

MILCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL, MILCOMBE

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), County Councillor Kieron Mallon, District Councillor Hugo Brown, Barney Ray from Bidwells and three other representatives from Bidwells and nine members of the public.

34/22 Apologies – Parish Councillor Tracey Scott submitted her apologies because she was on holiday.

Resolved that the apologies from Parish Councillor Tracey Scott be accepted and the absence approved.

35/22 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.

36/22 Land South Side of Bloxham Road, Milcombe – The Chairman introduced Barney Ray from Bidwells and his three colleagues who introduced themselves. They provided high level details on a proposed development on land on the south side of Bloxham Road.

The representative from Bidwells advised that pre-application advice had been sought from Cherwell District Council (CDC) and that CDC was currently unable to provide a five year housing supply. The full application would be submitted in the autumn and prior to that, the developer was happy to take on board comments from the Parish Council and residents. The main three elements to consider at this point were the principle of development, scale and mix and community benefits.

Residents and Parish Councillors asked a number of questions relating to shared ownership properties, open spaces, increase in traffic and traffic calming measures, a community hall and car parking, Section 106 contributions to mitigate the impact of the development on the community and the need for infrastructure to support the new residents, in terms of school places and a GP surgery.

There was a discussion about the affordable homes on the site and how the size of the development determined the number of affordable homes on the site.

The representatives from Bidwells were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting at this point.

Resolved that the information on the proposed development, be noted.

37/22 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2022 had been circulated to the Parish Council.

Resolved that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

38/22 Matters Arising from the Minutes of 5 July 2022 – There were no matters arising.

39/22 Chairman's Announcements

- The Mulberry tree and the Horse Chestnut tree on Main Road, both needed cutting back and quotes would be obtained for this work. **Action TG/MP**
- Fourth Corner had not collected grass cuttings from Church yard. Their invoice would be paid once the work had been undertaken. **Action MP**

40/22 Open Forum – The majority residents who had attended the meeting, had already left by this point because they had been in attendance to listen to the presentation on the proposed planning application at south side of Bloxham Road.

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A resident asked the Parish Council who paid the energy costs for street lighting. The Chairman advised that the running costs were covered by County Council. The resident suggested that streetlights should be turned off after midnight. County Councillor Kieron Mallon agreed to obtain information from the street lighting team on this proposal.

Action KM

A resident raised an issue about the footpath from The Green to Church Lane. The surface was very uneven and it was dangerous for pedestrians and for those using mobility scooters. It was suggested that Gigaclear should be requested to re-instate the footpaths in several places. Councillor Mallon advised the Parish Council to make a request to the County Council for the footpath to be assessed. **Action TG**

(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)

41/22 Reports from County and District Councillors – Prior to the meeting, County Councillor Kieron Mallon and District Councillor Hugo Brown had circulated their reports to the Parish Council.

The Chairman reported that there was discontent in Milcombe regarding the County Council's performance and response to reports on the 'Fix My Street' web site. Residents found the system very frustrating as matters which were being reported, did not appear to be progressed. Councillor Mallon agreed to feed this back to the County Council. **Action KM**

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their report.

Resolved that the report be noted.

42/22 Village Matters

- i) Village Organisations – Councillor Nigel Davis reported that Gigaclear had paused the roll out on fibre broadband in the village, due to health and safety issues and their contractors had been stood down. A community hub would be provided for the Village Hall by Gigaclear in due course.

The Chairman advised that Rob Paul had moved out of the village, however he would continue as Treasurer for Church and the Village Hall Committee (Milcombe Charities) until a replacement was found.

Resolved that:

- 1) the reports be noted; and
- 2) contact be made with Rob Paul regarding the Milcombe Charities donation to the new play equipment. **Action TG**

- ii) Play Area – The Chairman reported that Kompan had completed the repair work to the bridge. Councillor Nigel Davis reported that the red litter bin had been vandalised and litter had been spread over the play area. A resident had kindly tidied up the area. The Chairman agreed to check the lock on the litter bin to establish whether it was broken.

