

**MINUTES OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs J Brown, C Groves, D Lindsay, J Webster, A Oughton (Clerk) and eight members of the public.

Election of Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman it was proposed and duly seconded that Cllr Lindsay Chair the meeting. **Resolved** that Cllr Lindsay is elected Chairman for this meeting.

23/81 Public Discussion and Public Questions

The agent spoke for planning application P23/S3379/FUL, he stated the application followed that of the approved outline application. The dwelling height followed the staggered height approach tailoring down along Rectory Road. The plan introduced two new bedrooms upstairs and a net biodiversity gain through inclusion of a wild flower meadow to the rear of houses on Rectory Road. The classification of this piece of land will remain agricultural, it will not form part of the garden of the new development and the applicant has no plans to develop it in the future.

23/82 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs Sheehan (Personal), Suter (Personal) and Woodrow (Personal).

23/83 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no Declarations of Interest or Dispensations.

23/84 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on Monday 11 September 2023 and Monday 9 October 2023 were approved.

23/85 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes which will not otherwise be covered by items on the agenda.

23/86 Planning Applications

P23/S3295/LB - 14 Mill Lane, Great Haseley, OX44 7JU

Replacement windows and doors, new dormer window, alterations and re-thatch property.

Resolved to Support the application with the following comment:

- Arrangements must be made for contractors to park on site so as not cause unnecessary congestion / difficulty to traffic passing through the village including buses and emergency services vehicles.

P23/S3379/FUL - Land North of Rectory Road, Great Haseley

Erection of dwelling and associated works including access.

Resolved to Object on the following grounds:

- Scale: The dwelling is 155sqm, a 1.5x increase from that proposed in the Outline Application, which had previously been detailed to not exceed 95sqm, this can be viewed in application: P22/S0214/O.
- The application differs significantly from the approved Outline Application, including land which is now illustrated to run behind neighbouring properties for which the future use is unclear. This change has significant impact and caused concern to the already established properties along the road. If approved there should be a condition that this land will never be used for future development.

P23/S2393/HH & P23/S2637/LB - Walnut Tree Cottage, Mill Lane, Great Haseley, OX44 7JU

To add 11 additional centimetres of masonry with a 600cm tall clay pot with cowl to the chimney stack to reach the height required thatch safety of 1.8m above the thatch. Installation of a length of flexible liner to be added onto the existing length to continue the system to the top of the new extended stack.

Resolved to Support the applications.

To note the following applications have been withdrawn by the applicants prior to determination by the District Planning Authority:

P23/S2756/N4B - Farm buildings at Little Standhill, Standhill Lane, Little Haseley
Conversion to dwelling

P23/S2448/HH - The Stone Yard, Back Way, Great Haseley, OX44 7JP

Review and raising of the roof structure to the house, and introduction of openings to the north elevation. Internal rearrangement.

It was further noted that the District Planning Authority has granted permission for the following applications:

P23/S2300/HH & P23/S2301/LB - Spokes Farm Cottage, 31 Rectory Road, Great Haseley, OX44 7JQ

Repair of the existing buildings including partial removal and reconstruction of upper gable wall of lean-to wall. Creation of new internal doorways. Formation of a link to the neighbouring outbuildings ((Amended plans and information received 2023-08-22).

P23/S3216/FUL - Christmas Hill Business Park, 2 Rycote Lane, Thame

To erect a mezzanine floor in part of the existing building for use as ancillary accommodation.

It was noted that the new dwelling on Rectory Road will be known as The Firs, Rectory Road, OX44 7JS. Also, that 14 Mill Lane will be known as Mill Cottage, Mill Lane.

23/87 Financial Report

Copies of bank statements to 31 October 2023 had been circulated. The closing balances were noted as follows: Current account - £31,496.46 and Business Reserve account - £43,896.21. No income was received in the current account and expenditure was as previously approved.

The conclusion of the Annual External Audit on 7 September 2023 was noted. The External Auditor Report and Certificate for 2022/23 concluded '*On the basis of our review of Sections*

1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information is in accordance with the Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause of concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

23/88 Payments

The following payments were approved: £62.40 Shield Maintenance, £440.82 Parish Administration, £110.20 HMRC, £225.00 J Brown, £185.00 NDR Services, £250 A & W Grounds Maintenance, £2,498.40 Abingdon Stone & Marble, £1,237.50 J Simcox (B17 Memorial), £137.47 D Simcox (B17 Memorial).

