

Newsletter

Milcombe Newsletter will be produced each month and will be available from the New Road Shop only while Covid-19 restrictions remain in place

The Milcombe Newsletter is funded by the Milcombe Parish Council



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Issue 80

Contributions, by email (Microsoft Word 2010 compatible), to be received by 18th of month prior to publication to
milcombepc@gmail.com or
marlene.cowell@milcombe.com
All contributions are published 'as recieved' and do not necessarily represent the views of the Parish Council.

Milcombe Play Area

**OFFICIAL OPENING AT NOON ON SUNDAY, APRIL 24th,
FOLLOWED BY EASTER EGG HUNT**

EVERYBODY WELCOME – PLEASE COME AND ENJOY THE FUN

All residents are invited to the official opening of the new Milcombe play area. It is being held on Sunday 24 April 2022 at 12 noon. The opening will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Parish Council.

Milcombe Parish Council

www.milcombepc.co.uk

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REPORT ON THE MILCOMBE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30m
ON TUESDAY, MARCH 22nd, 2022

All six Councillors were in attendance. Disappointingly only one member of the public was in attendance. Apologies were received from County Councillor Kieron Mallon, District Councillor Hugo Brown and the Clerk, Theresa Goss who was unable to attend due to illness. The Minutes of the APM held on May 11th, 2021, were agreed as a correct record and there were no matters arising.

Tom McCulloch of Community First Oxfordshire was due to speak on Neighbourhood Development Plans but unfortunately, due to Covid, he had to cancel. This has been re-scheduled for the next PC meeting on May 10th.

The Chairman's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved with no matters arising. The Report is included in this Newsletter and also on the PC website.

Parish Council elections are held every four years and this year all Councillors will stand down on May 5th. They may stand again if they so wish by completing the necessary forms with a proposer and seconder. The current Council has six members, so at least one other person is required to make up the full complement of seven. If more than seven names are put forward, then there has to be an election. If only seven names (or less) are put forward, then they are automatically elected. Please contact the Clerk on milcombepc@gmail.com for more information or Nigel Davis who can provide you with a form.

The Clerk had provided an income and expenditure account for the year prior to the meeting and this was approved.

District Councillor Hugo Brown had provided a written report which had included items on Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Statement of Community Involvement, Covid 19 – Oxfordshire Recovery and Renewal Framework and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The full report is on the PC website.

Councillors considered the Platinum Jubilee Celebration grants which CDC is providing to encourage and assist local authorities and communities across the district. Parish authorities are given the first opportunity to apply for grants. If they do not wish to apply, then it can nominate a constituted community group to apply. The grant is for public and community-wide events but not for informal neighbourhood events. Applications must be in by Friday, May 13th. Additional information is available on the Platinum Jubilee page of CDC's website or contact Lydia.avann@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

A discussion was also held on the problems in Ukraine and the need for assistance mainly now in the form of funding. The Councillors voted unanimously to forward a donation of £100.00 to the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee). The Chairman reminded members of the proposed meeting at the Horse & Groom at 8.00pm on March 31st for discussions on the organisation of a fete/summer party. This event can only take place if enough volunteers come forward to help.

MC/23.3.2022

CONGRATULATIONS

**TO CAROLINE AND BEAU
WILLOUGHBY ON THEIR RECENT
TRIP TO POLAND TO HELP
REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE.**

Caroline and Beau took a van load of supplies to Poland after contacting the Banbury Polish Association. In her last update, Caroline said 94 beds with mattresses had been directly ordered in Poland thanks to everyone's kind donations which had also funded their trip. After offloading their van, they bought another van load of much needed items locally such as essential baby items, water, toilet paper, etc.

It is heartwarming to know that the people of Banbury and surrounding area are doing so much to help the Ukrainian refugees.



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MILCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 22 MARCH 2022

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021-2022

This report covers the activities of Milcombe Parish Council during 2021 up to the present. Due to the Coronavirus, PC meetings up until July 2021 were held on Zoom and recommenced in the Village Hall from September 2021.

MILCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL is a local authority largely funded by public money and is responsible for ensuring its financial business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

The PC meets bimonthly plus the Annual Parish Meeting. Sometimes it is necessary to hold an extraordinary meeting as in June 2021 for the co-option of 4 additional Councillors as MPC had been running on the minimum of 3 Councillors – Marlene Cowell (Chairman), Mandie McCullagh (Vice-Chairman) and Myra Peters.

A letter was drawn up and delivered to every household in the village explaining the situation and 4 names were put forward – Ruth Dale, Nigel Davis, Bob Ottway and Tracey Scott. (Bob Ottway has since resigned.)

PC elections take place every 4 years and are due this year on May 5th. This will be dealt with during the meeting.

