

# MILCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 8.00PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL, MILCOMBE

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Councillor Myra Peters: Councillors Ruth Dale, Nigel Davis, Chris Hill, Mandie McCullough and Tracey Scott.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and four members of the public.

**31/23 Apologies** – County Councillor Kieron Mallon and District Councillor Andrew McHugh submitted their apologies.

Resolved that the apologies be noted.

**32/23 Declarations of Interest**

Members were reminded that advice on declarations of interest should be sought from the Clerk prior to the meeting, as advice cannot be given to Councillors at Parish Council meetings.

**33/23 Minutes** – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2023 had been circulated to the Parish Council.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**34/23 Matters Arising from the Minutes of 4 July 2023** – There were no matters arising.

**35/23 Planning Application 23/02024/F** – The Parish Council discussed a planning application on OS Parcel 2922 adjoining and south of road to Hook Norton at Rickfield Farm, Station Road, Milcombe for the erection of two proposed polytunnels and the retention of an existing hardstanding and bunds (part retrospective).

The applicant, Jenny Taylor, was also in attendance at the meeting.

Ms Taylor reported to the Parish Council on the history of the family farming business and that she was a third generation farmer. Ms Taylor had been farming in the area for four years and explained how herself and her partner had moved away from intensive farming as this did not align with their views and they focused on regenerative farming methods.

The Councillors asked for a number of points of clarification and advised that their main concern with the application was the increase in traffic through the village, especially HGV's. There were also a number of outstanding conditions relating to previous planning applications which were waiting to be discharged.

Ms Taylor was thanked for attending the meeting and left at this point.

Resolved that the Parish Council objects to application 23/02024/F on the grounds that there will be an increased flow of traffic, including heavy goods vehicles driving through the village on already busy roads, which are completely unsuitable for HGV's.

In addition, there is no community benefit to this application and conditions attached to previous planning applications have not been discharged by the applicant. **Action TG**

**36/23 Chairman's Announcements**

- Weed killing in the village – Will Pryse had treated the weeds in the village and would come back in October to treat them again. This would now be undertaken on a regular basis.

**37/23 Open Forum** – A resident asked the Parish Council whether agricultural vehicles were exempt from the weight limit on New Road. Councillor Nigel Davis confirmed that agricultural vehicles were exempt from the weight limit, however he would double check the guidance.

# MILCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

The resident also expressed concerns about the vehicle parking on Main Road and that farm vehicles struggled to get past them. He also expressed his concerns about additional bollards because this also impacted on large farm vehicles. It was agreed that removable bollards would be investigated for Main Road and the location of the white lining would be slightly amended. **Action MP**

*(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)*

**38/23 Reports from County and District Councillors** – There were no reports from the County and District Councillors.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

**39/23 Village Matters**

i) Village Hall Committee – Councillor Nigel Davis reported that quotes had been received for a new heating system in the Village Hall and there was possibly grant funding available, which was being investigated.

All policies and procedures were now in place and there were a few maintenance issues which had to be addressed.

Councillor Davis was thanked for his report.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

ii) Play Area – The Chairman reported that along with Councillor Nigel Davis, they had emptied the litter bins and the bins also had been reshaped and screwed into the concrete base, to ensure they were not vandalised again.

The gate still needed to be repaired and the Chairman was waiting for a quote from ARD Playgrounds.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

iii) Asset of Community Value, Horse and Groom PH – The Chairman reported that the application was still in progress however, works were being undertaken at the site and it appeared that the PH might be reopening soon.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

iv) Proposed 20mph Speed Restrictions – The Chairman advised that the proposals for 20mph speed restrictions in Milcombe had been approved by the County Council and the new signage had been erected. The VAS' would also be changed to new 20mph signs.

Councillor Nigel Davis reported that residents were willing to start the Community Speedwatch Scheme and the Clerk agreed to pass the Thames Valley Police contact details to him.

**Resolved** that the report be noted and the Community Speedwatch Scheme be supported. **Action TG/ND**

v) Bollards on Main Road – The Chairman reported that a meeting had been held on 11 May 2023 with Dave Catling at Oxfordshire County Council but there had not been any further progress.

**Resolved** that Dave Catling be contacted for a progress report. **Action TG**

vi) New Road Trees – The Parish Council discussed the issues with trees in New Road and the Chairman reported that she had met with the County Council's tree officers about cutting back the wide verge in New Road and planting some new tree species there too. The County Council was supporting this request and a feasibility study was being worked on by the County Officers.

# MILCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

vii) Oak Farm – The Chairman reported that she had contacted Paradigm with regard to the condition of the roads and the general appearance of the Oak Farm estate. Paradigm had advised that the site had been transferred to Cherwell District Council and she now awaited a response from their officers.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

viii) Litter Pick – The Chairman reported that she would be arranging the litter pick for the end of October 2023.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

## 39/23 Planning

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

23/01868/F Mulberry, Horton Lane, Milcombe,  
Proposed front extension, rear extension, side extension and raising of existing roof to form habitable accommodation

23/02107/F Orchard Cottage, Station Road, Milcombe  
Single storey rear extension

**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: None

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

iii) Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) – Councillor Nigel Davis reported that grant funding was now available from Locality and an application would be investigated.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

iv) Patient Participation Group (PPG) – The Chairman and Councillor Tracey Scott attended a meeting with the Bloxham and Hook Norton PPG and they advised that the two surgeries were at capacity and there was nowhere to expand. Therefore, people moving into new developments in the area could find it difficult to register with the surgery

The next meeting was being held on 19 September 2023.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

## 40/23 Parish Council Matters

i) Vacancies – There were no applications for co-option onto the Parish Council.

**Resolved** that the report be noted. **Action TG**

## 41/23 Finance

i) Accounts for Payment/Income/Uncashed Payments – The Clerk submitted to the Parish Council, the income which had been received since the last meeting and the accounts to be paid.

**Resolved** that the accounts for payments be approved and the income and uncashed payments be noted and the following payments be approved:

# MILCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Theresa Goss – Salary and expenses for August & September 2023 |          |
| HMRC – Payments for August & September 2023                    |          |
| Playground Supplies Ltd – Play area inspections                | £144.00  |
| Nigel Prickett - Grass Cutting for July 2023                   | £440.40  |
| Moore – External Audit 2022-2023                               | £252.00  |
| Prysebros Ltd – Weed killing in the village                    | £3000.00 |
| Nigel Prickett - Grass Cutting for August 2023                 | £440.40  |

ii) Bank Reconciliation - Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation as at 5 September 2023 for the Unity Trust bank accounts.

Resolved that the report be noted.

iii) Budget Monitoring – Prior to the meeting, the Parish Council received a budget monitoring report for 2023/2024.

Resolved that the report be noted.

**42/23 Correspondence** – There was no further correspondence.

**43/23 Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Resolved that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the minutes numbered 44/23, 45/23 & 46/23 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

**44/223 CCTV for the Play Area** – Councillor Nigel Davis reported that one quote had been received for the CCTV in the play area and another was due to be received shortly.

Resolved that the report be noted and this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council. **Action** TG/ND

**45/23 Meeting Dates** - The Chairman reported that future meetings would be held in the Village Hall, Milcombe and would commence at 8.00pm.

- Tuesday 7 November 2023

**46/23 Items for the Future Agendas**

- Gigaclear Community Hub/Provision of Broadband and Hybrid Meetings
- New play area warning sign
- External Auditors Report
- CCTV for the Play Area

(The meeting closed at 10.00pm)

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Signed, Chairman – 7 November 2023