

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 11 MAY 2020 AT 8PM VIA ZOOM**

**Present:** Cllrs A Sheppard (Chair), A Gheissari, D Lindsay, C McGuirk, C Pickett, E Spencer, P Woodrow, A Oughton (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

**20/01 Public Discussion and Public Questions**

Mr Hale expressed his thanks to the Parish Council for their support in opposing planning applications to develop a Gas Fired Electricity Generation Station on land at Lobb Farm. The District Planning Authority had just published its decision to refuse planning permission which was very good news. Fingers crossed now that the applicant will not appeal the decision. Mr Hale also expressed his thanks to District Councillor Newton and County Councillor Harrod for their support.

**20/02 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**20/03 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest of dispensations.

**20/04 Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on Monday 9 March 2020 and Wednesday 15 April 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**20/05 Matters Arising**

COVID-19 - The Government announced yesterday the roadmap to ease the country out of lockdown. The small easing of restrictions will allow people to exercise outside as many times a day as they wish. Exercise can be with members of your own household or with up to one person from outside your household whilst maintaining social distancing guidance. Playgrounds and outdoor gym equipment remain closed.

The Chair reported the tennis club were keen to use the courts, and would provide clear guidance as to what is permitted. It was agreed to pass on any information as and when received and that from Wednesday the tennis courts will be open for use.

Cllr Lindsay reported the May edition of The Haseleys had been published without advertising as discussed. The loss of advertising revenue for the month may present a problem later in the year. The June edition will be published with advertisements.

Cllr Pickett reported she had applied to the Western Power Distribution Community Matters fund on behalf of The Haseleys for funding to cover the loss of advertising income but had not received any news yet. *(Post meeting note - subsequently heard, not successful)*

Cllr Gheissari reported dialogue continued with the residents of Back Way. The next step will be to invite the County Footpath Officer to a meeting with residents of Back Way, when possible. The Officer has been broadly supportive with other matters and it is hoped she will be able to suggest companies who can quote for work to be done and efforts will be made to try and persuade her to allocate some OCC funding towards the project.

## **20/06 Planning Applications**

### **Planning application P20/S1261/SCO – Land at Junction 7 of the M40 Harrington - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion**

The Chair advised that the Parish Council had been added to the list of consultees, usually just statutory bodies are invited to comment. Cllr Sheppard was reading through 150-page document and reported there were a number of concerns Great Haseley Parish Council could raise in their response to the application. Cllr Sheppard has contacted the District Planning Officer to find out the timeline for comments to be submitted.

It was felt this was a speculative application and not in line with the District Council's Local Plan 2034. Haseley Brook Action Group's planning adviser has said the document does not contain information about assessing alternative sites to Harrington, which was important.

District Councillor Newton stated the EIA Scoping Opinion was a preliminary step required before submitting a planning application. There is no railway nearby and the site is entirely reliant on road travel.

The Local Plan 2034 is with the Inspector and so far through the questions raised it would seem he is quite happy with the outline Local Plan. The timeframe for the Local Plan 2034 is for Public Examination in the next 3-4 months with the Plan adopted at the end of December or early in 2021.

Cllr Newton added the application for 500 homes at Wheatley for which the District Council refused permission had come through on Appeal on the basis that the planning strategy contained within the existing Local Plan was so out of date it did not carry any weight. This leaves the District 'exposed' to development. In terms of Harrington the Local Plan 2034 is likely to be adopted before any planning application is determined.

County Councillor Harrod stated the plan for Harrington was highly speculative and was adamantly opposed to it. He had spoken with the developers of the proposed solar farms and was assured the plans were not linked to Harrington. The timing was just coincidental but if successful Harrington may try and cash in on it. Hopefully the EIA will show all the shortcomings of the proposal to build 6,500 homes on the site.

### **Proposals for Cornwell and Harlesford solar farms**

Cllr Lindsay reported members of the Parish Council had been invited to attend webinars to present plans for the proposed solar farms. The two webinars will take place next week. Cllrs Sheppard and McGuirk have registered to attend.

County Cllr Harrod said he was pleasantly surprised by the proposals put forward. It was an environmentally friendly proposal and plenty of landscaping to mitigate the impact on the landscape. The only concern was if approved it might make proposals for Harrington more viable.

## **20/07 Payments**

The following cheques were written as notified on the agenda: £17.00 LCR Subscription, £468.00 Ridgeway Rural Services, £405.23 BHIB Insurance.

## **20/08 Financial Report**

The balance on the Current Account was £17,616.21 and the Business Reserve Account £31,371.84. The income for the month of £14,698.30 included receipt of the first half of the precept for 2020/21, Community Infrastructure Levy funds and advertisements placed in The Haseleys.

Approval was given for £4,937.43 of Community Infrastructure Levy funding to be transferred to the Business Reserve Account.

## **20/09 Reserves Policy**

The Reserves Policy had been reviewed by the Clerk and circulated to members. The receipt of CIL funding during 2019-20 made up the main increase in the amount held in Reserves.

In the light of the current Coronavirus and to build resilience for other events or circumstances it was proposed an Ear Marked Reserve is established for Village Resilience. It was agreed in principle that should funds be available in the current account, once the end of year accounts have been finalised and approved, funds will be transferred into the new Reserve. The final figure to be approved at a future meeting.

## **20/10 Schedule of Meetings**

The Schedule of Meetings for 2020-21 was approved.

## **20/11 Allotments**

Cllr Pickett put forward a proposal to put raised beds onto allotment plot 1b to encourage the younger generation to take an interest in horticulture and be more accessible for older people or those with disabilities. The ambition is the raised beds will be free to use.

The proposal was agreed in principle with the request that Cllr Pickett will find out more information before a final decision is made.

## **20/12 Reports from Committees / County and District Councillors**

County Cllr Harrod reported household waste recycling centres are due to reopen next Monday with restrictions in place including social distancing. The situation will be closely monitored. The decision to shut the centres was taken following the unacceptable level of abuse received by site operators.

**Footpaths** – Nothing further than that reported under Item 20/05.

**Village Hall** – The Chair thanked everyone involved in making the Village Hall look splendid for the VE Day celebrations.

**Playing Fields** – Cllr Spencer reported there were a few tiles missing from the pavilion roof but no repairs could take place due to current COVID-19 restrictions. Grass cutting continued.

**Miss Cross Field / Millennium Wood / Communications / Environment** - Nothing to report.

**Allotments** – Nothing further than that reported under item 20/11.

## **20/13 Information Exchange**

Cllr Lindsay reminded everyone to maintain good security email passwords should be changed regularly. Cllr Lindsay was working on the quickest and easiest way to get this done given that it will need to be completed remotely.

Cllr Pickett reported a small number of items on graves in the churchyard had been broken which had caused distress to the families concerned. Simon Cronk has been informed.

## **20/14 Date of Next Meeting**

To **confirm** that during the current pandemic the Parish Council will only meet virtually to discuss items which cannot be delayed until face to face meetings can resume. The next meeting was provisionally set for Monday 8 June 2020, commencing at 8pm and the following meeting on Monday 13 July 2020.

The agenda for the meeting 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 9pm

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Chairman  
8 June 2020