Grateful thanks are expressed to all Councillors, County Councillor Kieron Mallon and District Councillor Hugo Brown who provide regular reports, attend meetings and are a huge support to the Council.

Particular thanks go to our Clerk, Theresa Goss, who takes on a huge burden of the work, especially in the last year and she is also our Responsible Financial officer.

PC meetings are open to the public, but few seldom attend.

Members again opted not to accept allowances as set out by the Independent Remuneration Panel, but agreed that travel expenses could be claimed. The Precept for 2022-2023 was set at £14,000.

PLANNING

The PC reviewed planning applications at the following properties:

Swerbrook Farm
Mulberry Keytes
Lessor Grange
Jasmine Cottage
1 Heath Close
Rickfield Farm
Farnell Fields
Dovecote Close
Horse & Groom
11 Oak Farm Close
Smithy Cottage
Little Acre
Oak Farm Phase 2
11 Newcombe Close

15 Heath Close

Hall Farm

Tree works at rear of Dovecote Close

Most of these applications were non-controversial.

Oak Farm Phase 2 is now well underway by Living Space with Sanctuary having pulled out as reported last year. There is an application for 3 dwellings at Little Acre (west of the Church tower) and observations were made regarding access.

PARISH COUNCIL PROJECTS

PLAY AREA – The Play Area on Bloxham Road is owned and maintained by the PC. Regular checks were carried out with an annual inspection by RoSPA.

Refurbishment of the Play Area has been on the cards for a few years and quotes were obtained from Timotay, Playdale, Kompan and Trevor Stewart. The PC opted to accept the quote from Kompan of Milton Keynes. A grant was made by CDC plus s.106 funding from Living Space.

The Play Area was closed in November whilst the refurbishment was carried out. Due to the grass seed taking some time to develop and the ground being extremely wet and muddy, it has not officially been opened, but it is hoped that this will happen in April.

DEFIBRILLATOR – This project has also been on the cards for a few years. The original intention was to place it in the Church porch but, due to much red tape and the PC wishing to have it installed for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, it was decided to change tactics and to place it on the Village Hall. Milcombe Charities were notified of the proposal and no objections were received. The Defibrillator is on order from Wel Medical at a cost of £1500 and Nigel Davis will arrange for it to be fitted.

THE CHURCH TOWER CLOCK – The Church Tower clock is the responsibility of the Parish Council who originally had the clock installed by Smith of Derby with the promise of all future servicing and maintenance.

When the clock was serviced in March 2021, the report stated that the dial was showing significant signs of wear and tear and to replace the outdated internal mechanism which is about 30 years old and replacement parts no longer available.

The surface of the clock will be re-painted and the numerals and hands will be re-gilded with gold leaf. The total cost is £4983.00 (ex VAT which the PC can reclaim). A 30% deposit has been paid and the work is expected to be carried out in May in time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

These projects make up the PC's contributions to the village for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

GRASS CUTTING – The PC has again awarded the contract for mowing the grass verges throughout the village, the Play Area (when the grass has grown enough to require cutting) and the Churchyard to Nigel Prickett. The PC is responsible for the Churchyard extension.

DOG BINS are emptied on a regular basis by CDC and the PC is billed for this. CDC no longer provides free dogs.

VILLAGE LITTER PICK was arranged last year by Mandie McCullagh and Myra Peters and hopefully will take place again in May of this year. Volunteers from the village are required to help out.

SPEEDING/HIGHWAYS – Speeding through the village is always an issue as is parking. There is currently a survey for villagers to complete reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph but OCC needs to know that residents are in favour. There have been suggestions of a zebra crossing by the Play Area and speed bumps which the PC has looked into in the past but need the agreement of OCC but the cost is too high for the PC to afford.

The PC is obtaining quotes for the replacement of the white gate at the entrance to the village by the Play Area.

THE MILCOMBE NEWSLETTER is a great asset to the village especially those who do not have access to the internet. It is on the PC website each month as well. The PC funds the cost of paper and print cartridges and we are indebted to Mark Boardman for putting it all together and printing. It has not been delivered around the village for the past 2 years due to the pandemic but copies have been available from the village shop and Church. Hopefully delivery will be resumed around the village if enough volunteers can be found.

MILCOMBE CHARITIES – THE VILLAGE HALL – The Committee members are Trustees responsible to the Charity Commissioners. The Hall had to be closed for a length of time as were all public buildings due to the pandemic but re-opened around September 2021 and remains open for bookings.

Rob Paul of Stoneleigh, Horton Lane, kindly took over as Treasurer which meant that bank signatories could be changed and the Hall able to run in the correct manner.

Raychel Pomroy is starting up the monthly Coffee Mornings again from April 1st.

