

**Little Milton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Present:** Cllr. Francois van der Merwe  
Cllr. Howard Harrison  
Cllr. Edward Horwell  
Cllr. Adam Sheppard  
Cllr. David Wakeling  
Mrs Andrea Oughton (*Parish Clerk*)  
Members of the public: Two

**Parish Forum** (15 minutes maximum)

No items were raised.

**01/05/23 Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr Giles Denby (Personal).

**02/05/23 Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members**

There were no declarations of any pecuniary interests.

**03/05/23 Approval of Minutes**

**Resolved** to approve the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**04/05/23 Matters Arising**

It was agreed that the Clerk contact local parishes who have recently installed Speed Indicator Device Signs (SIDs). Cllr Sheppard will contact Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways for advice on purchasing and installing SIDs.

Discussion took place on the Council's priorities over the next four years. It was agreed to continue to focus on HGV traffic through the village and the refurbishment of the MUGA. This is not an exhaustive list and councillors were encouraged to give thought to further projects.

**05/05/23 Report by District / County Councillors**

County Cllr Freddie van Mierlo and District Cllr Georgina Heritage had sent their apologies.

**06/05/23 Planning**

P23/S0554/LB – Spring & Well Cottage, Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7PP

Installation of full fibre by BT

**Resolved** to Fully Support the application.

**07/05/23 Land at Warren Farm Barn**

The owner of the above land has submitted a Highways Declaration (Ref: 2068) which prevents unrecorded public rights of way from being legally recorded based on presumed

**Little Milton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

dedication in the future. Cllr Wakeling had contacted the Ramblers Association and circulated their response. All agreed a phased approach as follows:

- a) Identify pieces of the footpath that are missing from the Definitive Map.
- b) Gather evidence the paths have been used for over 30 years. Declarations from users (item in newsletter, personal contact, social media).
- c) Cllr Horwell to contact Lucy Ireland, local Footpath Warden.

**08/05/23 General Power of Competence**

The General Power of Competence (GPC) came into force through the Localism Act 2011 as part of the Government's move towards the decentralisation of powers down to town and parish councils. GPC gives local councils the power to do anything that individuals generally may do as long as it is legal.

To be eligible to act under GPC a council must pass a resolution at which time at least two thirds of the members must hold office as a result of being elected and the Clerk must hold the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).

**Resolved that the Parish Council met the eligibility criteria for the General Power of Competence.**

**09/05/23 Finance**

Approval of Council expenditure

Colourplus: May Newsletter 2023	£239.20
Raymond Fergusson: Month 2 2023-24, Editor	£76.50
Andrea Oughton Month 2 2023-24, Clerk/RFO	£226.98
Howard Harrison – Plants / Chippings / Sand	£206.41
Francois van der Merwe – Microsoft Licences	£16.68
Raymond Fergusson: SODC Small Lottery Licence	£20.00

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software April 9th – May 9th 2023	£16.80
--	--------

Bank reconciliation was noted. It was further noted that the first half of Precept for 2023-24 - £6,750 had been received.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021-22

It was noted that both the Council's income and / or expenditure for 2022-23 is under the threshold of £25k and it can therefore certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review. The Council will formalise the decision at the next meeting when the annual accounts are presented.

**Resolved** to purchase a fireproof safe to keep legal and important information related to the Parish Council and located in a secure area at Pine Lodge.

**Resolved** to apply for a Debit Card. The Clerk to check Financial Regulations and procedures related to the use of a Debit Card.



**Little Milton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**10/05/23 Village AEDs**

The Signage Assessment Report for the village AEDs was noted. The survey and report have been undertaken in response to South Central Ambulance Service's 2022 report. Thanks was expressed to the volunteers who regularly check the village and manage the servicing of the village AEDs.

**Resolved** to approve the recommendations within the report.

**11/05/23 Reports from Councillor Representatives**

**Recreation Ground / Open Green Spaces**

Verges within the 20mph limit are due to be cut at the end of May.

Two bags of stone chippings have been spread along the edge of the Gold Street slip road to minimise muddy conditions. This action was approved by OCC Highways.

Planters have been replanted with new plants by Carol Turner who has offered to maintain the planters on behalf of the Council.

A new single slab has been placed inside the pedestrian gateway to the recreation ground. Further slabs have been placed in front of the gate to the play area.

The owner of the pathway alongside the church has given permission for the Council to lay bark chippings along the pathway.

**Resolved** to purchase a tonne bag of bark chippings.

**Playground**

Following a report of bees nesting, the play area has been checked but no evidence found.

It is proposed to replace the small bin in the MUGA, which fills up quickly and is not easy to empty, with one of the blue bins originally located at the entrance of the play area.

**Utilities and Highways**

Orders for pothole repairs have been raised on Fix My Street but OCC has a backlog of work.

Thames Water carried out CCTV investigation work on 8<sup>th</sup> April and concluded there are no operating problems related to the pumping station.

**11/05/23 Correspondence**

Great Haseley Horticultural Society have submitted a request to use the recreation ground for overflow parking on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023, the Society will provide stewards.

**Resolved** to allow parking on the recreation ground on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Cllr van der Mewre has responded to a resident's concern regarding low flying aircraft over the village.

**Little Milton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**12/05/23 Exchange of Information**

Nothing to report.

**13/04/23 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023, commencing at 7.30pm at Pine Lodge.

The meeting finished at 21.50pm

Signed by: David Wain Date: 14/6/23  
Chairman.....