetable for development of the Joint Local Plan. The draft plan will be submitted January 2025 and hopefully adopted September 2025. Housing numbers and development locations will be known in spring this year with a public consultation planned for August / September 2023.

07/01/23 Gold Street

On 20th December 2023 Cllr Harrison met with a member of Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC) Highways team to discuss the installation of bollards to help protect trees and prevent further erosion of the bank on Gold Street. The proposed scheme includes installation of 11 white 'Dragon' verge marker posts, positioned to allow parking for 3-4 vehicles. OCC have agreed to split the cost and installation of the posts 50:50 with the parish council. After discussion the parish council **resolved** to install the bollards and pay £680.63 (incl VAT) 50% of the cost.

08/01/23 A329 / Road Safety

A group of parents with children at Little Milton Primary School raised concerns about safety on the A329 and Gold Street and shared their ideas. Can traffic speed be reduced near the school and on Gold Street? Can a speed camera or a speed display device (SID) be installed? Can the barrier be extended? Can faded road markings be repainted?

The parish council responded to confirm the 20mph speed reduction scheme was with OCC awaiting a final decision by Cabinet on 26th January. If approved the scheme will be implemented by the end of March. As part of the scheme 'dragons teeth' will be painted on the road at the entrances to the village. The parish council continues to push OCC to repaint road markings and it is hoped this will happen at the same time as the implementation of the 20mph speed reduction scheme.

It was very unlikely that a request for a second speed camera in the village would be granted. However, the council will request, via the Neighbourhood Police Team, to have a mobile speed monitoring van visit the village on random days (and times) of the week.

An extension to the barrier on the pavement outside the school has been considered in the past and it was thought the location of a Thames Water manhole in the middle of the pavement may have prevented work going ahead. Cllr Wakeling promised to look through the records and report back.

Little Milton Parish Council
Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2023

The parish council will investigate the installation of a SIDs device and bring back to a future meeting for further discussion. The parish council continue to campaign for a ban on HGVs travelling through the village.

09/01/23 Finance

Approval of Council expenditure

Colourplus: January 2023 newsletter	£252.54
Raymond Fergusson: Month 10 2022-23, Editor	£76.10
Andrea Oughton: Month 10 2021-22, Clerk	£227.18
HMRC-PAYE Month 7-9 2022/23	£373.40

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software Jan 9th –Feb 8th 2003 £14.40

Bank reconciliations for the current and reserve accounts were circulated and signed by the Chairman.

A revised draft budget for 2023-24 was presented following discussion at the last meeting. **Resolved** to approve the budget for 2023-24. The budget covers improvement to public open spaces in the village and recreation ground as well as the usual services provided to the village by the Parish Council.

Resolved to set the 2023-24 Precept at £13,500, the same as the previous two years, which equates to £63.38 per annum for a Band D property, a 0.3% increase.

10/01/23 Reports from Councillor Representatives

Recreation Ground and Open Green Spaces

Two planters have been placed on the corner of Haseley Road and A329. These will be filled with topsoil and planted.

Cllr Harrison has collected bare root plants and will seek to find a good time to plant these. A resident has offered to help with this task and sowing the wildflower seeds in the Spring.

Utilities and Highways

Cllr Sheppard has raised an order with OCC for the repair of the manhole cover near the Lamb public house. Cllr Sheppard has chased OCC for an update on the repair to the Bridle path, originally reported in November 2022.

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

A meeting has taken place with the organiser of the local annual Tug of War competition where it was agreed that this year's competition will be held in Little Milton at the beginning of September. The Village Hall Committee are working on plans to celebrate the King's coronation in May.

Playground

Cllr Wakeling continues dialogue with Komplan re the replacement aerial runway seat. Cllrs Wakeling and van der Merwe will meet to discuss replacement of the wooden fencing around the MUGA.

Little Milton Parish Council
Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2023

Communication

Cllr Sidhu is compiling information to publicise local elections in May and to encourage residents to stand for election.

11/01/23 Correspondence

The Clerk reported the volunteers who monitor the village AEDs are reviewing the signage. It is anticipated that all three sites will require improved signage. The volunteers will report back to a future meeting.

12/01/23 Exchange of Information

It was agreed that Cllr Harrison will draft an application to the District Councillor Community Grant for funds to refurbish the MUGA lighting.

13/01/23 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th February 2023, commencing at 7.30pm at Pine Lodge.

The meeting finished at 21:15hrs

Signed by:

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



8 Feb '23