

Little Milton Parish Council
Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024

Present: Cllrs Giles Denby, Howard Harrison, Ed Horwell, Adam Sheppard, David Wakeling

Mrs Andrea Oughton (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public: None

Parish Forum

No items were raised.

01/01/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Francois van der Merwe (Personal). Cllr Wakeling chaired the meeting.

02/01/24 Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members

There were no declarations of any pecuniary interests.

03/01/24 Approval of Minutes

Resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th December 2023.

04/01/24 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not already covered by the agenda.

05/01/24 Planning

The following Discharge of Conditions application was noted:

P24/S0024/DIS - The Site of Milton House Gold Street Little Milton

Discharge of condition 7 (Drainage) on planning application P22/S1241/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling. Redevelopment of existing site to provide four dwellings with associated development including access works to Gold Street access.

Chalgrove Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

The Chalgrove NDP Design Code Pre-Submission consultation was noted. It was agreed the council had nothing to add to the consultation. The Clerk will write to Chalgrove Neighbourhood Development Plan group thanking them for the opportunity to respond to the consultation and wish them good luck on their journey to complete the Neighbourhood Plan.

06/01/24 Report by District / County Councillor

Cllr Geogina Heritage had sent her apologies and circulated her report prior to the meeting.

07/01/24 Little Milton Village Shop

A date for the first meeting of the working group is to be arranged for later this month.



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08/01/24 A329 Speed and HGV Issues

Installation of new bollards

The contractor is expected to start work in the next couple of weeks.

Speed Indicator Device Signage (SIDs)

Cllr Sheppard will contact County Councillor van Mierlo regarding his offer to provide £1,200 of funding towards SID signage for the parish.

Application to Oxfordshire County Council for a Weight Restriction

Oxfordshire County Council has confirmed it will re-run the traffic survey.

Community Speed Watch

Cllr van der Merwe has been trained, the next step is to arrange a meeting with the police.

09/01/24 Footpaths / Public Right of Way

Nothing further to report.

10/01/24 Finance

Approval of Council expenditure

Colourplus: January 2024 newsletter (estimate)	£239.20
Raymond Fergusson: Month 10 2023-24, Editor	£82.10
Andrea Oughton: Month 10 2023-24, Clerk	£244.46
HMRC-PAYE Month 7-9 2023-24	£398.40
Francois van der Merwe (Microsoft Licences - Dec)	£18.24
Howard Harrison (Gift Voucher)	£100.00
NBB Recycled Furniture (Bench Old Field)	£722.40
Citizens Advice	£200.00
FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd (10% of grant funding)	£5,789.84

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software January 9 th – February 9 th 2024	£16.80
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Bank reconciliations were available.

The draft budget for 2024-25 was discussed in detail together with key financial assumptions related to planned major projects and the projected summary of closing reserves for 2023-24 through to 2026-27.

In agreeing the budget, the Council accepted that there will be a significant reduction in the Council's Reserves. It was further agreed that careful management of major projects, from a financial point of view was important and if necessary, some projects may need to be deferred to 2025-26 or beyond.

Resolved to approve the budget for 2024-25. The budget covers improvements to public open spaces in the village, new speed indicator devices, replacement fencing around the playground, MUGA refurbishment, improved MUGA lighting as well as the usual services provided to the village by the Parish Council.



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Resolved to increase the 2024-25 Precept to £14,000, an increase of £500 on the current year.

11/01/24 Reports from Councillor Representatives

Recreation Ground / Open Spaces

Grass cutting quotations are being sought for this year.

A grant of £602.00 has been received from SODC towards the cost of the new bench in Old Fields.

Playground / Planning

Some of the fencing around the playground blew down during the recent storm. Cllr Wakeling will obtain quotations, in wood and metal material to replace all the fencing around the playground. Cllr Harrison will obtain a quotation for recycled plastic fencing.

Communication

Cllr Horwell reported he had received several responses to the request via social media for areas of the village to be included in the Deep Clean scheduled for February.

Community

The Village Hall Committee have had initial discussions with a software developer to provide an online booking management system. It may be possible to include bookings for the MUGA.

Highways

Cllr Sheppard has written to Thames Water regarding reports of 55 releases of effluent into Haseley Brook last year but has yet to receive a reply. Cllr Sheppard has also enquired again about investigation work into effluent leaks into the school car park and possible water ingress into the sewage network from the surrounding fields.

The effluent release map for Thames Water has been checked, unfortunately the monitor for Gainsbridge Brook is not working correctly, it may be submerged by flooding. Cllr Sheppard will chase Thames Water for an answer.

Cllr Sheppard has written to Fix My Street three times regarding block gulleys. The main issue is the volume of water which has nowhere to go due to the high-water table and heavy rain. Several residents have also raised concerns regarding flooding issues with no response to date.

The riparian owners of the brook and verge by the entrance to the village will be contacted to ensure the brook is free from debris and vegetation. The brook has been cleared within the last 12-18 months and is flowing freely.

12/01/24 Correspondence

There was no further correspondence to that already circulated.

13/01/24 Exchange of Information

Nothing to report.



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14/01/24 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th February 2024, commencing at 7.30pm at Pine Lodge.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm

Signed by: David Wain Date: 14/2/24
Chairman.....