

MILCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 8.00PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL, MILCOMBE

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor Myra Peters: Councillors Nigel Davis and Chris Hill.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) County Councillor David Hingley and District Councillor David Rogers.

45/25 Apologies – Councillor Mandie McCullagh submitted her apologies because she was at work.

Resolved that the apologies from Councillor Mandie McCullagh be accepted and the absence be authorised.

46/25 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

47/25 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2025 had been circulated to the Parish Council.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

48/25 Matters Arising from the Minutes of 2 September 2025

Minute Number 34/25 – Chairman's Announcements, Parish Council Paperwork – Parish Council paperwork had been collected from Marlene Cowell and more would be collected in due course. **Action MP**

Minute Number 37/25 – Village Matters, Play Area CCTV Project – Councillor David Hingley confirmed that he had been in contact with Cherwell District Council officers regarding the Wayleave and he would continue to follow this up on behalf of the Parish Council. **Action DH**

Minute Number 38/25 Planning, Planning Application 25/03290/F – The planning application at Rickfield Farm was being considered by Cherwell District Council's Planning Committee on Thursday 6 November 2025. The Chairman was unable to attend the meeting, however a resident would be addressing the Committee in objection to the application.

49/25 Chairman's Announcements

- Parish Liaison Meeting – Cherwell District Council's Parish Liaison Meeting was being held on Wednesday 12 November 2025 via Teams. The Chairman would be attending the meeting. **Action TG**
- Michael Haynes – Former Parish Councillor Michael Haynes had recently passed away and the Parish Council sent its condolences to Michael's family. Michael had been a well-regarded member of the Parish Council and the community.
- Dovecote – The hedge at the Dovecote had been cut, but a lot of debris had been left on the concrete road in the gullies. The Chairman had emailed Brian Collins at Cherwell District Council to request that it was cleared and to also replace the light bulb in the Dovecote. If the replacement of the light bulb was not a responsibility of Cherwell District Council, then the Parish Council would arrange for the work to be completed. **Action MP/TG**
- Planning Application 24/03399/OUT, Land West of the Old Piggeries, Bloxham Road – The outline planning application, together with associated access off Bloxham Road (all other matters reserved), for up to 50 homes (Use Class C3) together with associated infrastructure, open space and landscaping; and retained agricultural field had been approved by Cherwell District Council, but there was no update on a reserved matters application.

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- Planning Application 22/02104/F - Land to the rear of No.12 and South of Dismantled Railway, Heath Close Milcombe - Tim Northey from Abbeymill Homes had advised the Chairman that this land had been sold to another developer, Brampton Valley Homes. The reason for the sale was due to current market conditions and Abbeymill Homes needed to reinvest in the business and in other sites under option.
- Remembrance Sunday – Councillor Nigel Davis would be laying the wreath at the Remembrance Service in Milcombe at 6pm and the Chairman would be laying the wreath at the Bloxham Remembrance Service at 11am. A £100 donation would be made to the Royal British Legion. **Action TG**
- Puy Du Fou, Bicester – The planning application for the site had been submitted to Cherwell District Council and as yet, there was no date when it would be considered by the Planning Committee.

50/25 Open Forum – There were no residents in attendance.

(For information, following guidance from the National Association of Local Councils, the Parish Council did not specifically name individual residents within its minutes, unless they were speaking in an official capacity)

51/25 Reports from County and District Councillors – Prior to the meeting, District Councillor David Rogers had circulated his report to the Parish Council.

County Councillor David Hingley reported on the new Oxford City congestion charge and that each Oxfordshire household was entitled to 25 permits which would exempt them from the charges. More details were available on the County Council's web site.

Councillor Nigel Davis reported that a resident had advised that the cycle path from Bloxham to Banbury was very overgrown and needed to be cut back. **Action DH**

Councillor Hingley reported on the Local Council reorganisation proposals and recommendations had to be submitted to the Government by the end of November 2025. A decision was expected by the Spring of 2026.

The Councillors were thanked for their reports.

Resolved that the reports be noted.