Castle Water – Monthly Direct Debit: £11.93. The Clerk reported that Castle Water had over-estimated the water usage at the allotments. Following the submission of a meter reading the proposed new monthly direct debit was set at £11.93. Based on usage this is thought to be a more realistic figure.

23/89 Draft Budget and Precept 2024-25

The draft budget for 2024-25 had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

The Clerk reported that on some lines a 4% increase had been applied. There was some discussion on the reintroduction of weedkilling and general maintenance to keep the village looking nice. There are funds in ear marked reserves for weedkilling, quotations will be sought for 2024-25.

All agreed it was a good first draft. If possible, the intention is that the 2024-25 Precept does not increase. Minor amendments will be made and the budget brought back for further discussion and approval in January.

23/90 Oxfordshire County Council Freight Strategy

It was agreed to defer this item to the January meeting.

23/91 Proposed Reservoir at Abingdon

It noted that on investigation the points on the Abingdon reservoir were that Thames Water appears to have ignored the consultation results and submitted plans for a bigger reservoir than originally planned. Next steps may include writing to John Howell MP and / or the Secretary of State for the Environment.

It was **Resolved** that Cllrs Sheehan and Suter will formulate a draft response to be circulated to Councillors for comment prior to submission.

23/92 Parish Climate Action Plan

It was agreed to defer this item to the January meeting.

23/93 Miss Cross Field & Playing Fields

The RoSPA Inspection Reports for Miss Cross Field and the Playing Fields were noted with the following actions:

- Cllr Groves will contact the supplier of the new equipment in Miss Cross Field re the entrapment comment raised by the RoSPA inspector.
- Protective matting will be purchased to put at the bottom of the slide.

General discussion took place regarding the replacement / refurbishment of the swings on the recreation ground. Cllr Groves will seek quotations; the cost could possibly be covered in part by Community Infrastructure Levy funding and grant funding. Quotations to be brought to a future meeting for discussion.

23/94 Dog Waste Bins

The current contract to empty dog waste bins in the village was due for renewal. The new two-year contract was discussed. It was agreed that the proposed price increase from £2 per bin empty to £3 per bin empty was acceptable and remained good value for money.

Resolved to approve the new two-year contract with the current provider to empty dog waste bins within the parish at a cost of £3 per bin.

23/95 Projects

Public Art

Cllr Suter has written to the Public Art Officer at South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) requesting a date to meet, hopefully before Christmas.

Neighbourhood Priority Statement

Cllr Suter has written a one-page document to be used as the basis for wider consultation about emerging proposals. This will be published via The Haseleys and WhatsApp group with a survey to garner consultation responses.

War Memorial

The Clerk reported not all funding associated with refurbishing the war memorial had been spent. Discussion took place about the possibility of using the funds to contribute towards the cost of improving the path from the church to the recreation ground as it leads to the Memorial. This will be brought back to a future meeting to discuss.

23/96 National Salary Award

The National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services salary award 2023-24 for the Clerk was noted. **Resolved** to pay the newly approved rate and backpay to 1 April 2023.

23/97 Reports from Committees / County and District Councillors

County Councillor Freddie van Mierlo and District Councillor Georgina Heritage had given apologies, their reports were circulated.

Reports from Committees:

Allotments – Cllr Brown reported the recent event on organic growing had been a success.

Village Hall – Preparations for the annual carol service are going well, if anyone has ideas, please contact Cllr Woodrow. This year the bar will close whilst the singing takes place so the team can enjoy the festivities.

Footpaths - Cllr Webster reported there is a dangerous tree along Back Way but it is unclear whose land it is on. As a first step Cllr Webster will report the tree to Oxfordshire County Council via Fix My Street. Cllr Webster reported the flooding on Rectory Road opposite the entrance to Back Way. It was agreed the Clerk will contact OCC Highways department.

Millennium Wood, Miss Cross Field, Playing Fields – nothing further to report.

23/98 Information Exchange

The Parish Council extended its sincere thanks to members of the Great Haseley History Group for organising the brilliant event on Sunday to commemorate the lost crew of the B17 USAF aircraft which crashed near Latchford Lane 80 years ago.

Shabbington Parish Council has written to request the overgrown vegetation along the duck walk past the second bridge on the Oxfordshire side (within Great Haseley Parish) is cut back. Cllr Lindsay will investigate and action.

23/99 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting will be held on 8 January 2024, commencing at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

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Chairman
8 January 2024