Little Milton Parish Council
Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th September 2026

Present: Cllrs Ed Horwell, Lucy Ireland, Francois van der Merwe, Adam Sheppard, David Wakeling

Mrs Andrea Oughton (Parish Clerk)
Members of the public: Eleven

Parish Forum
Residents of Haseley Road asked what is the timeframe to apply for Hasley Road to be considered as part of the Quiet Lanes Pilot Scheme? Cllr van der Merwe responded to say there was no deadline. The next step is to develop a consultation for the village to gauge the views of residents for a proposal to put a filter on the Haseley Road, the village side of Ditch End Farm. Haseley residents agreed to liaise with Cllr Ireland to produce a questionnaire.

A further question was raised asking why Haseley Road was not considered as a location for a Speed Indicator Device. Cllr Sheppard responded to say the Parish Council pushed hard for Haseley Road to be considered but on inspection by the County Highways Team a suitable location could not be found.

The question of flooding on Haseley Road was raised. Following a recent heavy downpour the road had flooded. Water flowed down Haseley Road and from the stream and didn't drain away fast enough causing the road to flood. The flooding issue was raised with Freddie van Mierlo MP, Cllrs Tim Bearder and Georgina Heritage during Freddie's summer surgery but residents are still no further forward with getting action from the County Council on flood mitigation.

It was noted that a bench promised by the developer as part of the Milton House development has not been installed. Cllr Wakeling will contact the developer.

01/09/26 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence received from Cllr Giles Denby.

02/09/26 **Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members**
No pecuniary interests were declared.

03/09/26 **Approval of Minutes**
Resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th July 2026.

04/09/26 **Report by District / County Councillor**
County Councillor Edwards submitted her apologies, her monthly report was noted.
District Councillor Heritage's monthly report was noted.

It was further noted that a Government announcement on Monday said it was reviewing plans for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This means there will be a pause in LGR plans for Oxfordshire. Cllr Heritage reported that prior to the announcement, Leaders of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) had written to the Secretary of State asking for justification for the Oxfordshire

decision. There has been a groundswell of opinion and multitude of events that have led the Government to this point.

Cllr Heritage confirmed that elections for the new shadow authority will not take place next year but elections for existing authorities will take place in May.

Cllr Heritage reported her District Councillor Community Grant Fund was open for applications and closes on 4th December 2026. Cllr Heritage urged those thinking of applying for funds to do so well before the deadline.

05/09/26 **Planning**

P26/S3198/N4D – Wells Farm, Little Milton, OX44 7PP
Development consisting of a change of use of part of the large barn from use as an agricultural building to flexible uses. **Resolved** to **Support** the application.

P26/S3445/FUL – Frogmore, Stadhampton Road, Little Milton, OX44 7QD
Installation of Solar Panels. **Resolved** to **Support** the application.

P26/S3467/HH – The Old Vicarage, Church Hill, OX44 7QB
Installation of air source heat pump units. **Resolved** to **Support** the application.

06/09/26 **Church Clock**

Rev'd Lucie Spiers, Rector of St James's Church, Little Milton sent her apologies. A member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) read out a letter on her behalf.

The church clock is broken; the cost of repairs is ~£900 (incl. vat). Once repaired the clock requires an annual service at a cost of ~£300 (incl. vat). The PCC view the clock as a community asset which is enjoyed and appreciated by many members of the community. For many years the Parish Council paid for the annual service, but the cost was removed from the budget in 2026-27.

Resolved that the Parish Council pay for repair of the church clock at a cost of ~£900.00 (incl. vat), funds to be taken from Community Infrastructure Levy reserve.

07/09/26 **Orchard Nursery**

It was agreed to defer discussion of this item to the next meeting. Cllr Denby to ask the nursery for information ahead of the next meeting to allow a better understanding of the nursery's finances and state of the building.

08/09/26 **Village Newsletter**

It was noted that Sarah Cummings has agreed to take over as Editor of the Village Newsletter from January 2027. The Parish Council thanked Raymond Fergusson for all his hard work as Editor of the Newsletter over many years.

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09/09/26 **Finance**

Approved Council Expenditure

Andrea Oughton (Clerk): Month 5 2026/27 (August)	£263.71
Raymond Fergusson (Editor): Month 5 206/27 (August)	£88.60
Andrea Oughton (Clerk): Month 6 2026/27 (September)	£263.51
Raymond Fergusson (Editor): Month 6 206/27 (September)	£89.00
M P Printers (August newsletter)	£288.00
M P Printers (September newsletter)	£278.00
Postage Newsletter April - September 2026	£31.14
Postage Newsletter Invoices	£14.10
ElanCity (SIDs)	£5620.78
Moore (External Audit)	£409.50
Hugo Fox Ltd (Community Website Domain)	£57.46
Turneround Gardens (deposit for fence)	£419.90
D Wakeling (Fixings for basketball backboard)	£29.07
Gallagher Insurance	£28.47

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software August 9th - September 9th 2026	£19.20
Intuit: Accounting software September 9th – October 9th 2026	£19.20
Microsoft 365 Bus. Basic & Standard Accounts 1st-31st August 2026	£18.24
Microsoft 365 Bus. Basic & Standard Accounts 1st-30th September 2026	£18.24
Scribe Accounting software 1st-31st August 2026	£39.60
Scribe Accounting software 1st-30th September 2026	£39.60

Bank reconciliations circulated.

It was noted that the second half of the Precept for 2026-27 was received on 1st September 2026.

The conclusion of the External Audit (2025-26) on 24th July 2026 was noted and the External Audit Report and Certificate 2025-26 received.

The External Auditor's comments regarding reserve levels were noted. This was raised by the Auditor in 2024-25 following which the Parish Council had considered the level of reserves in September 2025 and agreed the levels were appropriate. The Parish Council remains of the same view on the level of reserves for 2025-26. The Clerk has written to the External Auditor to ask what action the Parish Council should consider taking to avoid the same comment in 2026-27.

10/09/26 **Reports from Councillor Representatives**

Open Green Spaces – the recreation ground and verges have been cut.

Playground – Cllr Wakeling to order more bark.

Highways – two Speed Indicator Devices have been installed. Data from the devices can be downloaded via an App, this will provide useful information on the number of vehicles passing through the village and the speed.

Quiet Lanes Proposal – Cllr Ireland agreed to liaise with residents of Haseley Road to prepare a questionnaire to send to residents to gather views on the proposal to apply to OCC for Haseley Road to be included in the Quiet Lanes Pilot Scheme. The filter will be located on the village side of Ditch End Farm.

Flooding – Haseley Road – Agreed to raise the issue again with County Councillor Edwards.

11/09/26 **Correspondence**

It was noted that planned flood mitigation work at Wells Farm commenced in August.

A request from Morland House Surgery Patient Participation Group for a financial contribution towards improving the surface of the surgery car park was noted. It was agreed the Parish Council could not support this financially.

It was noted that Biffa are due to carry out a deep cleanse operation in the village between 10th and 12th November. The Clerk to supply a list of areas in the village that require attention to the Deep Cleanse Team.

12/09/26 **Exchange of Information**

Nothing to report.

13/09/26 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 14th October 2026 in Pine Lodge.

The meeting finished at 10.15pm

Signed by:
Chairman.....**Date**.....14 Oct '26.....