

**MINUTES OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 8 MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM VIA ZOOM**

Present: Cllrs A Sheppard (Chair), C McGuirk, C Pickett, T Suter, P Woodrow, A Oughton (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

20/170 Public Discussion and Public Questions

A member of the Playing Fields Committee spoke on Item 20/176 (iii) – the proposal to cull rabbits at the Recreation Ground. The rabbits were causing a great deal of damage, not just to the cricket field but the whole recreation area including around the tennis courts and play area. A lot of work had been done to improve the outfield and wicket over the summer.

The proposal is for a marksman, who has the necessary licence, to carry out the cull at night. He has undertaken similar work for Oxford Harlequins Rugby Club. All necessary safety precautions will be undertaken including a risk assessment. This was a short-term solution to the problem, a longer term solution would be to erect a rabbit fence around the boundary but this is expensive. A suggestion was made to use gas, which may be more effective. It was agreed all options would be explored.

20/171 Apologies for Absence

The Chair reported Cllr Spencer had decided to stand down as a Parish Councillor and had submitted her resignation. This was sad news for both the Parish Council and the community. Cllr Spencer had served on the Parish Council for over 10 years and contributed hugely to the work of the Council and the village. The Parish Council extended a vote of thanks to Cllr Spencer for all she had done.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lindsay (Personal).

20/172 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

20/173 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

20/174 Matters Arising

The Chair reported a meeting had taken place with representatives of the Back Way Team (BWT) and the contractor. BWT were awaiting a response. The BWT has asked the Parish Council to write to the contractor to try and speed things up. It was agreed the Clerk will write to Hazel & Jefferies.

The Chair and Cllr Woodrow are to meet with the owners of Haseley Court to discuss the possibility of using their grounds for a village event.

20/175 Planning Applications

The Chair reported a new planning application for Haseley End had been registered with the District Planning Authority but not in time for the Parish Council to discuss at this meeting. It was agreed an additional meeting will be called to discuss the application.

The following planning application was noted:

P21/S0592/T28 - Whitehill Barn, Rectory Road, Great Haseley

28 day notice informing of BT's intention to install 1 x 9m wooden pole (7.2m above ground) at the above location.

It was noted the District Planning Authority had granted permission for the following application:

P20/S4769/HH - 1 Standhill Cottage, Standhill Lane, Little Haseley

Proposed first floor rear extension to enlarge en-suite.

It was noted the following application had been withdrawn prior to determination by the District Planning Authority

P20/S4355/FUL - North Weston Farm, Shabbington Road, North Weston

Change of use of agricultural building to a CrossFit Facility (new use class E). Provision of parking for new facility and revisions to existing parking layout. (As amplified by contaminated land questionnaire received 7 December 2020 and sustainable energy and construction statement received 11 January 2021).

20/176 Playing Fields

Discussion on dog fouling at the Playing Fields took place. It was noted a lot of people from outside the village, drive to it to walk their dogs. Additional signage was proposed.

It was proposed to purchase a new waste bin, exactly the same as the new bin provided by SODC in Rectory Road, which would be labelled for general and dog waste and would look more prominent than the existing one. The purchase cost equated to just over one year's charge to empty a dog waste bin. Once the new general waste bin is installed, the dog bin being held by a parishioner will be re-placed at the bridleway sign at Latchford Lane/Peggs Farm Road.

Resolved to purchase a Broxap 90lt round litter bin in black at a total cost of £179.95. The cost will be met from funds allocated in the budget to the annual tidy day, which did not take place last year due to the pandemic.

It was agreed the damage caused by rabbits at the recreation ground was dangerous for all users and that all options for a cull should be explored by the Playing Fields Committee.

Resolved in principle to support the proposed cull on the recreation ground and that the Playing Fields Committee will inform the Parish Council of the method to be used and when the cull will take place.

20/177 Allotments

The Chair thanked Cllr Pickett for marking out the proposed new allotments prior to the meeting, which had proved very helpful. Cllr Pickett reported one allotment holder was leaving and the plot will be divided into three. There are 6-7 people on the waiting list.

Resolved to extend the allotment area.

Resolved to approve the Allotment Rules and Tenancy Agreement for 2021.

20/178 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Resolved that any identified CIL monies received by the District Council between 1 October 2020 and 31 March 2021 from development in the Parish are transferred to the Parish Council by 28 April 2021.

20/179 Financial Report

Copies of bank statements to 26 February 2021 had been circulated to Councillors. The balances on the Current Account of £12,968.93 and the Business Reserve Account of £35,449.032 were noted.

20/180 Payments

The following cheques were written as notified on the agenda: £236.40 Scribe; £42.00 Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association; £36.00 CPRE; £32.50 Carmella Media; £24.01 Clerk's Expenses; £146.16 OALC; £123.74 Morgan Associates.

It was further agreed to write the following cheque not published on the agenda: £60.00 Scoop Dotty Dog.

20/181 Faster Broadband

Cllr Suter reported he had received 40 expressions of interest from residents, which was encouraging. This was without any significant marketing push from suppliers. The list has been submitted to Openreach and will be sent to Airband shortly.