A quote had also been received from Kompan for the monthly and annual inspections of the play area. However the inspections were not monthly, they were every three months and the requirement for insurance purposes was monthly checks.

Resolved that:

- 1) Playground Supplies Ltd be contacted for a quote to carry out the monthly checks on the play area;
- 2) the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, be given delegated authority to appoint Playground Supplies Ltd, if their quote remains at £60 per visit; and **Action TG**
- 2) Play Safety Ltd be appointed to continue to carry out the annual play area inspections. **Action TG.**

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- iii) HGV's in Milcombe – Councillor Nigel Davis was continuing to contact the County Council for information on HGV weight limits and would provide a report at the next meeting. Councillor Kieron Mallon agreed to assist with the application.

Resolved that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council. **Action ND/TG**

43/22 Planning

- i) Planning Applications - The Parish Council had made observation to the following application:
22/02104/F Land to the rear of No.12 and south of dismantled railway, Heath Close, Milcombe
Erection of 35 two storey dwelling houses, construction of access off Rye Hill, together with garaging, parking, open space with LAP, landscaping and all enabling works

The Parish Council was currently considering the following planning 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: None

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) – Councillor Nigel Davis reported that he had sought advice from Stephen McKenna at Community First Oxfordshire and he was now happy to proceed with a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Milcombe, working alongside Councillor Chris Hill.

Grant funding was required to enable the project to progress and further information would be submitted to the next meeting.

The whole Parish would be included in the designated area and this would be agreed with Cherwell District Council. Councillor Davis would circulate information to the Parish Council on the designated area.

Resolved that the report be noted.

44/22 Parish Council Matters

- i) Vacancies – There had not been any applications for co-option onto the Parish Council.

Resolved that the vacancy continue to be advertised in the village. **Action TG**

- ii) Village Hall Committee – Councillor Nigel Davis reported on the current position of the Village Hall Committee. The Chairman advised that she had been trying to organise a meeting with the Trustees, however this would not be held before November 2022.

Resolved that the report be noted.

45/22 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:

Theresa Goss – Salary and expenses for September and October 2022	
HMRC – Payments for September and October 2022	
Nigel Prickett – Grass Cutting for July 2022	£420.00
Cherwell District Council – Election Fees	£100.00

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Paul Lester – Play Area Repairs	£95.00
Adderbury Parish Council – SLCC Membership 2022/2023	£53.75
Nigel Prickett – Grass Cutting for August 2022	£192.00
4 th Corner Ltd – Removal of grass cuttings and weed control	£282.00

- ii) Bank Reconciliation - Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation as at 6 September 2022 for the Unity Trust bank accounts.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) Budget Monitoring – The Parish Council considered the budget monitoring report from April to September 2022.

Resolved that the budget monitoring report from April to September 2022 be noted.

- iv) External Auditor – The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had to appoint an external auditor for the next five years, starting in 2022/2023.

Resolved that Moore be appointed as the external auditor for the next five years, starting in 2022/2023.

46/22 Correspondence

- A quote had been received from Nigel Prickett to repair the gateway in Bloxham Road, by the play area. It was agreed to accept the quote and also ask for the gateway to be painted white. **Action TG/MP**
- An anonymous letter had been received from a resident regarding anti-social behavior in the village. The Clerk had forwarded the letter to the village PCSO at Thames Valley Police and it would also be sent to Matthew Barber, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Oxfordshire. The letter would also be sent to the landowners, who it appeared from the description in the letter, were affected by the anti-social behaviour. **Action TG**

47/22 Meeting Dates - The Chairman reported that future meetings would be held in the Village Hall, Milcombe and would commence at 8.00pm.

- Tuesday 1 November 2022
- Tuesday 3 January 2023
- Tuesday 7 March 2023
- Tuesday 18 April 2023
- Tuesday 2 May 2023
- Tuesday 4 July 2023
- Tuesday 5 September 2023
- Tuesday 7 November 2023

48/22 Items for the Next Agenda

- Gigaclear Community Hub/ Provision of Broadband and Hybrid Meetings
- New play area warning sign

(The meeting closed at 9.55pm)

Signed, Chairman – 1 November 2022