52/25 Village Matters

- i) Play Area – The Clerk reported that the Wayleave was still being progressed by Cherwell District Council and National Grid. The Clerk would continue to chase both organisations. County/District Councillor David Hingley would continue to chase up the issue with Cherwell District Council officers too.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- ii) Village Hall Committee – Councillor Nigel Davis reported that there was no update from the Village Hall.

Resolved that the report be noted.

53/25 Planning

- i) Planning Applications – Since the last meeting, the Parish Council had no objections to the following applications:

25/01931/F	Little Acre, Main Road, Milcombe Erection of detached dwelling with garage (self-build)
25/02164/AGN	Fernhill Farm, Bloxham Road, Milcombe Prior approval application for Agricultural workshop and general store
25/02206/F	23 Newcombe Close, Milcombe Single storey rear extension

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25/02380/F

12 Newcombe Close, Milcombe

Part single storey part two storey rear extension, new porch and internal alterations

Since the last meeting, the Parish Council had objections to the following applications: None

The Parish Council was currently considering the following applications: None

Resolved that the reports be noted.

- ii) Results of Planning Applications – Prior to the meeting, the results of the planning applications, determined by Cherwell District Council, had been circulated to the Parish Council and were as follows:

Cherwell DC Application No.	Identification	Milcombe PC Observations	Cherwell DC Decision
25/01818/F	Hunters Lodge, Station Road, Milcombe Single storey rear extension	No objections	Permitted
25/02164/AGN	Fernhill Farm, Bloxham Road, Milcombe Prior approval application for Agricultural workshop and general store.	No objections	Prior approval not required

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) – Councillor Nigel Davis advised that as reported at the previous meeting, he would not be progressing this project any further, due to a lack of support from the community.

Resolved that the report be noted.

54/25 Parish Council Matters

- i) Succession Planning and Vacancies – The Chairman highlighted that following two recent resignations, there were currently only four Members of the Parish Council, out of a possible seven seats. However, the Clerk highlighted that there were Parish Council Elections in May 2026 and that this could be advertised in the village, rather than inviting applications for co-option.

Resolved that the Parish Council Elections in May 2026 be advertised in the village. **Action TG**

55/25 Finance

- (i) Financial Matters – Prior to the meeting, a number of financial documents had been circulated to the Parish Council.

Resolved that:

- 1) the accounts for payment be approved, as detailed in appendix 1 to the minutes;
 - 2) the receipts since the last meeting, the uncashed payments & receipts and the bank reconciliation, as at 4 November 2025 for the bank accounts at Unity Trust Bank be noted; and
 - 3) it be noted that Councillor Myra Peters, as Councillor for monitoring the Parish Council's internal controls, had signed the uncashed payments list, the uncashed receipts list, the bank reconciliation as at 31 October 2025 and the Unity Trust bank statements for October 2025.
- (ii) Budget Monitoring 2025/2026 – Prior to the meeting, the Parish Council received budget monitoring report for 2025/2026.

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Resolved that the report be noted.

- (iii) Budget and Precept 2026/2027 – The Parish Council considered a draft Budget and Precept for 2026/2027.

Resolved that:

- 1) the Budget for 2026/2027 be approved at £22,671.15, the income be estimated at £717.80 and expenditure be estimated at £22,671.15; and
- 2) the Precept for 2026/2027 be set at £16,380, which is an increase of 5% compared to 2025/2026.

Action TG

- (iv) Members' Allowances Scheme 2025/2026 – The Parish Council reviewed the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2025/2026.

Resolved that:

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) a Chairman's allowance and basic allowances not be paid to Councillors in 2025/2026; and
- 3) travel and subsistence allowances be paid to Councillors in 2025/2026 on production of receipts to support their claim, in accordance with the Scheme.

56/25 Correspondence – There was no further correspondence.

57/25 Meeting Dates - The Chairman reported that future meetings would be held in the Village Hall, Milcombe and would commence at 8.00pm.

- Tuesday 6 January 2026
- Tuesday 3 March 2026
- Tuesday 5 May 2026 (Annual Parish Meeting)
- Tuesday 12 May 2026
- Tuesday 7 July 2026

58/25 Items for the Next Meeting

- Switching off of the street lighting for a period during the night

(The meeting closed at 9.20pm)

Signed, Chairman – 6 January 2026