



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
FOUNDATION

LITTLE MILTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

Overview

The current Council have now completed their four year term and a new council will be in place following the election on May 2nd 2019. As there were insufficient nominations for the six vacant positions all the nominated applicants will take up office on May 7th for the next four years. It was an uncontested election

Our District and County Council councillors attended our meetings and offered invaluable support. The Council will not seek to find a replacement clerk for at least the first year of the new Council as the current clerk is prepared to carry on in the role

The Council meetings have been dominated by the Local Plan 2033, our own Neighbourhood Development Plan and the Oxford – Cambridge Expressway.

The Parish Council continues to be fully engaged with OCC Highways on a number of maintenance issues as well as the infrastructure challenges that could arise from the Local Plan and the Oxford- Cambridge Expressway

The Parish Council continues to invest in maintaining the recreation ground and are pleased with the hedge that was planted a few years ago. The new playground was opened in May 2018 and has been very successful.

The Parish Council maintains a good contact with our Community Police as it sees the security and well-being of our Community as very important. Although at present there is no Police Community Support Officer.

The Parish Council values the excellent work done by all the organisations and residents within the village.

The control of the Council's finances is very important and in the year 2018-19 the Council had income of £53,895 as a result of significant grant income, and expenditure of £52,850. The closing reserves are at an adequate level to meet the predicted levels of expenditure over the next three years.

The Parish Council would encourage more residents to attend the monthly Council meetings. The meetings are open to the public and the press. The Council meeting allows for public participation and would welcome a higher level of public participation. The Council would encourage residents to review the Parish Council website where the minutes of all meetings are published along with other Parish Council information.

Local Plan 2033

The SODC Local Plan after a re-draft and necessary consultation has been submitted for Examination to the Government who will appoint a Planning Inspector. The Parish Council has argued against the Chalgrove Airfield development with a focus on the related traffic issues and potential increased flood risk. It is expected that the Plan will be examined during the summer with a report in the autumn.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan was completed during 2018 and was approved at a referendum in December 2018. This was a major achievement. The Plan is part of the planning process and puts a local flavour on the higher level policies set at District and National level. This was a major exercise over a two year period and gives the Parish Council more influence over planning matters although the final decision rests with SODC who are the Planning Authority

Oxford-Cambridge Expressway

The Parish Council have been actively involved in the consultation process for the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway and are watching developments very closely. The information on the possible two corridors could mean that some route options could come close to the parish and there are some options which may actually be beneficial to the village by taking traffic, particularly HGV's, off the A329. The next stage in the process is a further study that will recommend a limited number of routes within the two proposed corridors. After suitable consultation there will be a further study to

determine the actual route and that will subject to a public examination. The process is not anticipated to conclude until 2021.

Oxfordshire 2050

Oxfordshire Councils are working jointly on a County-wide strategic plan that integrates planning growth and infrastructure. The JSSP will address the strategic and cumulative implications of growth and set out a long-term framework covering the whole of Oxfordshire up to 2050. This is a strategic approach to planning for the County of Oxfordshire although it is unclear as to what the consultation process would be outside the County and District Council. The Parish Council will monitor developments.

Planning Matters

The Parish Council has reviewed and commented upon fourteen planning and listed building applications during the year and although it can make recommendations the final decision is made by the South Oxfordshire District Council who is the Planning Authority. The applications primarily related to extensions or modifications to domestic properties. The Parish Council will continue to use its Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that all developments are considered against the Local Planning Policies within the Plan.

Little Milton School

The Parish Council welcomed the appointment of the new Headteacher Hannah Brown and wished Beth McLaren well in her future career. The School is facing some tough challenges as roll numbers have fallen and this creates pressure on funding. Little Milton School has excellent standards and excellent staff and the work of the Governors is very much appreciated. The School is an integral part of our community.

St James' Church

The Council thank the Reverend Simon Cronk, Rector of the Benefice of Great Milton with Little Milton and Great Haseley for his work within our parish and to the other members of the church team.

The Church has many challenges not least the maintenance of its building that will require significant work on the stonework in the next few years. The Church like the School is an integral part of our community.

The Lamb, The Shop and Post Office

The Parish Council recognises the importance of these amenities to our community. The Parish Council encourages the local community to support these amenities in whatever way is appropriate to them. It is aware of the need for more volunteers to help in the shop and hopefully that call will not go unheeded. The Parish Council will continue to support our local amenities.

Volunteers

The Parish Council during the last year have been made aware of the threat to our valued village institutions due to the lack of “new blood” coming forward to take on the responsibility as long standing members of those institutions stand down. This is not a new problem as it has always been with us. However it appears to be more acute at present. The Parish Council will provide encouragement to ensure our community maintains the benefits from a diverse range of activities and amenities.

“New” Council

The election of a new Council ensures that we continue to manage our own affairs and this is very important. The Parish Council plays a vital part in representing the interests of our community and influences other decision makers. They also deliver local services to meet local needs.

The newly elected Council will look forward to the continued support of the village.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income

	2018-19		2017-18	
	£	%	£	%
Precept	11500	21	11250	12
Newsletter Advertising	5698	11	5625	6
Grants	34303	63	73405	80
MUGA Income	849	2	903	1
Other Income	1519	3	989	1
Bank Interest	26		7	
Total Income	53895	100	92179	100

Expenditure

	2018-19		2017-18	
	£	%	£	%
Neighbourhood Dev. Plan	797	2	8044	8
Defibrillators	103		277	
Newsletter	4253	8	4155	4
Recreation ground	4116	8	4189	4
Council Administration	3167	6	3340	4
Other Expenditure	3013	6	2244	2
Loan Repayment	3293	6	3409	4
Playground Project	33557	63	72688	74
Election Costs	(450)	(1)	300	
MUGA	1001	2	228	
Total Expenditure	52850	100	98874	100

Balance Sheet as at

	31-3-19	31 -3-18
	£	£
Bank	18305	18764
Debtors/Prepayments	646	708
Creditors/Accruals	(3781)	(5346)
Total Reserves	15170	14126

General Reserve	14482	12538
Earmarked Reserve	688	1588

Commentary

For every £1000 that the Parish Council raises through the precept it adds around £4.70 per annum to the Council tax bill for a Band D equivalent property. This results in the precept of £11,500 equating to circa £54.00 annual charge per Band D equivalent property.

The total income in 2018-19 was £53,895. This included grant income for the playground of £33,774. The Council also received a grant of £529 from OCC towards verge cutting. The precept was £11,500 with advertising revenue at £5,698 broadly level with 2017-18. The income from the MUGA of £849 and Other Income of £1519 were slightly up on 2017-18.

The total expenditure in 2018/19 was £52,850. The major items of expenditure were the playground £33,557, the cost of the newsletter £4,253, the maintenance of the recreation ground £4,116 of which ground maintenance was £1,867, hedging & trees £860, repayment of loans £3,293 Council administration £3,167. The main items included under Other Expenditure were verge cutting £900, subscriptions and donations £398, insurance £458. audit fee £300, painting of entrance gates £395. There was a write back of £450 on election costs as a result of the uncontested election

The outstanding balance on the Parish Council loans is £4,450 and will be finally repaid in September 2020.

The total closing reserves at 31st March 2019 were £15,170 of which the general reserves were £14,482 and £688 of earmarked reserves for Council computer equipment as result of a grant from OALC.

The Council consider that the general reserves are adequate to meet known future events and sufficient reserves to cover normal ongoing expenditure.

Council Members

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Cllr. David Wakeling	01844 278014
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