

APPENDIX

28/23

Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Report of the Parish Council

Annual Report from the District Councillor

Annual Report from the County Councillor

Parish Council Accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2023

**Parish Council observations on its finances Annual Report and
Financial Statements from:**

- Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee
 - The Hard Surface Play Area Committee
 - Neighbours Hall Committee
 - Old Field Charity
 - Sheppard Charitable Trust
 - Kent and Couling Charity
 - Great Milton Neighbourhood Watch

Great Milton Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report 2022/23

- Planning
 - Following much debate within the village and at the SODC Planning Committee hearing, the planning application for Le Manoir's expansion was eventually approved. Some preparatory work has commenced in readying the field for vineyard cultivation and LMQS has undertaken to keep the community informed of developments as they occur. This will hopefully avoid further incidents of misguided and ill-informed accusations of eco-vandalism aimed at LMQS and Raymond Blanc!
- Parking, traffic and roads
 - 20mph speed limit has now been implemented across the village and the impact will be monitored in due course once this change has had time to settle in.
 - Parking in Great Milton especially at school times is still an issue despite some residents offering their driveways as temporary parking areas.
 - Discussions with the school and police are on-going.
- The Bull
 - The Bull is no longer a community-owned pub, having been sold to the Great Milton Pub Company following much debate and discussion amongst shareholders and the community as a whole.
 - In the end there was overwhelming support for the sale and we wish the new owners well in their endeavours.
- Strategic issues
 - Chalgrove Airfield development remains quiet though this will be monitored, as will potential developments at 'Harrington'.
- Parish Clerk
 - Tim Darch stood down as Parish Clerk and has been replaced by Chris Ashworth whom we welcome and wish all the best in this challenging role.
 - Many thanks to Tim for his service.
- Council members
 - Clyde Deacon has stood down from the Council and we thank him for his time in service.
 - We currently have two vacant positions for councillors, though one will be filled following the election in May, with Sarah Illingworth joining the team.
- Finally, the mys-TREE planted at the corner of Green Hitchings and Chilworth Lane has been identified as a hornbeam, which was planted by OCC as part of a county wide planting project for the most recent planting season.
 - Residents are naturally up in arms that this was done with no consultation and steps are being taken to have the tree removed/repositioned.

Thanks are of course due to my fellow councillors for their continued efforts and support throughout this year.

Stephen Harrod

Chairman

17 April 2023

Annual Report 2023

Cllr Freddie van Mierlo, Chalgrove and Watlington Division

Liberal Democrat

Now 2-years into its first 4-year term, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the progress made by the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance administration since taking control from the Conservatives. Its vision is laid out in the [9 priorities](#) adopted, that includes 'putting climate at the heart of everything we do'. The IPCC's 'final warning' to humanity in March this year, puts back into focus the importance of following through on this commitment – even in the face of rising opposition from conspiracy theorists, climate change deniers, and those who would wish to see a much-diminished role for the county council.

The County Council is responsible for delivering a range of services to residents of Oxfordshire, including adult social care, children's services – including for children with special educational needs and disabilities, and of course, maintaining Oxfordshire's highways and transport infrastructure, and a range of other services, including libraries, fire and rescue, and coroners' services.

Adult social care is largest responsibility of OCC in terms of spend. Demand is growing due to our ageing population and an increase in complexity of needs. In Oxfordshire, we are seeking to manage this demand with a pioneering 'Oxfordshire Way', that aims to keep people active and independent for as long as possible in their homes and communities. As part of this, OCC has been promoting a scheme to empower small scale care businesses in the community to thrive. Support is provided to 'micro-enterprises' to navigate the paperwork and start out as a commercial enterprise. An all-age unpaid carers strategy review is also ongoing to better support this vital group in our communities.

Children's services remain a challenge, particularly in the area of SEND. The service receives this year an inflation busting boost to its budget of 12.3% (£18.8m), which will provide much needed funds to improve the assessment of EHCPs in particular. The county was also successful in bidding for £5.2m to fund new residential homes for children with autism and children with adverse childhood experiences.

In transport and highways, the county is leading the way, alongside the Welsh government, by moving to 20mph as the speed limit for villages and towns. The newly adopted Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP5) is a radical change from the previous plan, and places an emphasis on active travel, public transport and reducing car journeys. Its ambitious targets to reduce car journey's by 25% by 2030 and 33% by 2040 will shape infrastructure decisions going forward, and be a powerful tool when developers seek massive car-centric developments (e.g., Chalgrove Airfield, Harrington). The freight strategy (which sits as part of LTCP5) is being developed further with inputs sought from communities on area weight restrictions and problem areas for HGVs. The strategy seeks to move non-local freight onto the strategic road network (M40, etc.), rather than use inappropriate local roads. Additional investment is being made in taking on stubborn highways flooding issues that will see more projects brought forward in 2023 and 2024 to take on problem areas.

