

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



June 2021
Issue 72



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 Parish Council

www.milcombepc.co.uk

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4 May 2021



Chairman and Vice-Chairman 2021/2022 – Councillor Marlene Cowell was appointed as Chairman and Mandie McCullagh was appointed as Vice-Chairman.

Councillor Michael Haynes – Michael Haynes has resigned from the Parish Council.

HRH, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh – As a mark of respect, the village flag was lowered to half-mast and although there was not a physical Book of Condolence due to Covid-19 restrictions, this had been available on-line.

Milcombe Senior Citizen's Club – The Club has recently closed and the organisers Tony and Joan Stickings were thanked for all their work over many years, running the Club.

Footpaths in Bloxham – Walkers going over Hobb Hill will notice posts and string at the gates and on the footpath. The farmer is using these to guide users to the location of the Public Right of Way. The farmer will be making hay in the field this year. If the ground becomes compacted it becomes unusable. Walkers should try to keep to the right, close to the hedge on the way up from Courtington Lane and at the top, walk straight down to the kissing gate at the bottom on Ells Lane. Please keep to the paths and enjoy your walks up Hobb Hill...a good pair of wellies / boots always helps.

Elections – Local elections are being held on 6 May 2021. Parish Council elections were scheduled for May 2022.

Horse and Groom PH – The pub was scheduled to re-open on 17 May 2021 and residents are encouraged to support the pub where they can.

Wheelie Bins – Residents are kindly requested not to block the footpaths with their wheelie bins, where possible. If they could also be collected back in as soon as they had been emptied, this would avoid the footpaths being blocked for those pedestrians with pushchairs or wheelchair users.

Snow Warden/Grit Bins – If anyone in the village would to volunteer to be a Snow Warden to help clear the footpaths in adverse weather conditions, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council. Grit bins are all full and grit may be used on slippery public footpaths and roads only. It should not be used for private property use.

Litter Pick – The annual village litter pick will be held at the end of May 2021. More details to follow in due course.

Planning

21/01238/F, 15 Heath Close, Milcombe

Extend current driveway and drop kerb to fall in line with the full width of the house.

No objections

21/00890/F, 1 Heath Close, Milcombe

First floor extension over the existing ground floor and demolition of garage and rebuilding of ground floor extension (re-submission of 20/03421/F).

Observations

21/00474/F, Star Pubs & Bars limited, Horse and Groom Inn, Main Road, Milcombe

Replacement kitchen extract system on rear single storey extension - re-submission of 20/02050/F

No objections

21/01071/F, Lessor Grange, Milcombe

Variation of condition 2 (plans) of 20/03194/F - proposed position of dwelling moved

No objections

Highways – Repairs which were required to potholes should be reported to the County Council's Fix My Street web site. <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/> New road markings had been painted on the road by the junction at the Horse and Groom.

Trees/Bushes/Hedges – Residents were reminded that trees/bushes/hedges should not be causing an obstruction because they were overhanging a boundary onto a footpath or road. If an obstruction was occurring in the village, it should be reported to <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

Covid-19 – The latest guidance on the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Adverse Weather:

Oxfordshire County Council works closely with all its partners to monitor the weather and as a reminder there are some numbers that you can call to report weather related issues if you become aware of them:

- To report fallen trees or other debris which pose a risk to your safety or the safety of others, please call 999
- To report fallen trees or other debris which doesn't pose such a high risk but still needs to be dealt with, please call 101

- If you lose power or can see that a power line has come down please report it by calling 105
- If you are concerned about flooding, you should visit the Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit online - <https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com> – and I will summarise the key numbers to call below:

- If you have a flooding emergency which is a threat to someone's life, contact Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service on 999

Next month this will be a combined issue July & August. If you have anything to offer please do email us.

Litter Pick 29-30 May
see website for
details



THE HORSE & GROOM
PUB AND KITCHEN

**IS NOW
OPEN**

PLEASE GIVE THEM
YOUR SUPPORT

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horseandgroominn.co.uk

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HETAS

Continued over ►

· To report flooding relating to a highway such as blocked ditches, blocked drains or flooding on a road call Oxfordshire County Council Floodline on 0345 310 1111

· To report flooding from a main river contact the Environment Agency through the Floodline (Tel: 0345 988 1188 or 0800 80 70 60) or visit their website

· If your property is at immediate risk of surface water flooding please contact Thames Valley Police on 101

Planning applications and comments could be viewed on Cherwell District Council's web site at: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/115/planning/443/see-or-comment-on-a-planning-application23as>

Meeting Dates - Future meetings, all starting at 8.00pm would be held on Zoom, until further notice. Please contact the Clerk for the details to join the Parish Council meetings.

