



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
FOUNDATION

LITTLE MILTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Overview

The Council is now beginning its final year of its four year term. The Council met fourteen times between May 2017 and April 2018. This year two Councillors resigned as they had moved out of the village and this resulted in some disruption to the Council's proceedings. Our District and County Council councillors regularly attended our meetings and offered invaluable support. The Council have actively sought to find a replacement clerk but as yet have been unsuccessful. The current clerk is prepared to carry on in the role and the Council are fully appreciative.

The Council meetings have been dominated by the Local Plan 2033, our own Neighbourhood Development Plan and the replacement of the playground

The Parish Council continues to be fully engaged with OCC Highways on a number of issues and were very pleased when the issue of spring water in Gold Street was resolved. The Parish Council has also actively engaged with Thames Water on sewerage and drainage matters that are an ongoing concern

The Parish Council continues to invest in maintaining the recreation ground and are pleased with the hedge that was planted a few years ago.

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 control of the Council's finances is very important and in the year 2017-18 saw income of £92,179 as a result of significant grant income. This involved managing the receipts of grants and VAT reclaims to ensure we had sufficient funds to meet the timing of expenditure. The closing reserves are at adequate level to meet the predicted levels of expenditure over the next three years.

The Parish Council would encourage more residents 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.

Local Plan 2033

It was anticipated that by now the Local Plan 2033 would have been close to the Public Examination stage in the process. However a number of factors that have caused this situation of which the refusal by Martin Baker at Chalgrove to relinquish their lease of the Chalgrove Airfield has made the site more questionable as a deliverable site within the draft plan. The full Council of SODC did not support the Cabinet in their recommendation that the draft should be submitted for Public Examination and as result SODC are considering other options although Chalgrove may still be included. The situation is made more complicated as there are time pressures as a result of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework that could result in the Local Plan requiring to recognise the new Policy if a plan is not submitted within six months of the new Framework coming into operation. It is expected that the position will be clearer by June.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Neighbourhood Development Plan is in its final stages of consultation before it will be examined by an Independent Inspector and that will be followed by a referendum to allow the village residents to vote to accept or reject the plan. The Plan is a set of policies that are more specific to the village when the use of land is considered through the planning process. This could be simple extensions or could be proposal for new houses. The District Council are the Planning Authority that determines the planning applications and will apply our Neighbourhood Development Plan policies along with their planning policies. This means that the

village has a significant influence on development and planning matters within our parish.

This task was started in August 2016 and has required a considerable effort to produce a plan that will have material benefit going forward. The Council are indebted to the work of the Steering Group and the support given by the residents during the various consultation stages.

Replacement of Playground

The playground project was completed at the end of April 2018 and was opened for public use on 20th May 2018. The facilities are fantastic and will be enjoyed by the children of Little Milton for many years to come. The project was financed through grant funding from South Oxfordshire District Council of £50,000 and a grant of £50,000 from WREN. WREN is a not for profit business that helps benefit the lives of people who live close to landfill sites by awarding grants for community, biodiversity and heritage projects. The scale of the project was significant and the Council are fully appreciative of the work done by a small group who did a lot of work before recommending that our project partner should be Kompan. A project of this scale required a dedicated resource to liaise with Kompan to ensure the smooth delivery of the project. The Council would like to extend their appreciation to Elizabeth Swabey-Collison who managed the project through to a successful conclusion. The current Parish Council will ensure that the playground is maintained to a high standard.

Planning Matters

The Parish Council has reviewed and commented upon eight 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.

Little Milton School; St James' Church

The School and the Church are key to our Community.

The Council would like to thank Beth McLaren for her role as Head and wish her well in her new role as she prepares to take up a new position after the summer term

The Council thank the Reverend Simon Cronk, Rector of the Benefice of Great Milton with Little Milton and Great Haseley for his work within our parish and to the other members of the church team.

The Parish Council will continue to be supportive of the School and the Church.

Election 2019

In May 2019 the village will elect a new Parish Council for the next four years. This is an opportunity to allow residents to put themselves forward for election to the Council. The role of the Parish Council is very important to the village to ensure that it is represented within District and Council as well as to participate in matters that can impact on our community. Your Council has worked hard on your behalf for the last four years and a number of major matters have been achieved, Neighbourhood Plan and Playground. There will be different challenges going forward and the continuation of a hard-working and dedicated Parish Council will be important to the village maintaining its presence and influence on all community matters.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income

	2017-18		2016-17	
	£	%	£	%
Precept	11250	12	11250	34
Newsletter Advertising	5625	6	5773	17
Grants	73405	80	11043	33
MUGA Income	903	1	1643	5
Other Income	989	1	927	3
Public Donations			2709	8
Bank Interest	7		9	
Total Income	92179	100	33354	100

Expenditure

	2017-18		2016-17	
	£	%	£	%
Neighbourhood Dev. Plan	8044	8	5162	17
Defibrillators	277		4595	15
Newsletter	4155	4	4194	14
Recreation ground	4189	4	3498	12
Council Administration	3229	3	2858	10
Other Expenditure	2355	3	3270	11
Loan Repayment	3409	4	3524	12
Playground Project	72688	74	855	3
Election Costs	300		300	1
MUGA	228		1486	5
Total Expenditure	98874	100	29742	100

Balance Sheet as at

	31-3-18	31 -3-17
	£	£
Bank	18764	22912
Debtors	708	1324
Creditors	(5346)	(3415)
Total Reserves	14126	20821

General Reserve

12538

15,758

Commentary

The total income in 2017-18 was £92,179. This included grant income for the playground and Neighbourhood Plan of £72,226. The Council also received a grant of £650 from OALC towards the cost of Council computer equipment and £529 from OCC towards verge cutting. The precept was maintained at £11,250 with advertising revenue at £5,625 slightly lower than the previous year. The income from the MUGA at £903 was £740 less than in 2016-17. Other income of £989 was broadly level with 2016-17.

The total expenditure in 2017/18 was £98,874. The major items of expenditure were the playground £72,688, Neighbourhood Development Plan £8,044, the cost of the newsletter £4,155, the maintenance of the recreation ground £4,189 of which ground maintenance was £2,201, bark £551, hedging & trees £540, repayment of loans £3,524, Council administration £3,229. The main items included under Other Expenditure were verge cutting £900, subscriptions and donations £371, insurance £253 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 £7,583 and will be finally repaid in September 2020.

The total closing reserves at 31st March 2018 were £14,126 of which the general reserves were £12,538 and £1,588 of earmarked reserves for the defibrillators, NDP and OALC transparency towards Council computer equipment. The Council consider that the general reserves are adequate to meet known future events and sufficient reserves to cover normal ongoing expenditure.

Council Members

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Cllr. David Wakeling	01844 278014
Cllr. Kate Daunt	01844 279151
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