As ever, I continue to advocate for projects and issues important to local communities and individual residents. Issues have ranged from road agreements, active travel, trees, road markings, flooding, children's services, and much more! In Watlington, key areas of focus have been representing the views of the community to the County on the Watlington Relief Road. I've also been delighted to see the progress made to bring the unoccupied property at 33 High Street back to life. The work done by Watlington Welcome and the parish council is testament to the power of local communities and unlocking their potential. Work continues in the

background to cement the handover of the Charlotte Coxe Trust (owner of 33 High Street) to the parish council.

I have also been delighted to support a wide range of projects through the Councillor Priority Fund. The fund was renewed in February's budget on the same basis as previously (£15,000 over 2 years), with new applications opening in April 2023. Given the impact of inflation, and a last-minute rush that is delaying approval of applications, I again will favour projects that can be delivered early and start providing benefit to the community this year.

Housing developments also remain a concern for residents. While strictly speaking a district matter, the major road developments associated with Chalgrove airfield development, and the potential Harrington development bring in County level concerns. I continue to oppose both of these schemes, which would have a deleterious impact on the local environment and climate due to their remote and rural locations.

Finally, with Oxfordshire's growing population, the electoral commission has determined a review of current county council division boundaries is required. The election commission has agreed with a recommendation from council that the number of councillors be increased from 63 to 69, which would keep the number of electors per councillors roughly the same as they are now up to 2029. The increase in councillors will likely see the Watlington and Chalgrove division broken up into two separate divisions – with Chalgrove and Watlington being the major population centers in each of the new divisions. For me, this will be bitter-sweet, since I very much enjoy serving all the communities of the current county division, but it's wide geographic spread does make it extremely challenging, which will be somewhat alleviated by new boundaries.

Great Milton Parish Council
Receipts and Payments Accounts
Year to 31 March 2023

Receipts	Actual to 31/03/23	Budget for the year	Variance
	£	£	£
Precept	20,180.00	20,180.00	
Bulletin Advertisements	1,930.00	2,500.00	-570.00
Access/Rental agreements	160.00	150.00	10.00
Allotment rentals	230.00	240.00	-10.00
OCC Grass Verge Maintenance	356.39	360.00	-3.61
VAT Claim	4,331.00	2,500.00	1,831.00
Funding grants			
Miscellaneous			
Other income			
Total receipts	27,187.39	25,930.00	1,257.39
Payments			
Clerk's expenses	322.55	350.00	27.45
Clerk's salary	6,784.44	6,050.00	-734.44
Staff training	168.00	300.00	132.00
Parish Council Insurance	436.99	350.00	-86.99
Website	199.90	300.00	100.10
Bulletin DTP and Printing	3,731.40	3,000.00	-731.40
Rec Grd Maintenance		400.00	400.00
Rec Grd Insurance	1,140.95	1,200.00	59.05
Defibrillator maintenance and training	162.00	350.00	188.00
Handyman & materials / Village Maintenance	914.00	1,500.00	586.00
Water Allotments		70.00	70.00
Grass Cutting	3,396.00	5,000.00	1,604.00
Dog Hygiene	748.80	650.00	-98.80
Doctor and Hospital service	100.00	50.00	-50.00
Church Clock service and maintenance	216.00	500.00	284.00
Subscriptions	150.98	400.00	249.02
Donations	650.00	500.00	-150.00
PCC Grass Maintenance grant		600.00	600.00
Tree Management	2,964.00	1,000.00	-1,964.00
BT Direct Debit - Council Email	129.60	150.00	20.40
Archive Room overheads - History/GMPC		200.00	200.00
Annual grant: Maple Tree Children's Centre	500.00	500.00	
Speed mitigation measures	4,875.11	1,500.00	-3,375.11
Sundry		810.00	810.00
Land Registry fees			
Election Fees			
External audit costs	240.00	200.00	-40.00
Other expenditure	60.00		-60.00
Total payments	27,890.72	25,930.00	-1,960.72
Earmarked reserves			
SODC Covid support grant	500.00	500.00	
Transparency Fund		1,865.00	1,865.00
Net receipts/payments	-1,203.33	-2,365.00	1,161.67
Balance brought forward	34,695.83	Reserve analysis	
Balance carried forward	33,492.50	Unspent earmarked reserves:	£
		Transparency Fund	1,865.00
		Total unspent earmarked	1,865.00
VAT to claim	2,175.32	Unallocated reserves	31,627.50

		Closing balance	
S137 expenditure	<u>49.00</u>		<u>33,492.50</u>

Observations on Great Milton Parish Council's accounts Financial year ending 31st March 2023

Receipts

Receipts for the 2022/23 financial year amounted to £27,187.39.

The opening cashbook balance was £34,695.83.

