

MILCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 JANUARY AT 8.00PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL, MILCOMBE

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), County Councillor Kieron Mallon and District Councillor Hugo Brown.

65/22 Apologies – Parish Councillor Chris Hill submitted his apologies because he was unwell.

Parish Councillor Tracey Scott submitted her apologies because she had another appointment.

It was reported that Parish Councillor Tracey Scott had an ongoing issue which meant that she had been unable to attend Parish Council meetings. Following a discussion, Councillors agreed that a dispensation for the absences would be approved.

Resolved that:

- 1) the apologies from Parish Councillors Chris Hill and Tracey Scott be accepted and the absences be authorised and approved; and
- 2) a dispensation for Parish Councillor Tracey Scott for absences from Parish Council meetings, from 3 January 2023 to 7 March 2023, be authorised and approved.

66/22 Declarations of Interest – There were no 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.

67/22 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2022 had been circulated to the Parish Council.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

68/22 Matters Arising from the Minutes of 1 November 2022

Minute Number 52/22 – Matters Arising – The Chairman reported that the grass cuttings had still not been collected from the Church yard by 4th Corner Ltd. The Chairman would contact 4th Corner Ltd to discuss the issue. **Action MR**

The Chairman would also contact the Church Warden and ask that the green and brown bins be relocated, so that they were more accessible for disposing of old flowers and packaging. **Action MP**

The Chairman also reported that Nigel Prickett had installed two posts as part of the gateway repair, located next to the play area. Nigel would now be painting the gateway before he completed the rest of the installation.

Minute Number 53/22 – Matters Arising - Meeting with Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley – The Chairman reported that at the meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner, he had advised that villages around Banbury were affected by County Lines, but issues in Milcombe had subsided lately. However, this was probably only due to it being the wintertime. Policing would be improved in the villages, including their communications with residents and Sergeant Sarah Nash provided her contact details to the Parish Council.

69/22 Chairman's Announcements

- A meeting was being held on Tuesday 10 January 2023 at 10am with Tim Northey from Abbeymill Homes regarding the proposed development to the rear of Heath Close. The Planning Officer dealing with the application, Wayne Campbell would also be attending the meeting.
- A village litter pick would be organised in due course, when the weather had improved.

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70/22 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)

71/22 Reports from County and District Councillors – Prior to the meeting, District Councillor Hugo Brown had circulated his report to the Parish Council.

District Councillor Hugo Brown advised that he would enquire with Cherwell District Council Officers whether payments for the emptying of brown bins, could be added to Council Tax bills to be paid in installments, rather than as a lump sum straight after Christmas. **Action HB**

There was a discussion about the five-year housing land supply and Councillor Brown would keep the Parish Council updated on any possible changes to this policy, when he received more information.

County Councillor Kieron Mallon highlighted the frustrations with the new administration at the County Council because its main focus appeared to be in Oxford and not surrounding areas.

A new Chief Executive had been appointed and a Governance Review was being undertaken to change the County boundaries to even out the numbers of electors in each County division. The number of County Councillors would also be increasing when the next County Council elections were held.

Resolved that the reports be noted.

72/22 Village Matters

- i) Village Hall Committee – Councillor Nigel Davis reported that the Committee now had a full compliment of Trustees and they were all registered with the Charity Commission. There were issues with changing the signatures on the bank account, but this was in hand with the Trustees.

A number of policies had been approved and repairs had also been undertaken at the Hall.

There had been a meeting of the new Committee and there was also a 'Friends of Milcombe Village Hall' Sub-Group which would be supporting the Trustees.

Councillor Davis was thanked for his report.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- ii) Play Area – Councillor Nigel Davis reported that permission would be requested from the County Council to site a CCTV camera and light on street light outside the play area. Permission was also required from Thames Valley Police and Councillor Davis had both of these in hand.

Repairs to the little bridge were ongoing and Councillor Davis would be installing stainless steel bolts to complete the repair.

Councillor Davis was thanked for his report and work at the play area.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) HGV's in New Road, Milcombe – County Councillor Kieron Mallon had agreed to assist with this application but had not yet received an update from the County Council Officers.

