

MILTON MALSOR PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 11th February 2025, 7.30 pm
At Raynsford House.

PRESENT: Cllr Edmund James, Chairman Cllr Janet Winchester, Vice Chairman
Cllr Brenda Jenks Cllr Paul Heath
Cllr Katie Spruels
Cllr Jerry Forskitt Cllr Barry Cook

ATTENDING: 1 member of the public.

IN THE CHAIR: Cllr Ed James, The Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting reminding Councillors & Parishioners that meetings can now be recorded as long as it did not disturb the smooth running of the meeting.

1. **QUESTION TIME - for the public**

- The planning application for 5 dwellings was raising concern again.
- New plans show the access has been moved.
- No new application has been received by the PC.
- Concerns:
 - a) New access still dangerous
 - b) The application is in the conservation area
 - c) No foul drainage plan. Query if septic tanks will be used.
 - d) Resident are asking for PC support in refusing the current plans.

2. **APOLOGIES for absence (to include reasons for absence):** N. Jagger (personal)

3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Interest & nature of interest to be declared.**

J. Forskitt: Declared an interest in the planning application regarding the 5 houses on the paddock land, Towcester Road. JF is a neighbouring property.

4. **REPORTS FROM WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

Cllr. A. Addison, Cllr. Adam Brown, Cllr K. Cooper

- WNC will be presenting a balanced budget to the February Council meeting @ £959.6 million & a Council Tax increase of 4.99% There will be a £100m Capital programme.
- From the 1st April 2025, recycling centres will be open 7 days a week.
- The Parish Path Warden Scheme is to be relaunched.

5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

These had been previously circulated and were duly proposed seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record with typing errors corrected.

6. **MATTERS FOR REPORT – New matters & those arising from the previous Minutes:**

Highways – P. Heath

- No problems reported.

Lighting – J. Fitchett

- All out of order streetlights have been reported.
- Replacements have been agreed.
- PL37, High Street:
 - a) Standard light installed by E.ON.
 - b) PC has ordered one similar to the rest of the lighting along High Street.
 - c) J. Winchester to contact Ford & McHugh to remove the light & reinstall it in Milton Court replacing an old damaged concrete light.
- Clerk has asked for a copy of the E. ON maintenance contract. Reply received – there is no written contract. Information received regarding upgrading lighting.
- Cost of lighting supply per kwh – 50.188 p.
- J. Forskitt photographed bill information for the records.

Village Maintenance / Environmental Issues

- VAS signs – new post delivered & erected in Rectory Lane.
- Licence to be completed
- Silhouette soldier delivered.
- War Memorial:
 - a) Quotation from Mills Master Masons discussed & agreed by all.
 - b) Clerk to confirm acceptance with Mills.
 - c) It was suggested & agreed that once the refurbishment had been completed, the vicar would be asked to bless the Memorial.

Village Park – N. Jagger

- The tunnel – quote from Mr Mackintosh (Builders) for repairs & safety work agreed. Work has started.
- Seesaw repair on hold as waiting for spare parts.

Grass Mowing, trees & hedges – J. Winchester

- Price for a 2 year contract from Cut Crew received and accepted.
- Brambles – 2 quotes obtained:
 - a) Ellis Tree Services to cut back brambles & trim trees @ £1480.00.
 - b) Cut Crew will cut back brambles ‘foc’, tree work @ £620.00.
 - c) It was agreed to accept Cut Crew’s quote. J. Winchester to contact Cut Crew.

Website – K. Spruels & C. Neal

- Clerk to send KS items to be uploaded onto the website.

Facebook – K. Spruels

- Following comments from residents regarding ‘urgent posts’ not being posted on the site in good time on the village page, it has been decided by Members to remove ‘post approval’ with immediate effect. Businesses will be kept on ‘post approval’ in the hope that this will keep adverts to a minimum & within the rules of the group. All other rules and admin assist features remain the same.

Newsletter - Next edition due to be sent to the printers.

Dog Warden & Footpaths Warden – B. Cook

- Request for dog bin contractor’s details – sent.
- Concerned to note that a resident with a large dog is not ‘picking up’ its faeces & depositing it in one of the village dog waste bins.
- There are 7 dog waste bins situated throughout the village:
 - Junction of Stockwell Rd with High Street & Lower Road.
 - Junction of Stockwell Road & Stockwell Way.
 - High Street/Village Green by the village hall.
 - Junction of Church Close & Collingtree Road.
 - Barn Lane, passed Rectory Lane.
 - Rectory Lane, top of High Street.
 - Lower Road at junction with Towcester Road.

