

MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk: Geoff Hall, Sunnybank, Mollington. OX17 1BD
Tel: 01295 750530 (Clerk Home) and 01295 758745 (Chairman)
e-mail: Chairman: mollingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com
www.mollingtonoxon-pc.gov.uk

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 23rd July 2019
at 8.00pm in Mollington Village Hall**

Present:

Councillor John Summers (Chairman)
Councillor Denise Hall
Councillor Steve Lapper
Councillor Cheryl Huntbach
Councillor Phil John

The Clerk

Residents and Public - 1

Welcome and Introductions – The Chairman welcomed all present. The Parish Council wish to offer sincere condolences to Mr Ted Stear on the recent death of his wife, Mrs Margaret Stear.

Apologies for Absence – Received from Councillor Phil Chapman CDC and District Councillor George Reynolds CDC and OCC.

Declarations of Interest – None

919 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters arising – Tuesday 25th June 2019

The minutes had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. They were agreed to be a true record of the Meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising – Everything Hedges had been asked to quote for re-setting 2 x waste bins (No. 2 and 3) on Mollington Playing Fields – Quote for both bins to be re-set is £150 including wood and cement materials. This will be done in the same way as recent repair on bin No. 1. Parish Council agreed the quotation. (the repair work is scheduled for last week of August)
CDC Planning Survey – No response from CDC.
Orchard Piece swings – see Agenda item 5.2 below

920 Clerks Report

Financial Statement

The Clerk reported that 5 cheques had been raised during June 2019

553	T Fox	May Grass Cuts	610.56	In Budget
554	Cherwell DC	Election Costs	39.00	In Budget
555	HMRC	PAYE	137.40	In Budget
556	Clerk	Quarters Salary	550.10	In Budget
557	Clerk Expenses	2 years Purchases of Paper, Envelopes, Binders and Stamps	71.97	In Budget

There was £313.04 VAT outstanding at end of June, which will be claimed back in due course. The PC also received the Annual Grass Cutting Grant from OCC during June, in the sum of £881.52. This amount is the new increased amount to include an allowance for some 'Rural' grass cutting.

Taking the above into account, the expected bank balance was £27,640.16 which is reconciled to Bank statement sheet No.178 at 5th July 2019. This balance contains the reserve of £11661.00 for Orchard Piece Play Area and the General Fund stands at £15,979.16

Resolved: To accept the Financial Report

921 Disposal of Orchard Piece Swings

As reported at the last meeting the swings were removed on 21st June, for safety reasons. It has been suggested that the metal parts of the swings, the seats and chains, should be offered for sale probably via the internet, with any amount received being put toward the OP Playground Reserve.

Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to arrange sale if at all possible. It was noted that the seats were damaged and had featured in the last safety inspection as a risk and it was therefore considered they should not be reused. It was agreed that Councillor John should use his discretion to achieve the best price.

922 Planning Matters

Applications

- 19/0331/AGN Steel portal-framed agricultural building for hay storage Point to Point Farm. Parish Council agreed not object to this application
- 19/0234/Disc Discharge of conditions 5 (restoration details) and 6 (fireplace details) of 18/01748/LB The Chestnuts Main Street

Decisions

- 19/00879/F Single storey extension to provide bathing and bedroom facilities 30 Chestnut Road – Permitted
- 19/00985/F Merrydown – This retrospective application was Permitted

923 Councillors Reports

Councillor Hall – Village Hall and Emergency Plan. Nothing to report.

Councillor John – Village Maintenance and Emergency Plan.

Councillors have reviewed the performance of the Contractor. An e-mail has been sent to the grass cutting contractor, Thomas Fox. Generally, the work is good but some areas of the village need more attention and this has been emphasised.

Councillor Huntbach

Orchard Piece Play area

Plans: The swings have been removed for the safety of the children. We want to completely renew the play area. We have had a number of quotes. Cllr Huntbach is meeting with another supplier on Friday 26th so will be able to report back after this.

