

**Little Milton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Present:**

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

**01/10/22 Apologies for Absence:**

There were no apologies.

**02/10/22 Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members**

There were no declarations of any pecuniary interests.

**03/10/22 Approval of Minutes**

**Resolved** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022.  
The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**04/10/22 Matters Arising**

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

**05/10/22 Planning**

There were no planning applications to discuss.

It was noted the District Planning Authority has GRANTED planning permission for the following application:

P21/S5075/FUL - Land West of Old Belchers Farm Church Hill Little Milton OX44 7QB  
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).

It was further noted the District Planning Authority has REFUSED planning permission for the following 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).

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

County Councillor Freddie van Mierlo had sent his apologies and circulated his monthly report. District Councillor Caroline Newton had sent her apologies.

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**07/10/22 Finance**

Approval of Council expenditure

|                                            |         |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|
| Colourplus: October newsletter             | £252.54 |
| Raymond Fergusson: Month 7 2022-23, Editor | £70.10  |
| Andrea Oughton: Month 7 2021-22, Clerk     | £209.50 |
| BGG 1 cut September 2022                   | £132.00 |
| HMRC: PAYE months 4-6 2022-23              | £298.00 |
| Garden Kings (hardstanding for bins)       | £134.00 |

Direct Debit

|                                                      |        |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Intuit: Accounting software Oct. 9th – Nov. 9th 2022 | £14.40 |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------|

Bank reconciliation had been circulated and signed by the Chairman

The latest forecast was circulated, and preliminary discussions took place on the budget for 2023-24. It was suggested that the training budget is increased to be able to offer training to newly elected councillors following the local elections in May 2023. The playground perimeter fencing doesn't immediately need replacing but is a project worth considering setting aside funds for in 2023.

**08/10/22 Global Climate Buddies**

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

**09/10/22 Local Elections 2023**

It was noted that local elections will take place in May 2023. It was agreed to publish articles in the newsletter, on the website, and social media in the New Year to raise awareness of the elections, key dates, the role of the Parish Council, the role of a Parish Councillor (to include current Councillor profiles) and to encourage residents to consider standing for election.

**10/10/22 Reports from Councillor Representatives**

**Recreation Ground / Open Green Spaces**

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

Discussion took place on the terrible state of the layby and ditch on the A329. Fencing the ditch off from the layby may help to solve the problem. Cllr Sheppard agreed to raise it with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Cllr van der Merwe will raise it at the OCC Highways meeting next week.

**Playground**

Cllr Wakeling reported he has contacted Komplan regarding the broken seat on the aerial runway and they have agreed to replace it free of charge under warranty. Cllr Wakeling has removed the whole unit from the runway until the new seat is fitted.

The fence to the far end near the tennis courts is rotten and needs replacing. There is no requirement to have a fence, but it makes sense to do so. Cllr Wakeling will obtain quotations for a like for like replacement as well as a metal fence.

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The new waste bins have been installed. Cllr Wakeling has purchase bin liners at a cost of £22.16, it was agreed this is expensed back to Cllr Wakeling. Discussion took place on where the original bins might be relocated. It was agreed to put one near the MUGA.

**Communication**

Cllr Sidhu reported that due to pressure of work he is unable to progress the project to deliver a new village website. The current website delivers information and documents the Parish Council are legally obliged to publish. It does not seem the right use of funds at this time to employ a company to build a new website. Ideally this project can be revisited at some point in the future with a view to providing a new village website for all village organisations.

It was noted the Council's Facebook page proved an invaluable tool to share information quickly during the recent water crisis.

**Village Hall, Village Shop, Orchard Nursery**

Cllr Denby shared information and quotations to purchase two football goals, as per the request received from Little Milton Primary School. **Resolved** to purchase two 12' x 6' goals at a cost of £163.95 each.

It was agreed the new clothes bank needed a hardstanding; Cllr Denby will speak with the school.

The Village Hall requested use of the Recreation Ground for the annual village firework display on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022. **Resolved** that free use of the Recreation Ground be given for the Village Firework Display.

The annual Village Christmas Fete will return to the Village Hall this year.

It was agreed that Cllr Denby will include St James' Church with his Councillor responsibilities.

**Highways**

Cllr Sheppard reported he had spoken with Thames Water on several occasions during the recent water crisis to get updates. OCC Highways have carried out patching work to the main 'A' roads. Please report any potholes or damage to pavements to Cllr Sheppard who can mark them up and report directly onto the system.

Cllr Sheppard continues to push OCC for a date for the 20mph speed limit installation and an answer on the recalibration of the speed camera once the 20mph speed limit is installed.

**11/10/22 Correspondence**

The Clerk reported she had received an email from the Deep Waste Cleansing team at South Oxfordshire District Council asking which areas of the village to clean during their visit in November. The Clerk will submit the usual list and add a request to clear the pavement on the western side of the A329 between Hill View Cottage and the shop.

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**12/10/22 Exchange of Information**

The white entrance gates to the village need repainting. Cllr Wakeling will ask the resident who painted the gates previously if he can paint them.

It was agreed to move the Parish Forum to the beginning of the meeting to encourage residents to attend and raise items of interest or concern.

**13/10/22 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022, commencing at 7.30pm at Pine Lodge.

The meeting finished at 8.40hrs

**14/10/22 Parish Forum**

A resident asked if the new No. 46 bus to Great Milton could be extended to serve Little Milton?

The Chairman responded to say that Little Milton and Great Haseley Parish Councils have raised this with County Councillor van Mierlo and Officers at OCC. Unfortunately stops along the route towards Oxford would need to be cut to enable the service to be extended to Little Milton and Great Haseley. Cllr van Mierlo is speaking with Officers to see if there are other routes that might be re-directed to cover the villages.

The resident further asked if the speed limit on Windmill Hill could be reduced from 60mph to 30mph, perhaps not along its entirety but especially where the road passes by residential properties. He would like to start a campaign to reduce the speed limit, like the campaign for the Haseley Road, and sought the Parish Council's support for such a campaign.

The Chairman reported he would raise the question at a meeting with the OCC Highways team next week.

A further resident reported that the footpath from Chiltern View into Old Field was overgrown with weeds. The Clerk said she would add the path to the list of areas for the SODC Deep Cleanse team to tackle during their visit in November.

**Signed by:**

**Chairman**..........**Date**.....14/12/22.....