

Little Milton Parish Council
Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th December 2021

Present:

Cllr. Francois van der Merwe (Chairman)

Cllr. Steve Sidhu

Cllr. David Wakeling

Cllr. Howard Harrison

Cllr. Giles Denby

Cllr. Adam Sheppard

Mrs Andrea Oughton (*Parish Clerk*)

Members of the public: One

01/12/21 Apologies for Absence:

There were no apologies for absence.

02/12/21 Declaration of any pecuniary interests of members

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests.

03/12/21 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 10th November 2021.

The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

04/12/21 Matters Arising

Cllr van der Merwe will contact County Councillor Bulmer (Cllr representative for Goring) to lend the Parish Council's support to the motion Cllr Bulmer has raised on Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC) proposed Freight Strategy.

Following discussion of OCC's 20mph initiative at previous meetings it was **Resolved** to formally register Little Milton's interest in the scheme.

05/12/21 Report by District / County Councillors

County Councillor van Mierlo had sent his apologies and circulated his report.

District Councillor Newton had circulated her report and added South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) are to vote on the adoption of a new Planning Enforcement Policy. The primary reason for the change is to deal with a backlog of cases. Reports of possible breaches will now be 'triaged' and only the most serious investigated. Following concerns raised by some District Councillors, SODC has agreed to review the policy after six months. The Parish Council is also concerned and will monitor and report any issues which arise as a result of change to policy.

Cllr Newton reported the Councillor Community Grant is open, and invited applications. Each Councillor has an allocation of £5k of funding. Cllrs Wakeling and Harrison confirmed they will submit a joint application for fund towards the new litter bin (and hardstanding) and the purchase of two trees for the Recreation Ground.

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06/12/21 **Finance**

Approval of Council expenditure

Colourplus: December newsletter	£305.90
Raymond Fergusson: Month 9 2021-22, Editor	£69.30
Andrea Oughton: Month 9 2021-22, Clerk	£205.85
Society of Local Council Clerks	£98.00
Monument Pools: hardstanding	£1,140.00

Direct Debit

Intuit: Accounting software Dec.9th – Jan. 9th 2022 £12.00

Bank reconciliation available for review

Financial appeal: The Maple Tree £100

Budget 2022-23 - A good discussion took place on the draft budget which included provision to implement a strategy to improve public open spaces in the village, improvements to the recreation ground and refurbishment of the MUGA. The final budget and Precept will be agreed in January.

07/12/21 **Emergency Plan**

Cllr Denby is in the process of reviewing and updating the information held within the village emergency plan. The draft had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Denby will continue to populate information in the plan and report back to a future meeting. Once finalised a copy will be held by OCC. The emergency plan ensures the village is prepared should a situation arise which requires the plan to be implemented.

08/12/21 **Reports from Councillor Representatives**

Recreation Ground, Open Green Spaces

Cllr Harrison tabled the revised strategy for public open green spaces within the village, including costings. It was agreed the strategy will have a greater impact if implemented in one go rather than a phased approach.

It was agreed to split out costs to show ongoing spend, such as grass cutting and new initiatives such as tree planting. It was further agreed to keep the 'wilding / greening' element, introduced earlier this year as a separate item.

Discussion took place on 'recovering the footpath' along the A329 of which 50% had been overgrown.

Cllr Harrison reported he had met with a representative of Soha to discuss the overgrown hedge on the footpath from the A329 into Old Field. Soha has agreed to cut the hedge back to clear the path. Once this has been done Highways will carry out repairs to the footpath. Cllr Harrison will continue to push for this work to be carried out as soon as possible.



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Cllr van der Merwe reported he and Cllr Wakeling had discussed the issues raised in the annual inspection report. There were no urgent actions. Fencing to the MUGA needs repairing and the weeds and moss removed from around the edge. Bark under the play equipment needs topping up.

Communications

Cllr Sidhu reported engagement with the Parish Council Facebook page continues to grow, posts are currently reaching over 250 people. A good response to the 20mph post has been received. The responses will be used to support the case to OCC for a 20mph limit throughout the village.

Village Hall, Village Shop, Orchard Nursery

Cllr Denby tabled a summary of feedback from discussions with the village school and Orchard nursery. Cllr Denby reported both organisations are extremely grateful for the interest the Parish Council has shown. The various points were discussed. Cllr Sheppard reported he has spoken to OCC about replacing the school warning sign on the entry to the village and will speak to OCC regarding drainage in the school car park.

Cllr Denby reported a sub-committee of the village hall has been formed to plan events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Utilities and Highways

Cllr Sheppard reported he has spoken to the safety officer at OCC regarding the broken highway signs. Cllr Sheppard is compiling evidence to support Little Milton's application for a village wide 20mph limit. Currently Cllr Sheppard has 10 very good testimonies and two letters, with supporting photographic evidence of road traffic accidents. County Councillor van Mierlo has written a letter in support of Little Milton's application.

Cllr Sheppard agreed to be the Fix My Street Super User for the village, reporting potholes or kerbstone issues to OCC.

Cllr Sheppard reported the hardstanding for the Grundon bins has been completed.

Cllr van der Mewre reported he has submitted the notifications of interest in faster broadband. He has spoken with BT Openreach and will continue to try to contact Gigaclear.

Parish Chairman's Forum

The Parish Chairman are due to meet in January.

09/12/21 SODC Community Governance Review

The Clerk reported a Community Governance Review will take place during 2022 with any agreed changes implemented for the 2023 elections. The Review will cover such issues as; altering the existing boundary of a parish, creating, merging or abolishing parishes, change the name of existing parishes, electoral arrangements for parishes, grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

Following discussion, it was agreed there were no issues the Parish Council wishes to put forward to the Review for consideration.



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10/12/21 Correspondence

There was no further correspondence to that already circulated.

11/12/21 Exchange of Information

No items were raised.

12/12/21 Date of Next Meeting

The Meeting of the Parish Council will convene at 8pm on **Wednesday 12th January 2022** at Pine Lodge.

The meeting finished at 10.40p.m.

13/12/21 Parish Forum

No items were raised.

Signed by:

Chairman.....

Date.....

12 Jan '22