Funding: At the moment we have received £10,000 from Awards for All, this funding was to help make the area more accessible, putting in a pathway, and for a few pieces of outdoor gym equipment to create a community space to be enjoyed by young and old alike. We would like to put in new swings, climbing equipment, roundabout and new picnic benches. It appears that to fulfil the requirements of this funding we will need to raise further money. Cherwell District Council have funding that we could apply for, but only up to 50% of the whole project.

The project is going to cost approximately £30k, but this also depends on the quotes we have coming in. So far, we have been let down by at least two suppliers and been in touch

with five. I am still waiting for the most competitive quote to be amended and confirmed. Once we have an agreeable quote, we need to make sure that the village is happy with what we have planned and then apply to CDC. However, there could still be a shortfall which we would need to raise ourselves.

What is required: Cllr Huntbach has done a couple of further funding applications; Tesco and Sport England, as well as Awards for All. Also chasing companies and arranging visits. Various companies have special offers and help with funding, but once the installation and labour charges are added the amounts rise significantly.

There is likely to be a shortfall of around £4-5k, but again this will be dependent on the next quote; after that is received, we will have a better idea.

It was agreed that an option appraisal should be considered by the Parish Council to assess the pros and cons of the following options: limited development at Orchard Piece to include new swings and climbing frame, and access; As above but to include new roundabout;; full development per the working group; and relocation of equipment to Mollington Playing fields. This would be considered at an additional parish council meeting to be arranged for 27 August to agree the way forward.

Mollington Playing Fields -There has been an issue with the picnic bench on the bottom park. One of the seats was completely snapped off. It is not clear how this has happened, either it has been moved and it was damaged, or it was done on purpose. Either way we have tried to repair the bench, a sign has been put on the bench, but it would be helpful if any residents notice any more damage could they please let me know.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch

As updates are received, they are shared on Mollington Facebook page; there is also a link on the Mollington Parish Council Website. A local resident has very kindly agreed to help with the co-ordination of Neighbourhood Watch. He is at home during the day and is speaking to other residents who would be able to support with Neighbourhood Watch during the day.

Dogs

Just the same message as ever - please pick up after your dog.

Councillor Lapper –

Roads - Chestnut Road. has been resurfaced; white lines still to be done at top of road.

Nick Watson OCC was going to look at Lower Farm Lane to inspect the condition of the road surface.

No reply yet.

Footpaths – Cllrs Summers and John had a walk around the village and have advised that Ivy Lane and Lower Farm Lane footpaths are over grown

Cllr Lapper to see what needs to be done and he needs a map of the footpaths around the village.

Councillor Summers

Classification of the village for planning purposes – awaiting feedback from planning survey

Conservation area management plan.

It was agreed that no further actions were required under the Conservation Area management plan and councillors would continue to take forward the review as part of their individual responsibilities and report back if further action required.

- Maintain informal character of rights of way - SL
- Retain hedges and banks in a naturalised state without fussy domestication - PJ
- Ensure retention and good maintenance of traditional boundary walls, hedges and railings - SL/PJ
- Maintain trees - PJ
- Maintain Green and Orchard Piece playing field - PJ/CH
- Limit light pollution - Overview
- Repair and maintenance of properties – Overview
- Maintenance of wells pumps and watercourse – Overview

VE Day 75th Anniversary 8-10 May 2020. Discussions are taking place to ascertain if it is feasible to combine this event with the Village Fete, however the bank holiday has been moved to Friday 8 May, which makes it a little more difficult to combine events at Anita's. An opportunity also exists to book a Battle of Britain fly past that will need to be explored at an early date; the Parish Council agreed that the fly past should be booked if still possible.

924 Councillors Points of Information – None

Parish Council Meeting finished at 9.12pm

Dates of Future Meetings The next scheduled meeting date of the Parish Council is Tuesday 24th September 2019 in Mollington Village Hall at 8.00pm. However, an additional Parish Council Meeting is to be arranged for Tuesday 27th August at 7.30pm to further progress the Orchard Piece Play area project.

Chairman, Mollington Parish Council

Public Participation Session

A resident asked that anyone, including Neighbourhood Watch, take note of recent sheep theft /slaughtering which has taken place in neighbouring Northamptonshire farms. Any suspicious activity should be reported to Police immediately.