

Little Milton Parish Council
Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th June 2022

Present:

Cllr. Francois van der Merwe
Cllr. Howard Harrison
Cllr. Steve Sidhu
Cllr. David Wakeling
Cllr. Adam Sheppard
Cllr. Giles Denby

Mrs Andrea Oughton (*Parish Clerk*)

Members of the public: Two

01/06/22 Apologies for Absence:

There were no apologies for absence.

02/06/22 Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members

There were no declarations of any pecuniary interests.

03/06/22 Approval of Minutes

Resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 11th May 2020.
Resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th May 2022. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

04/06/22 Matters Arising

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

05/06/22 Report by District / County Councillors

Cllr Freddie van Mierlo and Cllr Caroline Newton had sent apologies.

06/06/22 Planning

District Councillor Caroline Newton has 'called in' planning application P22/S1241/FUL – The Site of Milton House. This ensures the application is taken to the District Planning Committee for a decision should the planning officer be minded to recommend approval. It was noted that the Planning Officer has already contacted County Highways regarding the proposed pedestrian access adjacent to the 'Pepper Pots'. It is hoped this is a sign that concerns raised by the Parish Council and residents are being considered by the District and County Councils.

It was noted that South Oxfordshire District Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council are embarking on a Joint Local Plan. The first public consultation has opened and focuses on the issues facing both District Councils and how they might be tackled. The consultation runs until 23rd June 2022.

07/06/22 Finance

Approval of Council Expenditure
Colourplus June 2022 newsletter

£267.26



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Andrea Oughton Month 3 2022-23		£209.50
Editor (R.Fergusson) Month 3 2022-23		£70.50
BGG :Verge cut May 2022	£420.00	
: Grass cutting April/May 2022- 2 cuts	£264.00	£684.00
Gallagher: Council Insurance 1 st June 2022- 31 st May 2023		£1274.59
Little Milton Shop: Refreshments for Annual Parish Meeting		£45.32
Oxford Green Belt Network		£15.00

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software June 9th – July 9th 2022 £14.40

Resolved to make a £50 donation to Home Start Southern Oxfordshire

After a short discussion it was agreed not to subscribe to Wild Oxfordshire

Bank reconciliation available for review

It was noted that the bank mandate had been updated adding Cllr Francois van der Merwe, Cllr Steve Sidhu and the Parish Clerk.

Resolved that online banking for the Parish Council's National Westminster Bank Accounts is enabled allowing Cllr Francois van der Merwe and Andrea Oughton (Parish Clerk) to make online payments.

Mr Raymond Fergusson asked Councillors to give some thought to any future spending plans and to let him know in order to update the financial forecast.

[Cllr Denby entered the meeting]

The internal audit report for 2021/22 was received. There were no issues that needed to be reported and the Internal Auditor had completed and signed the Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22 on page 4 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 – Part 2.

External Audit / Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021/22
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 2021-22 on page 6 of the AGAR be approved.

08/06/22 Code of Conduct

All tiers of Local Government have a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the Council, and formally adopt a Code of Conduct in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

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A new Code of Conduct has recently been adopted by Oxfordshire County Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC).

Resolved to adopt the new Code of Conduct.

09/06/22 Reports from Councillor Representatives

Recreation Ground / Open Green Spaces

Ground bolts have been fixed to the newly purchased benches located on the recreation ground. A walnut tree has been planted in the corner of the play area to replace the dead tree. Mowing of the recreation ground has been placed on a two-week cycle.

The verges were cut on 21st May 2022, the contractor has been asked to cut the verges into Old Field as they were not cut. The green on Haseley Road was only strimmed and left looking untidy. Cllr Harrison mowed and re-strimmed the green and has asked the contractor to do the same in future.

BT have repaired the door to the telephone box on Haseley Green. It was agreed to investigate taking on ownership of the telephone box, including the cost of refurbishment and ongoing maintenance. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

The old bench from Old Fields is to be relocated to recreation ground, under the tree behind the MUGA.

Discussion took place on a proposal to purchase three picnic tables to be located on the recreation ground. It was agreed to purchase one picnic table made from recycled plastic to gauge the quality and appearance. If acceptable a further two picnic tables will be purchased.

Resolved to purchase one recycled plastic (brown) picnic table at a cost of £540.00 plus VAT plus ground anchors.

Playground

Two benches have been repaired and two bags of mulch added to the playground.

Communications

Cllr Sidhu agreed to draft a Scoping Document and costings for the new website.

Village Hall / Village Shop / Orchard Nursery

The Parish Council expressed their congratulations and thanks to the Village Hall Committee for organising the fantastic Jubilee celebrations.

Cllr Denby reported pupil numbers had increased at the village school and the nursery was full and holding a waiting list. The school and nursery were pleased to hear the application for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in the village has been successful.

Utilities and Highways

As a first step to implementing the proposed 20mph speed limit in the village, the County Council has carried out a survey and put forward suggestions for signage and a buffer zone. Cllr Sheppard is to clarify points within the proposal and request that when the existing 30mph sign on the Haseley Road is replaced, the new 20mph sign is moved further along the road towards Ditch End Farm.

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Cllr Sheppard had not received a response from Thames Water regarding the Milton House application or sewerage in the school car park. He will continue to push for responses.

Cllr Sheppard will contact OCC Highways about closing the layby.

The Parish Council continues to push for a Faster Broadband scheme that will cover the whole of the village.

10/06/22 Correspondence

Cllr van der Merwe reported he had received an email from a resident regarding the Milton House planning application and the need for District Councillor Newton to call-in the application.

11/06/22 Exchange of Information

Nothing to report.

12/06/22 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th July 2022, commencing at 7.30pm at Pine Lodge. Cllr van der Merwe and Cllr Sheppard gave their apologies for the next meeting.

The meeting finished at 9.50pm

13/06/22 Parish Forum

Following a short discussion at the last meeting regarding the possible installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers in the car park a resident with knowledge on the subject, joined the meeting.

One option is to engage a contractor and the Parish Council purchase, install and run the EV charger. A more favourable option is to approach a company such as Instavolt who specialise in high voltage quick chargers. They will do all the investigation work, and then install and own it giving the Parish Council an annual rental payment.

As a first step the Parish Council agreed to approach Instavolt to undertake an initial assessment (at no cost to the Council). An item will be put on the next agenda for further discussion.

Signed by:

Chairman.....

Date.....

13/7/22