· Tuesday 6 July 2021

· Tuesday 7 September 2021

· Tuesday 2 November 2021

All welcome to attend!

Agendas and minutes are available on www.milcombe.com or please contact the Clerk, Theresa Goss, at milcombecp@gmail.com or ring 01295 710965 during normal office hours.

Reminders:

Roads (including potholes)/footpaths/street lighting/overhanging trees/hedges: Report to Oxfordshire County Council <https://fix-mystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

Faulty Street Lights: Report on freephone 0800 317802 giving exact destination and pole number if possible.

Dog Bags: These are available from New Road Stores and in the Church porch. Please clear up after your dog - it is an offence not to.

Electricity: SSE 0800 294 3259 or text phone 0800 316 5457, UK Power Networks - 0800 169 9970, Western Power Distribution - 0800 096 3080

Water: Thames Water 0800 009 3652 or text phone 0800 316 6899, Anglian Water 03457 91 91 55

Power failure: If there's a power cut call the free number 105 to check what's happening with your local provider

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IS BEING HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 6th, at 8.00pm, and is expected to be via Zoom. Please contact the Clerk at milcombecp@gmail.com for details.

URGENT APPEAL FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Parish Council is urgently appealing for new Councillors. The PC is functioning on the bare minimum of three Councillors - there should be seven.

If one more Councillor steps down, there won't be a Parish Council and Cherwell District Council will take over.

In this scenario, there won't be any local representatives to comment on planning applications, to cut the grass, to arrange

for footpaths to be tidied, liaising with the County Council over highway matters, pay for the servicing of the Church clock, pay for the village newsletter, supporting the project for a new play area, accessing developer funding for village improvements, maintaining the current play area, assist residents with queries. At the moment all this and more, is falling to three people, which is not fair.

Be part of Milcombe's community and help our village prosper



An hour or two every other month is all it takes

The Parish Council is appealing for new Councillors.

We all value our community, the countryside around our village and above all the wellbeing of our neighbours and friends in Milcombe. A Parish Councillor is someone who helps every aspect of village life, as much or as little as they are able. The commitment is just two hours every two months, or more if they wish.

If you are the sort of person who picks up a bit of litter on the way to the shop ... then you are the sort of person we want.

The PC is functioning on the bare minimum of three Councillors - there should be seven, if one more steps down, there won't be a Parish Council and Cherwell District Council will take over. Then we lose the ability to have a voice in support of our village. Some of the things we will lose; are the ability to comment on planning applications, who cuts the grass, arrange for footpaths to be tidied, liaising with the County Council over highway matters, pay for the servicing of the Church clock, pay for the village newsletter, support the project for a new play area, access developer funding for village improvements, maintain the current play area, assist residents with queries...

At the present all the functions of village life we take for granted, is falling to three people, which is not fair. This is why we need new councillors to join us, we are at a turning point and the Parish Council will soon be no more, as the current three Councillors cannot carry on as they are.

Please email milcombecp@gmail.com for details on becoming a Councillor or contact the Clerk on 01295 710965



MILCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

villagehallmilcombe@outlook.com

The Village Hall is still **not** open for bookings as THE VILLAGE HALL IS STILL DESPERATELY IN NEED OF A TREASURER. The previous signatories are no longer Trustees so, until the bank signatories can be changed to include a new Treasurer, the Hall cannot move forward and re-open for bookings.

We thank Raychel Pomroy who has continued to make regular checks ever since the beginning of lockdown flushing toilets, running taps, checking heating, etc.

Also, thanks to Amy Jackson who liaised with CDC regarding local elections and to Bill and Kay Garrett for cleaning.

The Village Hall Committee (Milcombe Charities Trustees) is overseen by the following members: Rev. Dale Gingrich (Chairman - office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk), Marlene Cowell (Minute Secretary - marlene.cowell@milcombe.com), Amy Jackson (Bookings), Sally Ashmole, Sacha Cowley, Raychel Pomroy and Suzette Watson.

