

Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr T Darch

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Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held on Monday 17th February 2020 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Present: Cllrs S Harrod (Chairman), C Deacon, G Bennet, M Horsley and P Fewell

In Attendance: Tim Darch (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

16/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received in advance from Cllrs W Fox (Vice-Chairman) and P Allen.

17/20 Variation of order of business

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

18/20 Declarations of member's interest (if any)

Cllr Peter Fewell declared an interest in Item 22/20, and specifically Planning Application P19/S2605/FUL (Mount Pleasant Farm, Thame Road, Great Milton). The land upon which the proposed housing will be constructed is partly owned by Cllr Fewell.

19/20 Matters to Report

There is no report from either the County or District Councillor this month.

20/20 New environmental monitoring initiative

It was intended that Dominic Hare, CEO of Blenheim Palace would appraise the meeting of a new initiative from Blenheim regarding monitoring of environmental conditions in a locality, and opportunities for Parish Councils to join this network. However due to illness Mr Hare will instead attend the May meeting.

21/20 Correspondence and Public Discussion

A request has been received from St Mary's Church PCC to tidy Lychgate Lane, which is reported as being in a poor general state with significant growth of weeds and brambles. It was agreed that this work would be carried out as soon as is practical.

22/20 Planning Applications

A The following planning applications have been received from SODC:
P19/S4092/HH and P19/S4093/LB (Creeper Cottage, Church Road, Great Milton OX44 7PB). Remove existing bay window to rear elevation and replace with oak framed single storey extension with hipped tile roof. New single storey extension to extend existing entrance area and provide new WC facility - remove existing internal flat roof area. (as amended by drawings received 10th February, to reduce the depth and height of the rear garden room).
It was agreed that the Parish Council FULLY SUPPORTED this application given its relatively trivial nature and negligible impact on neighbouring properties.

B The following planning decisions received were reviewed:
P19/S2605/FUL (Mount Pleasant Farm Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7HX). Erection of two x 4 bedroom dwellings with x1 double garage and x1 single garage (As amended by revised plans and additional information addressing highways concerns received 11 November 2019, and revised plans received 28 November 2019, and updated arboricultural survey and assessment received 4 December 2019, and updated plans and further arboricultural survey and assessment received 10 January 2020). Planning permission is GRANTED for the development described above.

An update has been received from SODC on the application for power generation facilities at Lobb Farm, Milton Common. The Applicant has submitted a corrected Certificate of Ownership. This is because the original Certificate did not declare all of the landowners who have an interest in the site. The Certificate of Ownership is part of the planning application form and there is a legal requirement for this to be filled in correctly. In terms of procedure, this means that the 13-week determination period on the applications starts again. The consultation will also be open for 21 days and this will involve another site notice being displayed at the site. The Applicant will be submitting a further piece of information this week: this will be added to the application documents and will be available to view on the SODC website. SODC apologises that the application process has dragged on with this site, and hopes to determine the application soon after the 21 day statutory consultation process has expired: local councils will be updated if this is not possible.

After discussion it was assumed that the amended ownership documentation was procedural in nature, and would have no bearing on consideration of the applications by the planning authority. With regard to the document detailing the potential for hydrogen to provide power for the proposed facilities, it was agreed that it was vague, had little relevance to the specific site and associated applications, contained no acknowledgement of its source and was largely speculative in nature. As such it was the Council's opinion that the document should not be afforded any weight in the evaluation of the amendments currently under consideration, or the applications as a whole, and it was agreed that the council OBJECTED to the latest amendment to the application for the reasons outlined above.

The Parish Council also wished to place on record its concern that two applications each of 49.9 MW generation capacity have been submitted in an attempt to circumvent the need for a more rigorous planning submission process, and to reiterate that its previous objections to these applications remain unaltered.

23/20 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20th January 2020 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

24/20 Financial Resolutions

A The following payments were authorised and cheques signed for payment:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £476.55

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production February. £278.50

SLCC/ALCC membership 2020-21: £109/£40

SODC dog bin emptying (July-Sept/Oct-Dec): £69.07/£69.07

OALC web accessibility training: £60

B The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements were all received and signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 4 February was £27,977.69.

25/20 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

An OCC highways officer will be visiting in March to inspect the verge at the junction of the A329 and A40 in Milton Common which has been damaged by parking.

26/20 School parking update

A few sets of parents have been allocated to park in the two available driveways on Lower End on a trial basis from Monday 10 February, although it is reported that this has not commenced as expected. The Clerk will follow this up with the school: it is hoped that the trial will be successful, and that more residents will offer up space should the scheme become a permanent fixture.

27/20 Path along Sworford Lane from Great Milton to Wheatley

Cllr Bennet's suggestion to make Sworford Lane one-way in the Wheatley direction, with the Wheatley-Great Milton carriageway dedicated to pedestrian and cycle use, has been put to Oxfordshire County Council and their feedback is awaited. It was agreed to await this response and to assess usage of the new bus service and the potential for further enhancement prior to making further progress on the suggested path through the fields alongside Sworford Lane.

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28/20 New bus service

Red Rose service 275 (High Wycombe-Chinnor-Milton Common-Oxford) will be diverted through Great Milton village from Monday 24 February. A journey to Oxford will serve the stop opposite the Post Office on Monday to Friday at 10.52, first serving Thame Road and The Green, then travelling to Wheatley (Park Hill), Headington and Oxford. The return journey will leave Oxford (High Street) at 14.35, arriving back in Great Milton at around 15.00. These journeys will initially operate on Monday to Friday only. The new service has been publicised locally via all available channels: it is hoped that the village will support the facility.

A village resident has suggested that the Parish Council may wish to financially support the service, possibly using Sheppard Trust funds. Initially Red Rose has offered to operate the diversion commercially (i.e without financial support): as detailed at last month's Parish Council meeting, Section 106 funding from development in the village is available should the service require support. This could also be used to perhaps contribute towards a Saturday service, but the Parish Council wishes to assess initial demand before committing these limited funds to continued or improved provision. The Parish Clerk has informed neighbouring villages of the facility in the hope that residents of Haseley or Little Milton may also find it of use.

29/20 Litter pick date

The litter pick has been confirmed for 10am on Saturday 11 April, to coincide with Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean' event, and will be publicised in the March Bulletin and via other means.

30/20 Update to Community Emergency Plan

The village Community Emergency Plan has been reviewed and amended, with just minor additions and updates to contact information necessary. It was agreed to adopt the Plan in its revised form.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 16th March starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

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