Resolved that Councillor Nigel Davis to email County Councillor Kieron Mallon with the details of the application to enable Councillor Mallon to chase up the request with the County Council Officers. **Action ND/KM**

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- iv) Annual Parish Meeting – The Chairman advised Councillors that APM would be held on Tuesday 18 April 2023 at 8pm at the Village Hall.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- v) Tree on Main Road – The Parish Council discussed the species of tree to be planted on Main Road to replace the Mulberry tree, following a consultation exercise with residents. The Mulberry tree was removed on health and safety grounds.

Resolved that:

- 1) a Rowan tree be planted on Main Road where the Mulberry tree had been located; and
- 2) a quote for the Rowan be obtained from Cotefield Treecare Ltd, in addition to a quote for grinding down the stump left by the Mulberry tree. **Action TG**

- v) County Council Tree Donation – The Parish Council discussed the offer of a tree to be planted in the village by the County Council.

Resolved that the offer of a tree from the County Council be declined.

73/22 Planning

- i) Planning Applications - The Parish Council had made observations to the following application:
22/02898/F 12 Heath Close, Milcombe
Front extensions to porch and garage, internal alterations and dropped kerb

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:

Cherwell DC Application No.	Identification	Milcombe PC Observations	Cherwell DC Decision
22/02898/F	12 Heath Close, Milcombe Front extensions to porch and garage, internal alterations and dropped kerb	No objections with comments	Permitted

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) – Councillor Nigel Davis gave an update on the progress with the Neighbourhood Plan and confirmed that Cherwell District Council had given its approval to proceed with the Plan.

Resolved that the report be noted.

74/22 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) Early Day Motion – The Parish Council discussed supporting the House of Commons, Early Day Motion/(EDM) tabled by Dr Julian Lewis, MP for New Forest East. The EDM would call on the Government

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to re-visit its response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life report on local government ethical standards, including the introduction of tougher sanctions to deal with poor behaviour in local councils.

Resolved that a letter be sent to Victoria Prentis MP advising her of the Parish Council's support for this motion and requesting that she also supports to motion, with the inclusion of disqualification of Councillors if they are found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct or bullying of a staff member, other Councillors or using their position as a Parish Councillor to bully a member of the public. **Action TG**

75/22 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 January & February 2023	
HMRC – Payments for January & February 2023	
Nigel Prickett – Grass Cutting for September 2022	£420.00
Royal British Legion – Annual Donation	£100.00
Pixel Concepts – Parish Council web site	£226.80
Cotefield Treecare Ltd – Removal of Mulberry Tree	£327.00
Playground Supplies Ltd – Monthly play area inspection for November and December 2022	£144.00
Auditing Solutions Ltd – Interim Audit report for 2022/2023	£216.00

- ii) Bank Reconciliation - Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation as at 3 January 2023 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 2022 to November 2023.

Resolved that the budget monitoring report from April 2022 to January 2023 be noted.

- iv) Internal Audit 2022/2023 – The Parish Council considered the Interim Internal Audit report for 2022/2023

Resolved that the interim internal audit report for 2022/2023 be noted and approved.

76/22 Correspondence – There was no further correspondence.

77/22 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 minute numbered 78/22 the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

78/22 Grass Cutting Contract 2023/2024 – The Parish Council discussed the grass cutting contract for 2023/2024.

Resolved that the grass cutting contract for 2023/2024 be awarded to Nigel Prickett. **Action TG**

79/22 Meeting Dates - The Chairman reported that future meetings would be held in the Village Hall, Milcombe and would commence at 8.00pm.

- Tuesday 7 March 2023
- Tuesday 18 April 2023 (Annual Parish Meeting)
- Tuesday 2 May 2023

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- Tuesday 4 July 2023
- Tuesday 5 September 2023
- Tuesday 7 November 2023

80/22 Items for the Future Agendas

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

(The meeting closed at 9.50pm)

Signed, Chairman – 7 March 2023