All members can be reached on the following email: villagehallmilcombe@outlook.com

Litter Picking 29-30 May see website for details

FREE Adverts for local business

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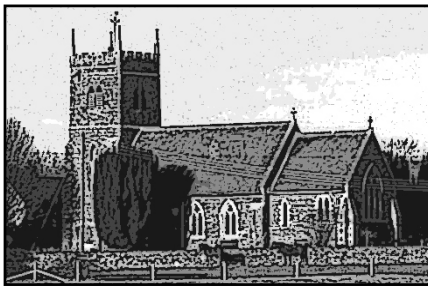
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CHURCH NOTES

SERVICES IN ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCH

these vary between 8.00am and 11.15am.

There will be a Service each Sunday in St. Laurence's Church during June. Please check the times as these vary between 8.00am and 11.15am.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6th (Trinity 1) HOLY COMMUNION AT 11.15am
SN 8.00am

SUNDAY, JUNE 13th (Trinity 2) HOLY COMMUNION AT 8.00am
SN 11.15am

SUNDAY, JUNE 20th (Trinity 3) HOLY COMMUNION AT 8.00am
SN 11.15am

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th (Trinity 4) HOLY COMMUNION AT 11.15am
SN 8.00am

There will be a Service every Sunday morning in St. Mary's at 9.30am and the 6.00pm Service will continue on Zoom for the present. Please see the Weekly Sheet for details. Copies are in all 3 Churches, so please pick up a copy for the latest details.

At the present time we must continue to wear face masks and observe social distancing until we hear differently which may come during June.

You are very welcome to sit in the quiet of the Church building at any time for private prayer and reflection or just to sit on the seats in the Churchyard where you will also find peace and quietness. However, for safety reasons, it is wise not to enter the Churchyard whilst mowing is in progress.

We all look forward to the relaxation of the Covid rules when full Worship Services can take place including the singing of hymns. For the time being, there is just organ music at the 11.15am Services.

PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR WASTE IN THE CORRECT BINS – NO PLASTIC IN THE BROWN BINS.

SUSPENSION OF CAN COLLECTIONS FOR THE TIME BEING.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY CANS AT PRESENT AS WE ARE UNABLE TO RECYCLE THEM. The recycling of cans could

recommence if anybody was willing to take on the project as it was a great help to Church funds.

If you are interested in joining THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME to make a regular donation towards the Church funds, please contact Rev. Dale Gingrich at St. Mary's Vicarage on 01295 720 252, email: office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk or Susan Richardson, Churchwarden, 01295 721 667, email: sujerich@yahoo.co.uk, who can let you have details of the Scheme. One-off donations are also gratefully acceptable. (There is a website for one-off donations <http://www.milcombechurch.co.uk> or please contact the Vicar or Susan Richardson.) There has been very little income coming into the Church during the past 12 months but regular items such as the insurance (around £1500), servicing of fire extinguishers, Parish Share, etc. all still have to be paid. THANK YOU if you can help in any way.

The following are still being held via Zoom until it is safe to physically meet once more:

TEA AND TOAST hosted by Jan Ogilvy on Friday mornings from 9.30am onwards. Contact Jan on 720054. Joining details are the same each week. MEETING ID: 710 054 0468

PASSWORD: bla8ta

BLOXHAM MOTHER'S UNION – Contact Pat Smith on 816866 or 0797 160 467.

MESSY CHURCH has a Facebook page and is presently meeting via Zoom. Contact the Benefice office for more details office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk

DOG BAGS are available in the Church porch or at the back of the organ.

If you have a problem or need a query answered, please contact the Vicar or Churchwardens direct. We will do our best to help. Rev. Dale Gingrich can be contacted on 01295 720252 or email office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk

The Churchwardens are Susan Richardson 721667 sujerich@yahoo.co.uk and Marlene Cowell 720750 marlenecowell196@gmail.com

MINUTES OF THE MILCOMBE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON ZOOM ON TUESDAY 11 MAY 2021 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor Marlene Cowell; Councillors Mandie McCullough and Myra Peters.

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

APOLOGIES: County Councillor Kieron Mallon and District Councillor Hugo Brown.

Thanks were passed to Mark Boardman for producing the leaflets regarding the need for new Parish Councillors and also to those volunteers who had delivered them around the village. This support was much appreciated by the Parish Council.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that anyone who wished to apply to be co-opted onto the Parish Council, should contact the Clerk for more details.

1/21 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2/21 MATTERS ARISING - There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2019.