7. CORRESPONDENCE**Received from**

1. Gallaghers – Query regarding non-payment of insurance invoice. Reply sent:
 - a) Invoice was paid on 12th November 2024 with NatWest cheque 2769.
 - b) Cheque has not been debited to the current account.
 - c) New cheque value £2028.74 to be raised & sent.
2. Dannielle Stone, Police & Crime Commissioner – Information regarding the ‘Immediate Justice Team’. This offers people who have committed low-level crimes an alternative to prosecution.

Sent to

1. Gill Franklin – Mowing invoice queries. Finance Group to meet to discuss way forward.
2. E. ON – request for copy of maintenance contract. Reply received – E. ON do not produce a maintenance contract.

8. FINANCE:

Bank Balances	Current A/C (23/1/25)	£200.00
	Savings A/C (31/12/24)	£60,167.40
	(4/2/25)	£78,197.22
Money Received	Interest (31/12/24)	£73.33
	(31/1/25)	£67.04

Accounts to be paid:

It was proposed, seconded & resolved to pay the following invoices:

Cheque No.	Payee	Information	Amount	VAT	Total
2797	HMRC	Clerk's PAYE	84.33		84.33
2798	Cheque Cancelled	Incorrect figures	0.00	0.00	0.00
2799	Campion School	Printing newsletter	173.00		173.00
2800	Marcus Young Env. Services	Emptying dog & waste bins	1820.00	364.00	2184.00
2801	Hawk Pest Control	Park rabbits.	30.00		30.00
2802	Ann Addison	Salary & Expenses	337.34	260.18	597.52
2803	Npower	Lighting supply	579.04	115.81	694.85
2804	Gallaghers	PC Insurance	2028.74	0.00	2028.74

To Note:

- Clerk's expenses included the purchase of the silhouette soldier @ £200.00.
- **Online Banking**
 - a) PC has been considering using online banking as from 2025/2026 financial year. Clerk has obtained information from Unity Trust Bank. & passed it onto all members for comment.
 - b) It was unanimously agreed for the Clerk to contact Unity Trust to start negotiations to open two accounts with them, a savings account & a current account.

Finance Working Group Meeting - 9/2/25

- Bank reconciliation to be completed & sent to all PC members
- Accounts checked against budget – there are 3 overspends noted: Clerk's expenses (increased cost of stamps, paper, inks), Lighting, & the Village Park.
- Query raised regarding Churchyard mowing. Clerk has compiled a list of invoices. Clerk has contacted the Church Warden.
- Election charges discussed. If contested election, cost @ £1250.00 if uncontested costs at £70.00.
- Clerk has contacted NatWest requesting up to date bank statements.

- Date of the next Finance Working Group, Monday 17th February to discuss the Churchyard mowing costs.

9. PLANNING

Application	Location	Proposal	Comments
	The Paddock, Towcester Road	5 dwellings – access alterations	PC & residents have concerns regarding the new access.
2025/0342/DCOR	Plot 4 SRFI Northampton Gateway	Required 8, (2) (f.p) built development design, site notices & advertisements	PC has no comments
2024/3193/FUL	Land by 1 Rectory Lane	Single self-build	WNC approval

10. OTHER PARISH MATTERS – Councillor & Clerk's Reports

- Clerk to query where the ordered 20 mph advisory signs are

Local Elections 1st May 2025 timetable:

- Notice of election – 14th March 2025.
- Parish Councillors to stand down as from the 14th March.
- Nomination papers will be available from Monday 17th March from WNC
- Nomination papers **MUST** be returned to WNC **no later than Wednesday 2nd April**. Suggest they are returned before this date in case of errors.
- Prospective candidates will need a proposer & seconder – someone on the MMPC electoral roll.
- If there is a contested election, the votes will be counted on Saturday, 3rd May with results on Monday 5th May.
- Final PC meeting will be on Tuesday, 11th March until after the election.
- No PC meeting in April but the Annual Parish Meeting can be held as this is not a Parish Council meeting, simply a meeting of Parishioners.
- The first meeting of the new Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting to be held on **Tuesday 13th May 2025**.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at: 9.35 pm

11. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: **Tuesday, 11th March 2025, 7.30 pm**

To Note: There will be NO Parish Council meeting in April due to the May election timetable.

Signed:

Dated: