



LOCAL COUNCIL  
AWARD SCHEME  
FOUNDATION

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**LITTLE MILTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17**

## **Overview**

The current Council is now half way through its term of office of four years. The Council met twelve times between May 2016 and April 2017 and there was an 81% attendance of Councillors. Our District and County Council councillor regularly attended our meetings and offers invaluable support.

It has been a busy year for the Council but the identification of Chalgrove Airfield as a strategic site within the emerging South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033 has taken up a considerable amount of time. At the same time the Parish Council has set up a Steering Group to progress the creation of Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Neighbourhood Development Plan is an important step in allowing the Parish Council in the future to influence the development of land within the Parish.

The Parish Council continues to be fully engaged with the traffic and HGV challenges that the village has had for many years and will continue to influence its partners in reducing its impact on our community. The Parish Council has also actively engaged with Thames Water on sewerage and drainage matters and it believes that good progress has been made. However the withdrawal of the local bus services was very much regretted.

The Parish Council has supported a plan to re-develop the playground and appreciates the work done by all concerned and the wider support of the village.

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.

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

The Council has maintained a tight control over its finances and the level of reserves increased during the year. The closing reserves are at adequate level to meet the predicted levels of expenditure over the next three years but do include the sum of £5,064 in

respect of the earmarked reserves for the Neighbourhood Plan, Paly Area and Defibrillators.

The Parish Council would reiterate that more residents are encouraged 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.

### **Planning Matters**

The Parish Council has reviewed and commented upon twelve 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.

### **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The development of a Neighbourhood Plan is an important step in allowing the parish to influence the future development of land within the parish. The community have been engaged through the completion of a questionnaire that helped to capture key evidence to support the plan and also their attendance at two consultation evenings in April 2017. The Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum after it has been considered by an independent Inspector. The Parish Council are responsible for the completion of the plan but its ultimate adoption will be dependent upon the electors voting for it. The Council would urge that all residents participate in any future consultations.

### **Defibrillators**

The Parish Council are very pleased to report the purchase of three defibrillators for the village although the one at Morgan Associates may not yet be installed. The project has been well supported by villagers and the Council appreciate the work of

those who have worked hard on behalf of the community to make it happen

### **Local Plan 2033**

The emerging South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033 could have a significant impact on the future development of the area surrounding our village. There is currently a proposal to build 3000 houses on Chalgrove Airfield and although not currently part of the plan the possibility of 6500 houses at a site close to Junction 7 of the M40. The Parish Council although not supportive of the Chalgrove Airfield development has engaged with the consultants GVA who are acting on behalf of the Homes and Community Agency (HCA), the government body responsible for the site. The purpose of the engagement is to ensure that the implications of the development have been fully understood in respect of the traffic within the village and its environmental impact. It is also to consider infrastructure options to mitigate the impact. The Parish Council would encourage all residents to respond to all future consultation documents on the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033. It is anticipated that the Local Plan will be considered by an independent Inspector late this year and hopefully adopted in the summer of 2018.

### **Replacement of Playground**

This project was initiated this time last year to replace the children's play area that is coming towards the end of its useful life after 18 years. A small working group has done an enormous amount of work on our behalf researching to come up with a proposed scheme. It is planned that the scheme will be funded by grants from SODC and WREN. The Parish Council supported this project to ensure that the village has a facility that will benefit the community for the foreseeable future by taking advantage of funding that may not be available in years to come.

### **Little Milton School; St James' Church**

The School and the Church are key to our Community and we thank Mrs Beth McLaren as Head of Little Milton School and the

Reverend Simon Cronk as Rector of the Benefice of Great Milton with Little Milton and Great Haseley. We wish them well and the Parish Council will be supportive of the School and the Church.

### **Looking Ahead**

The Clerk has advised the Parish Council that he wishes to stand down as Parish Clerk by the time of the next election in May 2019. It seems most likely that a number of the current Councillors will not offer themselves for re-election and there may be vacancies before then. This presents a challenge to the village for individuals to come forward and build on the good work that has been done over the past few years. The challenge is on the horizon but the thinking needs to start now. The Parish Council has worked hard to be seen as a competent Council, qualified Clerk, General Power of Competence and Quality Status.

The Council would encourage residents to find out more about being a Parish Councillor and invite them to contact the Clerk of any councillor.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Income

	<b>2016-17</b>		<b>2015-16</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>
Precept	11250	34	10500	48
Newsletter Advertising	5773	17	6245	28
Grants	11043	33		
MUGA Income	1643	5	1119	5
Council Tax Reduction			442	2
Other Income	927	3	1087	5
Public Donations	2709	8	2665	12
Bank Interest	9		11	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>33354</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22069</b>	<b>100</b>

### Expenditure

	<b>2016-17</b>		<b>2015-16</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>
Neighbourhood Dev. Plan	5162	17		
Defibrillators	4595	15		
Newsletter	4194	14	4506	24
Loan Repayment	3524	12	3639	20
Rec./Play Area	3498	12	3642	20
Council Administration	2858	10	2947	16
Other Expenditure	3270	11	1641	9
Playground Project	855	3		
Election Costs	300	1	1122	6
MUGA	1486	5	1015	5
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>29742</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18512</b>	<b>100</b>

### Balance Sheet as at

	<b>31-3-17</b>	<b>31 -3-16</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank	22912	19400
Debtors	1210	603
Creditors	(3301)	(2794)
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>20821</b>	<b>17209</b>

## **Commentary**

The total income in 2016-17 was £33,354 which is £11,285 more than it was in 2015-16. The main reason for the increase is monies received from Grants in respect of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), £8003, Defibrillators of £2298 and verge cutting from OCC of £529. There was also an increase in the Precept of £750. The advertising revenue was less than 2015/16 due to the reduced number of colour pages but still at a very healthy level at £5,773.

The total expenditure in 2016/17 was £29,742. The major items of expenditure were Neighbourhood Development Plan £5,162, Defibrillators £4,595, the cost of the newsletter £4,194,, the maintenance of the recreation ground and play area £3,498 of which ground maintenance was £1,755, bark £538 and play equipment repairs and replacement £810, repayment of loans £3,524, Council administration £2,858- and MUGA £1,486. The main items included under Other Expenditure were replacement of the Millennium benches £775, Verge cutting £900, subscriptions and donations £391, insurance £246 and annual maintenance of church clock £162. This year we also provided £300 in respect of the elections to the Parish Council to be held in May 2019.

The outstanding balance on the Parish Council loans is £10,617 and will be finally repaid in September 2021.

The total closing reserves at 31st March 2017 were £20,821 of which the general reserves were £15,757 and £5,064 of earmarked reserves for the defibrillators, NDP and the playground. The Council consider that the general reserves are adequate to meet known future events and sufficient reserves to cover normal ongoing expenditure.

## **Council Members**

Cllr. Barry Coward	01844 278970
Cllr Alison Shelton	01844 278144
Cllr David Wakeling	01844 278014
Cllr Bertie Bright	01844 279131
Cllr Kate Daunt	01844 279151
Cllr Elizabeth Swabey-Collison	01844 278566

## **Parish Clerk**

Mr Raymond Fergusson 01844 279150

## **Email**

[Imparishcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:Imparishcouncil@btinternet.com)

## **Website**

www.littlemilton.org.uk