3/21 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020/2021 – Prior to the meeting, the Chairman had circulated her report on the Parish Council's work for the last 12 months.

The report covered issues including grants, planning matters, the play area, Cuckoo Walk, village organisations, Milcombe Newsletter and Milcombe Charities. The Chairman also paid tribute to HRH, The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Keith Mitchel MBE and Beryl Whing, who had all passed away in the last 12 months.

The Chairman also thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their work during the year. The full report was available on the village web site www.milcombe.com

4/21 DISCUSSION OF CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – The Chairman asked if there were any questions on her report.

There were no questions.

5/21 FINANCIAL REPORT - The Clerk presented to the Annual Parish Meeting, the financial report for 2020/2021. The figures had been subject to internal audit and gave an accurate picture of the activities of the year. There were no matters of clarification.

The Parish Council accounts for 2020/2021 was available on the village web site www.milcombe.com

6/21 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – Prior to the meeting, County Councillor Kieron Mallon and District Councillor Hugo Brown had circulated their reports.

The reports were available on the village web site www.milcombe.com

7/21 VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS – The Chairman advised that an update on the village hall and the Milcombe Newsletter had been covered in the Chairman's report. However, the Village Hall Committee still needed to find a Treasurer.

Thanks were passed to Mark Boardman for publishing the Newsletter and also to Nigel Davis and John Ellison for erecting the new noticeboard outside the Village Hall.

8/21 RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS – There were no questions.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.

MILCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

THIS IS AN EXTRACT FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2020/2021 TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 11 MAY 2021

THE FULL REPORT CAN BE FOUND ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE ALONG WITH REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR KIERON MALLON AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR HUGO BROWN

The report covered the activities of Milcombe Parish Council during 2020 up to the present. Due to Coronavirus, all meetings after March 2020 were held via Zoom.

MILCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL normally meets 7 times a year including the Annual Parish Meeting. An Extraordinary Meeting was held on April 20th, 2021, to discuss the format of PC meetings once the emergency legislation for virtual meetings expired on May 7th, 2021. Councillors believed it would not be safe to hold physical meetings at the present time partly due to the size of the Hall but will continue to review the position.

7 Councillors were elected in May 2018 which is the requirement for MPC. Alex Honey and Clare Jones had resigned in 2019 and, despite advertising for new Councillors to be co-opted to fill the vacancies, no names had

been put forward. Sadly, Peter Booth resigned due to ill health in March 2021 and Michael Haynes resigned on May 4th, 2021. This left the PC with the minimum of 3 Councillors. At the Annual Meeting of the PC on May 4th, Marlene Cowell was re-elected as Chairman, Mandie McCullagh as Vice-Chairman and the 3rd remaining Councillor is Myra Peters.

The fact that there were now only 3 Councillors put the PC in a crisis with the worst scenario being that if one of the three remaining Councillors resigned, MPC would be no more and would be taken over by CDC, meaning that residents would have no say in how Milcombe village is run. An out and out effort has been made to deliver a letter to all households explaining the situation and appealing for 4 new Councillors to be co-opted to make up the full complement of 7. This would take

the PC forward to 2022 when elections for MPC will take place.

THANK YOU to Mark Boardman for printing the letter and to those who delivered it.

The report contained details of Planning, the Play Area, Dovecote site, Cuckoo Walk, the Pump site, grass cutting, service and maintenance of the Church clock, Milcombe Charities and other items in which the PC is involved.

The PC has also responded to a number of Consultations from CDC and OCC which is all part of a PC's remit.

The report concluded with tributes to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Keith R. Mitchell and Beryl Whing.

Please read the full report on the PC website www.milcombepc.co.uk
Marlene Cowell - Chairman

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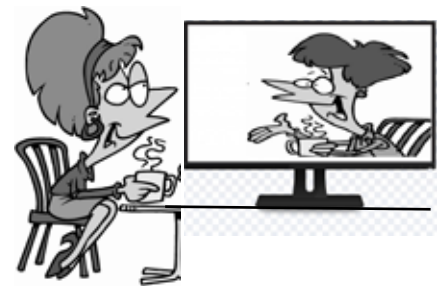
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ST. MARY'S

THURSDAY

ST. MARY'S members e
CANCELLED
TILL FURTHER NOTICE
from 10.00am-

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Barking Mad
Happy Dog. Happy Holiday.
Happy You.

