

Milton Lilbourne - Annual Parish Meeting (APM) Minutes:

Venue: Village Hall

Date: Thursday 24th May 2018

Time: 7.35pm – 8.45pm

Present:

Cllr Paul Oatway QPM (Chairman), Sarah Spanswick (Clerk), Cllr David Fall, Cllr Liz Minnear, Cllr Anthony Wells, Cllr Ann Maconie, Cllr Ray Edwards & Cllr Jamie Cayzer-Colvin.

Apologies:

Cllr Jerry Kunkler – WC councillor
Wiltshire Police

Parishioners in attendance:

See Appendix

Approval of minutes from last meeting:

The Minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record of the last meeting by Cllr Liz Minnear and seconded by Cllr. Jamie Cayzer-Colvin.

Matters arising for action

- Williams Recycle Centre - to be dealt with in the Chairmans Report
- Playpark Section 106 monies - to be dealt with in the Chairmans Report

Declarations of Interest:

Declared by Cllr Anthony Wells:-

- Planning Application underway for 5 x camping pods at Totteridge Farm
- Engages with various maintenance works around the village.

Chairman's Report:

It is a pleasure to warmly welcome you to the village hall this evening and as the Chairman of this Parish Council, I present to you my annual report on behalf of the Milton Lilbourne Parish Council for 2017-2018.

It is important that you understand how we administer our business on your behalf. The full council operates on a committee basis and is made up of three sub committees, those committees then bring their business to the full council for ratification and or sign off.

The sub committees are Finance, headed up by Anthony Wells and supported by Liz Minnear. Planning by Ann Maconie supported by Ray Edwards and finally the Community Committee chaired by David Fall and supported by Jamie Cayzer-Colvin and Sarah, the parish clerk

I am a member of all three sub committees.

I would like to state at this early stage my sincere thanks to Sarah for stepping forward after the departure of Rob Jones , I am very aware that this has been a very steep learning curve in understanding the workings of local government, but rest assured you have coped admirably and thank you for all that you have done and continue to do, I could not fulfil this office without your support.

It has been another very busy year for all those committees on your behalf and the respective chairs will be giving you an update on their activity shortly. I would at this point like to take the opportunity to personally thank all our councillors for their time and dedication to their role and this parish once again. Remember we are all volunteers.

Our most challenging area of expense is the ongoing maintenance of the recreation ground and other grassed areas within the village, such as the Severalls. Village street, crossroads area and at Littleworth. We took the decision to continue with Wiltshire Council because of the excellent level of service provided, we have increased the level of cuts in the recreation ground and extended village cutting this year, this has had an increased expenditure totalling £3,495.41 pa.

We continue to work closely with Wiltshire Council Highways, where we have regular meetings with our engineer Richard Dobson to resolve identified issues, one being all of the drains in the village centre were blasted clear to prevent flooding, this now needs to be followed by landowner's personal responsibility in clearing their ditches.

Moving to financial matters the Civil Emergency Contingency Fund is still in place with an allocation of £2,000, this is held in our budgeted reserve account, allocated for whatever reason this council requires in the event of a civil emergency within the Parish, it is pleasing to note that part of this budget was used during the heavy snow.

The village is not part of Wiltshire Councils immediate response to clear snow, in fact we would wait a considerable time, with this in mind using these funds a formal request was made to the Wells family for community support and within 24 hours the whole of the village was cleared and accessible, that is exactly what that money sits there in reserve to do.

Going forward we are in early discussions with Wiltshire Council to secure a sizeable amount of 25 kilo salt bags for dissemination to parishioners in the event of prolonged bad weather this winter.

Whilst dealing with budgets I am confident that Anthony will enlarge later our financial picture and plans going forward.

I mentioned a year ago about the potential central capping of parish council's precepts by 2% thankfully this did not materialise. Unfortunately, there was a need to consider the raising of the precept to enable us to fulfil all our business requirements. This was debated by the full council after hearing the recommendations of the community committee and finance committee. The decision was taken with a majority vote by the whole council to increase the precept.

We now have a local person who is tasked to deal with most of our maintenance and we do have a programme of work allocated for 2018-2019, which I am sure will grow as we move forward.

Wiltshire Police has remodelled its operation into community hubs and although we can expect to see less on a daily patrolling basis, I am confident that their 999 responses, (come quick come quick) will not fail our parish. A clear example of that, was the spontaneous policing operation, that was put into place at Pewsey last week end including aerial support, which resulted in the arrest of four criminals, not from this county relating to car theft.

It is disappointing to report that although there has been little crime in the village, there has been criminal activity which resulted in us having victims of crime and that has continued with vehicles being tampered and damaged only last week. In addition, it is also disappointing that although an offender was clearly captured on excellent CCTV footage, the police were unable to trace and deal with this suspect.

To that end we are exploring the installation of a vehicle recognition CCTV camera system at the crossroads to monitor the village street. Once final costings are in this will be brought to the full council to debate and wider parish consultation. We would be interested in your views later.

I am sure that you will see our speed indicating device which we deploy at different locations from time to time. During the year at our request Wiltshire Council deployed a speed and vehicle monitoring device at the crossroads area in our attempts to gather sufficient information to put forward a bid for a speed reduction on the B3087 to 30 mph, unfortunately the speeds gathered were too low for this to be considered. We will run the process again next year.

A year ago, I read to you a letter that we had sent to the environment agency, the health and safety executive, Wiltshire council and Wiltshire police, regarding the unacceptable activities at the scrapyards on the B3087. This was followed up by us on numerous occasions and it was pleasing to see positive and robust action being taken and continue to be taken, where clearly there has been an improvement to the site, with the reduction of the overall height and amount of scrap on site, as well as the construction of a perimeter railway sleeper fence, the removal of waste from agricultural land and the issuing of penalty notices to motorists by Wiltshire Police, we will continue to monitor this area closely.

Pete Miles was re-elected again this year as the chairman of the village hall and recreation ground committee and we wish you every success going forward.

Likewise, my thanks to all members of the parochial church council for all that they do for the community, your regular church clearings and tidying days are clearly a success, I only walked through the grounds of the church the other day and you should truly be proud of what you are achieving. It is looking wonderful and we are fully committed to our ongoing annual donation, which we have increased this year to £600

Since our last meeting the resurfacing of Forge Close, Old Severalls Lane and Havering Lane has been completed after many years of waiting and I am sure that we are all collectively happy with the outcome.

These types of work occur because on your behalf we are regular attendees at Wiltshire council meetings where bids need to be placed, worked on and approved. For all works that are approved we have to pay a 10% up front charge for design and a further 10% for the costs of the work - very little comes free I am afraid now a days.

It is also pleasing to see the installations of the Littleworth signs to clearly identify that hamlet.

We are also members of The Pewsey Community Area Board as well as CATG.

Because of requests, we are installing street refuse bins in Havering Lane and Old Severalls Lane to provide for waste collection in those parts of the village.

We have consulted with the village Hall and recreation ground committee and after site meetings with providers we are in the final stages of replacing, upgrading and installing additional equipment into the existing playpark, when complete almost every small village in the vale will be envious of what we will be providing for our children.

Remembrance Sunday is very much a day organised by the parochial church council and we as a council totally respect the manner in which it is managed there is no doubt in my mind, they do it so well. This year marks the centenary of the end of the first world war and it is poignant that the 11th day of the 11th month is on remembrance Sunday.

As a council, we will be remembering this most significant anniversary with a day of commemorations and celebrations, it will commence by the war memorial after the festival of remembrance at St Peters, where there will be wreath laying ceremony and dedication of remembrance to reflect on the 97 men of this parish that left this village and parish and fought for king and country and in particular the ten that never returned.

Our village size has not changed much in demographics from then until now, I would like you all for a moment to reflect on the magnitude and impact on today if we took 97 men out of the equation, in real terms it was almost the whole male population that was fit and able, some communities lost a generation.

We will also remember private Mathews from Little Anne who lost his life during world war two. At its conclusion, everybody will be welcomed to join us in the village hall for light refreshments

The early evening event as darkness falls will be a time to commemorate and celebrate as I am sure they did one hundred years ago, with a grand finale of fireworks followed by a choir singing in the car park while a BBQ style refreshments will be served, all free of charge to parishioners. A paying bar will be available as well.

So, to reflect one last time at these meetings I did say in 2014 that for the next four years we should reflect on those who have paid the ultimate price for this Country :-

Already killed in action over 100 years ago.

- ☒ · James Head : Mons Star 1 st Wilts 27/10/1914
- ☒ · Archibald Ware : 2 nd Wilts 1/3/1915
- ☒ · Maurice Deadman : 5 th Wilts 10/8/1915
- ☒ · Horace Head : 5 th Wilts 10/8/1915
- ☒ · Sidney Ware VC : Seaforth H,s 16/4/1916
- ☒ · John Drewitt : 2 nd Wilts 8/5/1916
- ☒ · Charles Stagg Can AMC 9/4/1917
- ☒ · William Underwood R/Berks 21/8/1917

Still fighting for King and their country.

- ☒ · George Waite 1 st Wilts 15/8/1918
- ☒ · Percy Styles RFA 22/8/1918

And of course, Private Matthews from the Dorset shire Regiment, from this Parish who was to be killed during the 2nd World War, he lies within our church yard.

My thanks to our County Councillor Jerry Kunckler for the support that he provides to us when required.

As I end, our village generally continues to be a quiet and peaceful part of Wiltshire but we should never forget that stable balanced society, in which we all enjoy is without doubt a reflection on the rule of law and our appreciation to the men and woman of Wiltshire Police that keep it that way, day in and day out.

Likewise, to members of our armed services, of whom many live here within our Parish, for their part in defending the realm, and our interests abroad, we all are indebted to their service during these incredibly dangerous times at home and abroad, the events of Salisbury are a stark reminder to us all I am sure.

Lastly to members of The Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service all volunteers who are there when we need them.

You have a council that knows its people and its Parish, a council who has cares for all its parishioners and will continue to do so, whatever their age or wherever live, in what is a special part of Wiltshire, that we are all fortunate enough to reside in.

On behalf of all of us, it has been a pleasure to represent and serve you once again in these challenging and time-consuming times.

Community Committee Report:

Presented by Cllr D Fall:

Footpaths

The meeting was briefed on the Eastern Planning Committee of WC where Cllr Fall represented Milton Lilbourne in seeking the designation of the new public rights of way declared on paths straddling the Parish boundary between Milton Lilbourne and Pewsey.

Landowners and Villagers were consulted (flyers were issued to all houses in Milton Lilbourne and the hamlets of Littleworth and Fyfield) and the southern link was supported on the grounds that it would complete an easy access route from Eastern Royal to Pewsey, via Milton Lilbourne, and that it had been walked by a good number of people for decades.

The opinions from those consulted on the Northern Spur was varied and MLPC therefore adopted a position neither in favour nor against the proposed route.

The landowners retained their objection however at the EAPC meeting the councillors supported the routes 7 to 1 in a vote.

The matter will now go to an independent tribunal and all parishioners who responded in favour have been written to urging them to write to the Rights of Way Officer to extend their support.

Waymarkers - markers have been put out around the Parish. Parishioners were urged to contact the PC if more are needed.

Footpath Maintenance Work Party - The Community Committee are looking for a group of volunteers to monitor and maintain the footpath network to ensure that all footpaths were kept clear and trimmed and trees kept back now that we are in the growing season

Salt and Gravel Bin - Is on order and will be installed on the corner of Havering Lane and New Severalls Lane

House Location Guide - Is currently being worked on to identify the house names in the village and refer delivery drivers to. When completed, it will be displayed on the main village notice board.

Christmas Tree and Lights - were generally warmly welcomed throughout the village. 2017 was the Mark one version and we hope to increase the number of lights this coming Christmas.

Best Kept Village Competition 2018 - The village has been entered and the judging will take place shortly. The area to be judged is measured from the crossroads, down through The Street and into Havering Lane.

Wiltshire Police Report:

The Community Policing Team Report for the Parish Council May 2018 has recently been received with the salient points being:-

- Beauty Spot thefts from motor vehicles continue to cause a problem throughout the Vale of Pewsey with Martinsell being regularly targeted.
- Several Local Crimes have been reported by the Pewsey Community Policing Hub

County Councillors Report

This was presented by Cllr P Oatway, on behalf of Cllr J Kunkler:

"Wiltshire Council continues to make savings year on year and since its formation in 2009. There has been just over £210m in reductions. Central government grants continue to reduce so we as a council have to do things differently. Reducing the amount of buildings, staff, joining up services. This coming financial year we have to deliver around £21m in savings followed by about £11m in 2019/20. Hopefully by then we should level out and have control of the budget pressures. The only main risk is the possible impact of Brexit, but we will need to wait and see what happens. Locally the new centre at Pewsey school is coming on nicely and is on time and on budget with an opening in the Autumn of this year. Area boards continue to support local areas with grants and issues that relate to our parishes. You may start to notice that some of the duties carried out in your area may be offered to Parish Councils so as they can manage in the way they wish. This will not be forced but on a gentle way as the time goes by. I wish to thank the Parish Council for their support but find Milton a very nice place represent and am always available if you have any problems which you may be unable to resolve. Thank you, Jerry Kunkler"