THE DOVECOTE SITE is in the ownership of CDC who received commuted sums of around £66,000 from Tay Homes, the original developers of the Dovecote development in 1999. This was for the future maintenance of the Dovecote and surrounding site.

The Millennium soft floodlighting of the Dovecote is the responsibility of the PC.

CUCKOO WALK path contains the original blue bricks which made up the village footpaths in years gone by. Although not the responsibility of the PC, it has taken over some of the responsibility of clearing the path twice a year.

THE PUMP SITE situated on Main Road by the Millennium map served the old Council houses prior to mains water coming into the village. Again, this is not the responsibility of the PC, but it is a village feature and does enhance the appearance of the village when kept tidy as do all the daffodils around the village at this time of year, which were a vision of Peter Booth's who donated the bulbs.

REMEMBRANCE – Laying of poppy wreath ceremonies and Church Services were allowed to take place in November 2021. Myra Peters laid the poppy wreath at the Bloxham War Memorial on behalf of Milcombe villagers and Nigel Davis laid the poppy wreath in St. Laurence's Church porch.

DONATIONS – Milcombe PC made donations of £500 to the Cherry Tree Centre at Bloxham Primary School, £100 to the Thursday Lunch Club and £100 to the Royal British Legion.

FINALLY, this report is mainly concerned with the affairs of Milcombe village, but the PC has responded to a number of Consultations from CDC and OCC which is all part of a PC's remit. CDC had sent out a survey under the Local Plan Consultation which included land put forward by owners as suitable for development. There were six sites in all in and around Milcombe and Nigel Davis and Myra Peters completed the survey on behalf of MPC.

My last two reports have talked about the Coronavirus. Although most of the rules have been relaxed, the problem has not gone away. I don't think many of us would have expected it to still be around in its 3rd year and I guess for sometime to come.

Marlene Cowell

Chairman – Milcombe Parish Council
March 2022

UKRAINE – I think we are all supportive of Ukraine and the terrible war they are having to fight with Russia – so many lives lost, so many homes lost and so many families separated and fleeing to safety in other countries. Donations may be made through the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and the British Red Cross.

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 £8 extra for each additional colour
 Ombre £50
 Balayage £50

FREE Adverts for local business

SOCIAL MILCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

villagehallmilcombe@outlook.com

MILCOMBE VILLAGE HALL IS OPEN FOR BOOKINGS. Please contact Amy Jackson, Bookings Clerk. Hirers of the Hall still need to be cautious. Hand sanitiser is provided in the foyer. Arrangements have now been made for the Hall to receive a regular monthly clean by Kay and Bill Garrett. Hirers are requested to tidy up and leave the Hall in a clean state before they leave, especially wiping down surfaces in the kitchen.



With the evenings getting lighter and signs of spring all around us, it's time to ditch the weekends stuck inside and get back to enjoying the outdoors. We have plenty of ways that you can support our hospice while getting some fresh air – from taking part in events to volunteering for one of our collections. We couldn't keep supporting local people without your help. Thank you!

Moonlight Walk - UPDATE

Our Moonlight Walk has a new date and venue! Our much-loved fundraising event will now take place on 16 July, setting off from Easington Sports Football Club in Banbury. We're bringing back all the best bits of the 80s – so get some friends together and have your leg warmers at the ready! Tickets are on sale now. All that's left is to choose between our 6- and 10-mile walk.

Open Gardens return

We have an incredible seven dates for our Open Garden scheme running throughout the spring and summer – with more to come! A huge thank you to all our green-fingered supporters who are opening their gardens to help raise money for our hospice. If you're looking for some fun family days out in the months ahead then take a look at our Open Gardens page to find out more.

Find out more

Head to our website for more details, events and news: www.khh.org.uk. Find out more Head to our website to find out more about all these events and news: www.khh.org.uk.

Out on the town!

We're always on the lookout for more volunteers for our street collections. Each collection slot lasts for 1.5 hours – so it's a great introduction to volunteering if it's something you've been thinking about. Find out how you can get involved on the volunteering page of our website.

A cracking 10k

Ready to step-up your running this autumn? We've teamed up with Brackley Running Club and are excited to offer places on the 'egg-cellent' 10k Chicken Run! Join the Katharine House team to take on this popular local running event and raise money for a fantastic cause.

Walk the walk

If you love nothing more than lacing up your walking boots and getting out to see the world then we have three new challenge events that will be right up your street.

- Cotswold Way Challenge - 25 June
- Thames Path Challenge - 10 September
- Halloween Walk - 29 October

So whether you fancy something beautifully scenic or a little bit spooky – we've got you covered! Find out about these challenges and more on our website.

Digital monthly newsletter – keep up to date with your hospice

Sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with all our latest news and fundraising events at the hospice.

THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE IS NOW OPEN DURING TERM TIME

THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE – PLAY AND LEARN AT THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE, Bloxham Primary School, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9.30-11.00am (term time only).

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Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline - if you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us

At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who faces dying or the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you feeling isolated and alone. Being able to access support is so important. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end of life and being prepared helps both the person dying and their loved ones to feel a sense of control. Calls are free and confidential.

Call us on 0808 801 0688 - we have time to talk

Please visit www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service to find out more.

Find out about the Anne Robson Trust and its good works

The Anne Robson Trust is a charity that passionately believes that "no one deserves to die alone." Liz Pryor, our founder, and Chief Executive was awarded the Member of the British Empire Medal (MBE) in the Queens 2022 New Year's Honour's list, for services to end-of-life care.

We work alongside NHS hospitals to train volunteers, who sit with patients in the last days and hours of their life to provide company and companionship, so they know they are not alone. The volunteers also help support the patient's family and friends. During COVID restrictions these volunteers were unable to visit hospitals, so we set up the Anne Robson Trust Helpline, a free national telephone service to offer comfort and support where needed.

As restrictions have lifted the volunteers have returned to hospitals, however we continue to offer the helpline, which has proven to be a invaluable resource for people regardless of where they are.

The helpline is available for anyone who is struggling to cope with facing their own



death or the death of someone they care about. Whether they are family members, friends, neighbours, work colleagues, or even a member of the care staff who may just need someone to talk to; we understand the pressures of caring for people who are nearing the end of life.



DOG WASTE BAGS – Cherwell District Council are no longer supplying free bags so please ensure that you take a bag with you to clean up after your dog as you will still be liable for a penalty if caught allowing your dog to foul public highways and private fields.

Milcombe Parish Council Proposed 20mph Speed Limit Restrictions in Milcombe



**ST. MARY'S
THURSDAY CLUB**
ST. MARY'S THURSDAY CLUB
HAS NOW RE-OPENED IN THE
PARISH ROOMS

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CHURCH NOTES

ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCH

these vary between
8.00am and 11.15am.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3rd (Lent 5) - HOLY COMMUNION
SUNDAY, APRIL 10th (Palm Sunday) - HOLY COMMUNION
 (Distribution of Palm Crosses)
TUESDAY, APRIL 12th (HOLY WEEK) - SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION WITH HEALING AT 7.30pm
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13th (HOLY WEEK) - ALL THREE CHURCHES OPEN from 7.30pm-9.00pm FOR QUIET PRAYER AND REFLECTION (No Set Service)
FRIDAY, APRIL 15th - GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY at 7.30pm
SUNDAY, APRIL 17th - EASTER DAY COMMUNION
SUNDAY, APRIL 24th (Easter 2) - WELCOME TO WORSHIP
SATURDAY, APRIL 9th - EASTER GARDEN AND EASTER EGG HUNT AT 10.00am. Please bring a small hand trowel and a plant if you can.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16th - EASTER DECORATING IN CHURCH (All day) Please let Marlene know if you are unable to do your usual flower arrangements. Also, is there anybody who would be willing to take over the Easter lilies this year please? (720750)

The Church is open every day between 10.00am and 4.00pm for quiet prayer and reflection and you are very welcome to come in and just sit quietly. There is a book just inside the main door for you to write in your own prayers.

DATES AND DETAILS OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING WILL BE POSTED ON THE NOTICEBOARD FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS AND PCC MEMBERS. ELECTORAL ROLLS ARE ALSO REVISED PRIOR TO THE APCM. IF YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR NAME ADDED TO THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL OR REMOVED, PLEASE CONTACT SUSAN RICHARDSON.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY CANS AT THE CHURCH AS WE ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO RECYCLE THEM.



PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR WASTE IN THE CORRECT BINS. CDC ARE BECOMING VERY STRICT AND THE BINS WILL NOT BE EMPTIED IF THEY CAN SEE WASTE WHICH HAS NOT BEEN RECYCLED CORRECTLY. All green waste from graves (such as dead flowers) goes in the brown bin. Cellophane from shop bunches goes in the green bin. Paper and plastic in the blue bin.

PLEASE, PLEASE, DO NOT THROW RUBBISH ON THE HEAP OF GRASS CUTTINGS IN THE CORNER OF THE CHURCHYARD.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS AND PRINTER CARTRIDGES which Tony and Joan Stickings take to the Redwing Horse Sanctuary near Stratford for recycling. These can be left on the table just inside the main door.

Contact details for St. Laurence's Church are Rev. Dale Gingrich 01295 720252 or email office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk. The Churchwardens are Michael Haynes hynmicha6@aol.com and Suzette Watson churchwardenmilcombe@gmail.com

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BUMPS AND BABIES

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