TEA AND TOAST

ZOOM MEETINGS

Hosted by Jan Ogilvy from 9.30am onwards every Friday morning. Joining details are the same each week. Open to anyone who would like to join for a chat whilst drinking your own coffee!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7100540468?pwd=ZipMTY3RHhXZC91MHBBWS9vYUswUT09>
Meeting ID: 710 054 0468
Password: b1a8ta
Contact Jan Ogilvy 720054 if you have any problems

THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE

THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE
CANCELLED
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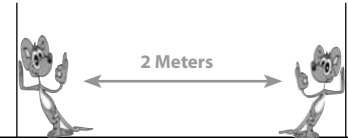
MILCOMBE PLAY AREA

THE PLAY AREA IS OPEN and the same rules apply as in previous months.

Children should be accompanied by a parent/guardian who are encouraged to bring hand sanitiser gel or wipes to clean their children's hands. Parents should remind children NOT to touch their faces, to cough or sneeze into a tissue or arm if tissue not available, and NOT to put their mouths on the equipment or their hands in their mouths. Food or drink are NOT allowed in the Play Area.

ALLOWING CHILDREN INTO THE PLAY AREA AND ON THE EQUIPMENT IS ENTIRELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS.

(See Covid-19 Guidance for Managing Playgrounds and Outdoor Gyms issued by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government.)



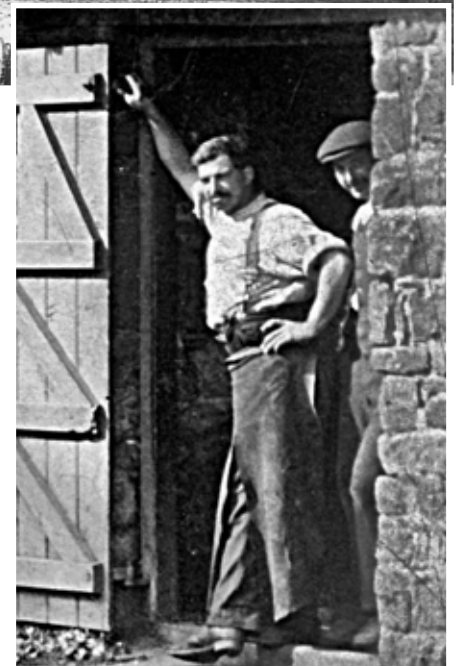
Old Milcombe Photographs



THE OLD POST OFFICE

This is actually a postcard (possibly early or pre 1940's) showing the old Post Office and general store with the original thatched roof kept by Ernest and Ethel Guy. He was the postman delivering the post around the village on his post bike twice a day (two deliveries) and Mrs. Guy looked after

and served in the shop. All groceries could be purchased. I can remember my mother giving me a list and ration books. Mr. Guy's car can be seen on the little green. In those days there were no supermarkets, buses into Banbury were infrequent apart from work times, and very few people had cars. The pole which can be seen is a telegraph pole as the Post Office had a telephone. There was no electricity, mains water or sewage which all came later. The old blacksmiths where Tom Tibbetts used to shoe horses also has the original thatch. Farmers from the villages around used to bring their horses to be shod watched by the village children. I was told that the building to the left which is the garage to Combe House (or Combe Cottage as it was then) was a bakery, but I am not sure how true that was.



The Blacksmith 1910 we think
This picture only supplied by Mark Boardman Smithy Cottage



THE OLD ROW OF COTTAGES

The row of dilapidated cottages was to the left of Combe Cottage on land where 'Hillside' currently stands. In 1947 when we first came to Milcombe people were still living in them, mainly downstairs, as it was too dangerous to go upstairs as parts of the roofs were in danger of collapse. As not all were occupied, some families made use of two adjacent cottages, one for daily living and one for sleeping.



CORONATION DAY

This is an enlargement of a small photograph less than 2 inches square, it was taken on Coronation Day on June 2nd, 1953. (I was just coming up 12!). We all lined up in fancy dress ready to process up Horton Lane, along Main Road to the old school which was being used as a Village Hall before it was renovated. I think the children were all given a celebration tea and a keepsake Coronation mug. I still have mine as I am sure many others do. This was followed by children's sports in The Close field. All the houses were decorated, many with home-made bunting.



I hope my memory has served me well. I am sure if I have got any of the facts wrong, somebody will let me know.
Marlene Cowell (May 2020)