Bulletin Advertisements

Receipts from Bulletin advertisements amounted to £2,780. There is no debt outstanding from advertisers other than expected slight delays to payments where invoices have been issued.

Access Rental/Agreements

£160.00 has been received from access/rental agreements relative to the budgeted amount of £150. Wayleave payments from SSE and BT continue to be received automatically. A rental payment of £100 per year from OCC from the rental of allotment land for the provision of a temporary classroom is invoiced in April.

OCC Grass Verge Maintenance

£356.39 received (budget £360).

VAT reclaim from 2020-21

The budgeted sum was £2,500. The VAT reclaim is £2,175.32.

Allotment rentals

The income was £230. £10 under budget.

Payments

Total payments for the financial year 2021-22 amounted to £27,890.72.

Areas that were over budget:

Salary

The expenditure was £6,784.44. This is over the budget of £6,050 due to a handover period of Clerks along with a wage increase of £1 p/h backdated to April 2022.

Village Maintenance

The expenditure was £914. Under budget by £586. (Budgeted amount £1,200)

Doctor and Hospital service

The expenditure was £100. £50 over budget due to increased costs of insurance.

Dog hygiene

Expenditure was £748.80, over budget by £98.80 (budgeted sum £650).

Bulletin DTP and printing

Expenditure was £3,731.40, which is over budget by £731.40 (Budgeted amount £3,000) This is down to increased printing costs.

Donations

Expenditure was £650, over budget by £150 (budgeted sum £500). Donations were made in 2022-23 to Wheatley Park School, Great Milton Youth Club and the Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary (the latter requested by the internal auditor in lieu of fees).

Parish Council insurance

The expenditure was £436.99. Over budget by £86.99 (Budgeted amount £350). This is due to increased insurance costs.

Tree management

Expenditure was £2,964, over budget by £1,964 (Budgeted sum £1,000). This is due to emergency tree work needed in the village.

External auditor

Expenditure was £240, over budget by £40 (Budgeted sum £200). This is due to increased costs.

Other expenditure

The expenditure was £60, over a budget of £0. This was for the hire of the Pavilion for two Police initiatives of 'Have your Say.'

Areas that were under budget:

Expenses

Expenditure was £322.55, under budget by £27.45 (budgeted sum £350).

Staff Training

The expenditure was £168. Under budget by £132. 3 online training courses were undertaken by the new Clerk.

Recreation Ground insurance

Recreation Ground insurance expenditure was £1,140.95. Under budget by £59.05 (budgeted amount £1,200)

Church Clock Service

The expenditure was £216. Under budget by £284 (budgeted amount £500)

Website

The expenditure was £199.90. Under budget, by £100.10 (Budgeted amount £300) An ongoing monthly maintenance charge of £23.99 (£29.99 for the first month) guarantees an element of professional assistance if required, rather than relying on voluntary services from village residents.

Grass cutting

Expenditure was £3,396, under budget by £1,604 (budgeted sum £5,000).

Subscriptions

Expenditure was £150.98, under budget by £249.02 (budgeted sum £400).

BT Direct Debit Council e-mail

Expenditure was £129.69, under budget by £20.40 (Budgeted sum £150)

Archive room overheads

No expenditure (not claimed in 2022-23). The budgeted sum was £200.

Sundry

No expenditure. The budgeted sum was £810.

Defibrillator maintenance and training

Expenditure was £162, under budget by £188 (Budgeted sum £350). Expenditure was on ongoing maintenance costs.

Areas where payments annual grants cheques are yet to be cashed:

Recreation Ground maintenance (Annual grant of £600)

PCC grass maintenance grant (Annual sum of £400)

Earmarked reserves

The remaining funds from the Transparency Fund (£1,865) remain earmarked for use if required (for example, for the replacement of ICT equipment). The £500 SODC Covid support grant was returned.

Section 137 expenditure: £49.00

SUMMARY

Total receipts were £27,187.39.

Total payments were £27,890.72.

Over budget by £703.33.

Returned earmarked reserves £500.

Total £1,203.33.

Total reserves to carry forward into 2022-23: £33,492.50.

Chris Ashworth

Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer, Great Milton Parish Council

Annual Report

The Old Field, Thame Road, Great Milton

Allotment for Exercise and Recreation (Old Field)
Charity Number 283269

It has been a relief that the restrictions imposed on us by Covid have largely been put behind us and village life now continues, including activity at The Old Field.

We reported last year on two problems that concerned us; the increase in dog fouling and the boggy nature of the public footpath through the field towards the Windmill.

Since then, the Old Field raised sponsorship to install a Dog Litter bin at the entrance to the field and the Parish Council agreed to extend the existing collection service in the village to include our bin. Judging by the amount of use, we consider this a great improvement, although we still have to educate some errant dog owners.