Finance Committee Reports:

Presented by Cllr A Wells:

Annual Reports were presented at the meeting

Breakdown of parish expenditure for 2017/18 summarised as follows:-

	<u>Current Account</u>	<u>Reserve Account</u>
<u>B/Fwd</u>	£40.36	£10,000.00
<u>Income</u>	£20,403.87	£7,080.00
<u>Expenditure</u>	£20,075.75	£8,080.00
<u>Balance</u>	<u>£368.48</u>	<u>£9,000.00</u>

Planning Committee Report:

Presented by Cllr A Maconie:

- Advised that a small number of applications had been received during the last 12 months with no specific issues to mention.
There were no major applications submitted nor any issues outside of the Wiltshire Council planning guidelines.

Parishioners Questions:

This was opened via the Chairman Cllr P Oatway who raised the following for consideration:

1. Website Subscription - The matter of the website expense (£828 subscription pa) was raised
The Chairman explained that we had been dealing with the current Host for several years and we are not happy with a) the way we have been treated and b) the way they administer their business to us.
We are currently seeking advise of a new contractor and are in early discussions but are confident of a better level of service.
2. The appalling state of the roads was raised, affecting anyone driving, causing damage to vehicles, and tyres, largely caused by the flooding last year.
The Chairman confirmed he would report this to Jerry Kunkler to take up at County Hall.
3. Speed of vehicles drivers along Old Severalls Lane - The Chairman shared the parishioners concerns caused mainly by delivery drivers racing through the village to meet their targets. Unfortunately Old Severalls Lane doesn't identify with Sat Nav and it has been known for Ambulance response to use this road to reach the New Severalls.
A show of hands indicated the majority support for a 20 mph speed limit in the village.
4. Play Park Upgrade - PC have consulted and agreed with the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee for an upgrade of the Play Park Equipment
A wider consultation with parents was not carried out as the upgrade sufficiently enhances and replaces the current equipment.
Once the scheme has been fully approved and quotes accepted there will be a 6-8 week lead up time for installation.
The new play park equipment will be funded by the Section 106 monies currently being held by Wiltshire Council and not MLPC. The agreement states that the funds are to be used towards the cost of improving and/or maintaining adult or children's sport play or recreation facilities on land at Milton Lilbourne Recreation Ground. Should the PC wish to amend this provision then we would need to liaise with the developer and Wiltshire Council Planning Department for their approval.

A member of the Village Hall committee asked why it took so long for the PC to share the ROSPA report with them and was concerned that some of the equipment requires attention.

The Chairman took full responsibility for the delay in this document being passed to the Village Hall Committee but felt it was only right that Councillors should see the report and debate on it before third party involvement.

The Chairman stressed that the risks identified were either low or medium with remedial work required, following which the medium risks would default back to LOW.

The PC are comfortable to carry the risks raised in the report and are taking responsibility for the rectification and reduction of the risks from medium to low. There were no high risk matters raised in the report.

The Chairman also stated that parents must take responsibility for the safety of their unaccompanied children at the Play Park.

The question was also raised as to whether the play park could be moved away from the hedge and trees a little bit as the play equipment doesn't get any sun and therefore dry out.

There is nothing in the play park for toddlers - the equipment being purchased was agreed jointly between the Parish Council and the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee

5. Heritage Signposts - the plan is to repair the black and white signposts.
An estimate was received to repair the signpost at Littleworth but this was too expensive. Wiltshire Council will not replace the old heritage signposts so MLPC have committed to purchasing the hardwood and lettering and complete the job ourselves.
6. Williams Re-cycling Centre – Concern was expressed by parishioners as parking continues to cause considerable danger to road users when multiple lorries park alongside the scrapyard.
The Chairman and Council agreed and shared these views and confirmed that the PC have been in communication with the Police, Environment Agency and Health and Safety Executives. He urged Parishioners to report any such dangers to the Police and take photographic evidence (where appropriate). It was also raised that work at the scrapyard was being carried at anti-social hours and often all day on a Sunday. The council committed to bringing this to the attention of the Environment Agency
A further danger was raised where articulated lorries associated with the scrapyard are turning around at the Fyfield junction.
7. Removal of Trees in a Conservation Area - this is a matter for residents to raise with Wiltshire Council directly

Finally the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm

Minutes submitted by: Clerk, Sarah Spanswick

Minutes approved by: Paul Oatway Chairman