It looks likely that Broadband Delivery UK will exclude areas from the voucher scheme where competition is more likely to deliver faster broadband, Ofcom Area 2. The voucher scheme will be retained for areas that are not economically viable, Ofcom Area 3. Great Haseley is in Ofcom Area 2. Cllr Suter was hopeful that our application had been submitted before the deadline and would not be affected by the possible change.

20/182 Grass Cutting

Resolved to award the grass cutting contract for 2021 to Ridgeway Rural Services.

20/183 IT Infrastructure

Cllr Lindsay had sent his apologies but submitted a report. All Councillor gmail accounts had been created and being used. All old emails had been copied to an archive. Rackspace had sent through a contract, which had been reviewed and signed. Payment to Rackspace will be made annually. Cllr Lindsay will set up email accounts for the Clerk and Chair and then migrate associated mail shortly; the email addresses for those would remain as now, just with a new provider.

The website content is securely stored on icloud. Once the 'Hugo Fox' site is ready Cllr Lindsay will start to migrate content across. The contract with Carmella Media will cease once the Clerk and Chair's new email accounts are set up.

20/184 Tidy Day

Discussion took place on whether to hold an annual Tidy Day. It was agreed, due to the ongoing pandemic and current restrictions it would be unwise to encourage people to litter pick and tidy on a particular day. Instead, a list of tasks will be drawn up and residents asked to volunteer to undertake jobs at their own convenience. This will be publicised in The Haseley Update.

20/185 Remote Meetings

The regulations that allow local authorities to hold meetings remotely apply to local authority meetings that are required to be held, or held, before 7 May 2021. This means that without further action from the Government, all local authorities including local councils must return to face to

face meetings from 7 May 2021. There is still much uncertainty around how legislation or COVID-19 risks may change over the coming weeks and months.

The Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council Meeting but called by the Parish Council, which has to be held between 1 March and 1 June, it is proposed to ask the various village groups to participate. N.B. the Annual Meeting of the Council is a full council meeting where the election of the chairman is the first business.

Resolved to move the Parish Council Meeting, via zoom, to Tuesday 6 April 2021, commencing at 7.30pm.

Resolved to hold the Annual Parish Meeting, via zoom on Tuesday 4 May 2021, commencing at 7.30pm, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Council.

20/186 Neighbourhood Plan

A meeting between Cllrs Sheppard and Suter and Thame Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Officer had taken place to discuss drawing up the neighbourhood plan boundary between Great Haseley and Thame.

The proposed area for Thame's revised Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is to capture the land designated for the new Cattle Market and new industrial area, both currently just inside Great Haseley's boundary. It is proposed that a legal agreement between the two parishes is drawn up mainly to protect the interests of Great Haseley should the sites generate any financial income such as s106, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or business rates, to be split 75% Great Haseley and 25% Thame. Areas with a NP receive 25% of CIL payments opposed to 15% for areas without a NP. The likelihood of Great Haseley having an adopted NP before construction of either of the sites is very slim. The Cattle Market has been assessed for CIL. If the areas are included in Thame's NP, Great Haseley will receive 75% of the 25% of CIL funds which is more advantageous financially. Discussions with Thame continue.

Cllrs Sheppard and Suter also met with the District Officer responsible for NPs on how best to set about preparing a NP for Great Haseley given the restrictions around the pandemic. It was proposed the best way forward is to review existing documents produced for villages, and use a community survey to set priorities. This may include revisiting the conservation area, last reviewed in 2005. Grant funding is available to develop NPs with additional funding to review conservation areas.

20/187 Reports from Committees / County and District Councillors

District Councillor Newton had sent her apologies.

County Councillor Harrod reported he had nothing further to add to that already circulated to Councillors. The reduction in COVID numbers in Oxfordshire was encouraging but a slight blip in the figures may occur once children return to school. Concerns remain around new COVID variants.

Reports from Committees:

Allotments, Communication, Environment, Footpaths, Miss Cross Field, Millennium Wood
- nothing to report.

Village Hall – Cllr Woodrow reported a COVID related grant had been received and another grant was expected shortly.

Cllr Suter reported he had attended the Parish Transport Representatives meeting on 23 February 2021. There was very little to report, as the village was not served by any public transport.

20/188 Correspondence

An email had been received from a resident in Standhill re dog fouling and to request a dog bin is sited in the locality. It was agreed there was no budget to purchase or pay for the weekly emptying of additional dog waste bins. The area in question may just be inside the neighbouring parish of Pyrton. The Chair will respond to the resident and offer to supply signage and suggest they also contact Pyrton Parish Council.

Items of correspondence and local parish magazines will be circulated in the Correspondence Bag for March.

20/189 Information Exchange

It was noted the Great Milton church fete will take place on 12 June 2021 and the Tug of War on 4 September 2021. Cllr Pickett reported the Pumpkin show is planned to take place on 25 September 2021.

20/190 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 6 April 2021 at 7.30pm. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 4 May 2021 at 7.30pm followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. All meetings will be held via zoom.

The agenda for the meetings will be published on the Parish Council's website and will contain the link and information necessary for Councillors and Members of the Public to join the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.43pm

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Chairman
6 April 2021