

MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 8.00pm

Present:

Councillor Phil John (Chairman)

Councillor David Sullivan (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Tim Banister

Residents and Public – 2

Welcome and introductions

Members are reminded that this is a meeting in public, not a public meeting, and all points, questions and comments should be addressed through the Chair.

Apologies for Absence Received from the Clerk, Councillor Gorman, District Councillors Phil Chapman and Chris Brant

Declarations of Interest *Members are asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.*

1188 Minutes of the meeting held 28th January 2025 (previously circulated) and Matters arising. The minutes had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. It was agreed that there were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

1189 Clerks Report Financial Statement

The Clerk reported that 5 cheques had been raised in the period January to February 2025

783	T Smith	Tree work (VH)	275.00	In Budget
784	T Smith	Tree work (OPPF)	975.00	In Budget
786	S Dean	Wooden posts	93.50	In Budget
787	Thomas Fox	Hedge cutting (CVPF)	1886.04	In Budget
788	OALC	Annual subscription	216.00	In Budget

There was £841.37 VAT outstanding at the end of February 2025 of which £805.37 has been claimed but not received.

Taking the above into account, the expected bank balance is £21,537.10 which is reconciled to Bank statement sheet No.239 at 28th February 2025. This balance contains the remaining reserves of £2857.50 for Orchard Piece Community Play Area.

The General Fund at the end of December 2024 stands at £18,679.60.

Cheque numbers 785 was spoilt.

Resolved: To accept the financial report

1190 Consultations

Councillor Vacancy

There is currently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Details are on the website, and the appropriate notice has also been displayed on the noticeboard.

The Clerk and Councillors can be contacted for further details, but it is hoped that the vacancy will be filled by co-option by the AGM in May.

1191 Planning matters

Applications

- **25/00384/F 9 Orchard Piece OX17 1DP** Garden office to replace existing shed *It is recommended that MPC do not comment, but monitor CDC's response, as the Certificate of Lawfulness had been refused*
- **25/00440/DC Mansion House Farm OX17 1AY** Discharge of Conditions 5 (doors and windows), 7 (enclosure to oil tank) and partial discharge of Condition 8 (Landscaping Scheme) of 24/02445/F *It is recommended that MPC do not object to this application, and that the relevant Listed Building regulations are monitored*

Decisions

No decisions have been published by CDC Planning Committee since the last meeting.

1192 Councillors Reports

Councillor Banister

It was reported that the planning matters were covered under the previous agenda item. It is planned that the Spring 2025 edition of Mollington Matters would be issued at the end of April / early May in advance of the village fete. As well as covering the fete, it is currently envisaged that this edition would include the normal articles together with a feature covering the management of trees and hedgerows. Articles for submission would be required before Easter.

Councillor John

Village Maintenance

It was reported that Thomas Fox completed all contracted grass cutting and additional works for tree and hedge cutting through the village and especially that works related to Mollington Playing Fields where there had been a general tidy up of the play equipment area as well as surrounding fences. Weeding has been done and bark has been put down and the area looks in far better condition. It has been decided that additional bark will also be distributed to bring it up to a safer level as identified in recent playground inspection reports.

Further hedge cutting in various locations have been undertaken by other contractors to cut back untidy scrub and this will ensure that new growth through the summer months will help the general outlook of the village.

Extensive tree work has taken place in the Orchard Playing Fields and there are plans to remove some long-term playground equipment to ensure safety to users and undertake a general tidy up. This is expected to be completed within the next month and will entail additional bark dressing. The PC is looking at ways to undertake a general tidy up of the village especially at the entrances to the village which may include planters / shrubs / flowers etc as well as additional bench/seating.

Certain green areas have been cordoned off with new posts and additional posts will be provided for the Church Lane / church green area as well as Roundhill.

There have been significant on-site meetings as well email correspondence with Oxford County Council on several fronts - pot holes / water leakages as well as clean-up of drains etc. Whilst some work has been done it is clearly not enough or acceptable. Further work through direct communication as well as via FixmyStreet website will continue. Clearly more reporting by villagers through this web site will reinforce the negative feelings and will strengthen the pressure on both OCC and Cherwell District Council to prioritise the outstanding works.

Village Hall

Several functions have taken place over the last 2 months - regular coffee mornings are also held by the village Hall Committee as well as the Church.

Separately Quiz and Games nights were successfully held. Additional private functions have been frequently held and it is hoped that these will increase throughout the summer months. The VH committee is looking at ways to celebrate the 80th VE anniversary on Monday 5 May 25, posters will be distributed through the village providing details. The VH Committee are also focussing on the ongoing need for significant repairs / refurbishment especially to the cladding. A separate note will be included in the next issue of Mollington Matters related to how this is to be managed. Mollington Munch on the second Tuesday of the month continues and is well supported by villagers. The PC recognises the great work and support done by the volunteer caterers to make this a very successful social event.

Councillor Sullivan

It was reported that two footpaths were being investigated to check whether there was the potential that they had been diverted

Councillor Gorman

Nothing further to report that had not already been discussed

1193 Councillors Points of Interest:

None

1194 Date of next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 22nd April 2025 Mollington Village Hall at 8.00pm

AGM Tuesday 27th May Mollington Village Hall at 8.00pm

Parish Council meeting closed at 8.35pm

Chairman, Mollington Parish Council

Public Participation Session

Building upon the Councillor's report on village maintenance there was a general discussion on the slow progress improving the state of the roads within the village. It was felt that raising the issue with the local MP would escalate the problem.

Further posts were requested for the area alongside the village hall.