One of the more exciting developments in the village has been the Pub Quiz night run by Alan Pickett and his wife. The quiz is not only an enjoyable evening but also raises money for a variety of causes. The Old Field benefitted from one of the evenings and the money was added to sponsorship raised to improve the public footpath.

A party of existing and new volunteers leveled the ground and we laid a grid matrix with 20mm stone infill to a depth of 50mm from the gated entrance along the path. Even when the standing water gets to the top of the stone it still provides a solid walking surface without the mud. This is not only more enjoyable but also a safer passage, especially with the steps up the bank leading onto the A329, which used to be a risky objective.

It should not be underestimated how much this has improved the experience of walking through. This pathway is used by hundreds of villagers as a dog-walking route or for general exercise. The investment we have made from Old Field funds has allowed us to create this path for approximately 30m from the gate and we have maintained the steps up to the A329. To make it a total success we need to extend the path all the way back to the pond, where the open area is dryer and less boggy.

We would appeal to the council to help us raise the additional £900 that we need to complete this task and to improve everyone's enjoyment of the nature reserve and the public footpath.

I will submit the financial report from our Treasurer, David Mackrory, separately but you will see that expenditure has been controlled. In previous years we have repaired and maintained the control valve that supplies water to the pond. This has reduced the costs to just a few pounds per bill.

The capital that is invested in the Charitable Trust has decreased this year as a result of uncertainty caused by the Ukraine War and the failure of a number of banks.

However, the charity continues as a viable self-funding trust supported by the efforts and enthusiasm of volunteers and provides a sustainable nature reserve with improving facilities for the enjoyment of the whole village.

Adrian Buckmaster (Chairperson)

April 2023

The Old Field



Summary of Accounts to Year End 31st March 2023

Brought Forward from 31/3/2022	£12,774.05	Expenditure	£631.78
		COIF Investment Account	£11,143.66
Income	£647.07	COIF Deposit Account	£490.17
Change in value of COIF Investment Fund 1/4/2022 to 31/3/2023	-£628.96	Barclays Cheque Account	£466.18
		Petty Cash	£60.37
	<u>£12,792.16</u>		<u>£12,792.16</u>
		Less Expenditure	-£631.78
		Carried forward to 1 Apr 2023	£12,160.38

REPORT FROM THE SHEPPARD TRUST FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustees of the Sheppard Trust met on just one occasion in 2022. The January meeting was cancelled as no requests for funding had been received. A consequence of covid lockdowns throughout 2021. There was a flurry of requests in July 2022, when life returned to something approaching normal, and grants were agreed as follows:

Great Milton Neighbours Hall - £5000 to help with the costs of refurbishing the kitchen.

Great Milton History Society - £1700. Two grants were made - £200 to cover the cost of printing booklets recording all of the wells within the village, and £1500 to cover running costs and to place the History Society on a firm financial footing for the forthcoming year.

St Marys Church - £1350 to underwrite the cost of a bid writer, employed to assist with raising funds for improvement works within the church. A retrospective grant of **£250** was given to the Fete Committee to cover the cost of providing a children's entertainer at the summer fete

Great Milton Youth Club - £1500. This grant was to help with the costs of setting up a new Youth Club in the village.

Great Milton Hard Surface Play Area - £1000. For general maintenance and provision of new information signs.

Wheatley Explorers - £800. Funding was granted to four young people from the village who were taking part in an expedition to Poland under the auspices of Wheatley Scouts.

Great Milton Athletics Club - £500 to help with costs of replacing a dilapidated tent.

Other beneficiaries included **Great Milton Freecycle - £350** and **Great Milton Arts & Crafts Club - £260** – these grants to help with rental costs for their meetings.

Due to the limited number of requests received over the past two years, the Sheppard Trust is in a good position to help local groups/organisations. If your group is based in Great Milton and benefits the citizens of Great Milton, please do not hesitate to make an application.

Jane Willis

Kent and Couling Trust Annual Report

A brief update from the Kent and Couling Trust, the small village charity which began 90 years ago after a bequest from Mr Charles Couling. In 1972 the Couling charity came together with another village charity to form the Trust which continues today. In 1912 the stated aim of the charity was to help villagers keep warm in winter by supplying bags of coal. We now provide cash donations direct to recipients. In the year 2022/23 there were seven recipients who received a total of £735. All donations are handled in complete confidence.

Neighbourhood Watch Annual Report

As we live in this Lovely, Quiet Village of Ours, there is not a lot of Criminal activity or Antisocial behaviour to report on. However, when some of these rare occasions have happened, it has been good to know that they have been reported to Thames Valley Police via their very accessible 101 Non-Emergency phone number, and I can confirm that, where necessary, they have been followed up.

This method is the best way to report any of these occasions, and when necessary, I Always Suggest that this procedure is the best way to bring attention to & to have them logged by TVP too.