

Little Milton Parish Council
Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th December 2025

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

Mrs Andrea Oughton (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public: Eight

Parish Forum

The Chairman read out a statement on behalf of a resident of Church Hill related to two vehicles parked on the A329. Summarised as follows: the resident described a dramatic rise in traffic volume and speeding—particularly by heavy goods vehicles over the past 25 years. Despite a 20mph limit, drivers frequently travel at much higher speeds, sometimes overtaking those obeying the law. The resident feels that authorities at all levels have failed to enforce speed limits or protect villagers and notes two serious past accidents at the bottom of the hill.

Because of this ongoing danger, the resident supports the recent decision by an unknown individual to park two vehicles on Church Hill, as these parked cars have significantly slowed traffic, especially heavy goods vehicles, without causing any issues for careful drivers. Previous traffic-calming measures, such as a chicane, reduced speed limits, and school crossing lights, have not solved the problem. The resident intends to continue supporting the presence of the parked vehicles until an effective, permanent solution is implemented, expressing concern that property damage will increase if speeding continues unchecked.

Another resident read a statement, summarised as follows: Many residents believe the village has a serious speeding problem that must be addressed.

- Recent weeks have shown deep community division over the use of parked vehicles on Church Hill and Stadhampton Road as an informal traffic-calming measure. Some residents support it, while others strongly oppose it, and both vehicles suffered criminal damage.
- Since the A329 became an A-road in the 1970s, traffic—especially heavy goods vehicles—has increased significantly.
- Over the years, the Parish Council has introduced several measures to slow traffic, including chicanes, a speed camera, traffic lights, entrance gates, and a 20mph limit. Despite these efforts, speeding remains a problem.
- Some residents feel nothing more can be done, but recent complaints have prompted renewed police interest, and County Councillor engagement.
- Speeding is not limited to Church Hill or Stadhampton Road; residents report issues on Thame Road, Haseley Road, and the High Street.
- The Parish Council needs to understand the true scale and locations of both real and perceived speeding.
- A proposed Speed Response Plan includes:
 - Speaking with the individual who parked the two cars to understand their motivations.
 - Commissioning a village-wide traffic and speed survey through Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), with findings reported back to residents.
 - Exploring further traffic-calming options such as speed humps or an additional speed camera.
 - Working with Thames Valley Police (TVP) and OCC to recalibrate or replace the existing speed camera.
 - Installing the long-delayed SID (Speed Indicator Device).

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- Restarting the Community Speed Watch programme with police support.
 - Requesting TVP to conduct random radar checks to increase enforcement visibility.
 - Bringing together TVP and County Council representatives to review the situation and future options.
 - Considering hiring a traffic consultant, potentially funded through CIL.
- The author believes a thorough study of traffic volume and speed would be a worthwhile investment for the Parish Council.

Several further residents made representations reiterating the points made above and adding the risk to pedestrians when walking along the A329 from speeding vehicles and heavy goods vehicles. Vehicle emissions create air pollution a risk to pedestrians and especially to children walking to school in the village. Vehicles need to travel at a constant speed through the village.

{Post meeting note: The owner of the vehicles submitted the following statement to the Parish Council via email on Tuesday 16 December - 'Two vehicles were parked lawfully on the road while works at my property were underway. Thames Valley Police officers confirmed the vehicles were legally parked before removal. Any traffic calming effect was incidental.'}

01/12/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence received from Cllrs Sheppard and van der Merwe. Cllr Horwell Chaired the meeting.

02/12/25 Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members

There were no Declarations of any pecuniary interests.

03/12/25 Approval of Minutes

Resolved to approve the minutes of council meeting held on 12th November 2025.

04/12/25 Report by District / County Councillor

County Councillor Edwards submitted her apologies.

District Councillor Heritage's monthly report was circulated. Cllr Heritage added that the Government Planning Minister had issued a statement saying that the Government intends to remove the Duty to Co-operate related to Local Plans. Cllr Heritage confirmed the Joint Local Plan had not been withdrawn and remains an emerging plan and carries weight accordingly.

05/12/25 Planning

No planning matters were discussed.

06/12/25 A329 – Parked Vehicles

Several representations from residents had been received verbally and electronically regarding two vehicles parked on the A329 for several weeks. The council noted that the police removed the vehicles this afternoon.

District Councillor Heritage supported the Parish Council's thoughts regarding gathering vehicle data via a traffic survey and will pass on a request to County Councillor Judith Edwards to ask the team at County to contact the Parish Council.



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Resolved that a traffic survey covering all areas of the village is undertaken as soon as possible. Data from the survey will be collected and used to inform future decision making.

The survey data will be communicated to residents through the village newsletter and electronically.

07/12/25 Finance

Approval of Council Expenditure

Clerk (A Oughton): Month 9 2025/26	£263.71
Editor (R Fergusson): Month 9 2025/26	£89.00
M P Printers (December newsletter) - Estimate	£338.00
Drewett Signs Ltd (MUGA)	£217.12
Little Milton Village Hall (2 x hire of small meeting room)	£24.00

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software December 9th 2025 – January 9th 2026 £19.20
Microsoft 365 Bus. Basic & Standard Accounts 1st-31st December 25 £18.24

Bank reconciliations circulated.

The Latest Estimate to 30 November was circulated ahead of the meeting. The Clerk anticipated there would be little movement in the figures before the next meeting when the budget for 2026-27 will be discussed.

08/12/25 Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

Resolved to purchase a marine ply backboard, hoop and net at a cost of £217.50. Cllr Wakeling to place the order.

Cllr Horwell confirmed signage has been installed with a further smaller sign to be installed shortly. It was agreed to remove several plastic bins that have appeared on the MUGA

09/12/25 Reports from Councillor Representatives

Recreation Ground /Open Green Space

Cllr Harrison reported flood equipment had doubled in price. Cllr Harrison will investigate what equipment can be purchased with the funds available. It was important to continue to lobby Highways to clear the culvert under the Haseley Road.

Highways

It has been a long progress (more than a year) since the decision was taken to install a Speed Indicator Device on Church Hill (A329) and the parish council has been wholly dependent on OCC Highways in terms of process, timescales and regulations. It was noted that Cllr Sheppard is due to meet with a member of the County Highways team next week to agree the exact location of the device and project timescales.

10/12/25 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that several emails and contacts via the website have been received related to the parked vehicles on the A329.

11/12/25 Exchange of Information

Nothing to report.

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12/12/25 Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th January 2026, commencing at 7.30pm at Pine Lodge.

The meeting finished at 9.10pm

Signed by:
Chairman..........Date.....14/01/2026.....