

Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr T Darch

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Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council

held virtually via video conference on Monday 26th April 2021 immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present: Cllrs Steve Harrod (Chair), W Fox (Vice-Chair), P Allen, G Bennet, C Deacon and M Horsley.

In Attendance: Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC), Tim Darch (Clerk) and one member of the public.

The meeting was conducted through a video conferencing facility. The new arrangements for the Parish Council are allowed under the following Regulation:

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020

52/21 Apologies for Absence

All councillors were in attendance.

53/21 Variation of order of business

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

54/21 Declarations of member's Interest (if any)

No declarations of interest were necessary with regard to the matters on the Agenda.

55/21 Matters to Report

Regular updates are being received from OCC and SODC and continue to be communicated to residents via the available channels as appropriate. Cllr Caroline Newton's monthly report is available on the Great Milton website:

<https://www.great-milton.co.uk/shared/attachments.asp?f=c1cf0a8d%2D4b51%2D426f%2Db1db%2D277fbfb78dec%2Epdf&o=SODC%2Dreport%2DApril%2D21%2Epdf>

Councillor Newton provided a brief update on the Dodswell Farm solar farm planning application near Milton Common, which is currently at scoping report stage. The application is significantly larger than the other two proposed solar farms in the area (Harlesford and Cornwell). The case officer has confirmed that he is likely to be seeking a substantial Environmental Impact Assessment on account of the sensitivity both of the site (landscape, archaeology, trees etc) and of the cabling etc. necessary to connect up to the National Grid. This latter element is considered no less significant than the environmental impact of the site itself. In the EIA, the applicants would also need to take into account the cumulative effect of the Dodswell Farm site and the proposed solar farms at Harlesford and Cornwell.

Councillor Harrod noted that all three potential sites lie adjacent to the Harrington site boundary. Although there is nothing to be concerned about regarding Harrington at the moment: the issues that have been raised before regarding public transport connectivity remain but the Parish Council and District Council will keep a close watch on developments.

56/21 Correspondence and Public Discussion

No correspondence has been received which is not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

57/21 Planning Applications

A The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P21/S0903/HH and P21/S0904/LB (The Old Stores The Green Great Milton OX44 7NT). Proposed alterations to the existing rear extension, the intended proposed works are: a new side dormer window to the rear extension together with first floor bathroom wall replacement and refurbishment to first floor bathrooms and a new rear roof light to the main roof. Replacement of non-original side and rear casement windows and doors.

Local consultation yielded no adverse comments about the proposals. To meet the deadline for responses in light of the later-than-usual meeting date an informal response has been provided to the case officer on this basis: the Parish Council SUPPORTS this application.

P21/S1059/LB and P21/S1392/HH (The Priory Church Road Great Milton). Internal alterations and repairs (partial conversion of stable building to ancillary accommodation and erection of replacement plant building serving the pool).

Local consultation yielded no adverse comments about the proposals. After brief review and discussion the Parish Council agreed to SUPPORT this application.

P21/S0989/DIS (6 Thame Road Great Milton). Discharge of condition 8 (BMES) on application P20/S0578/FUL. (New detached dwelling on infill plot next to 6 Thame Road). No consultation on Discharge of Conditions: for information only.

- B The following planning decisions received and outstanding planning matters were reviewed. P21/S0656/HH (Cotswold House Lower End Great Milton). Single storey extensions to side and rear. Planning permission is GRANTED for the development outlined above.

Update on Le Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons planning application.

Caroline Newton (District Councillor) has advised the Parish Council that planning officers at SODC have expressed a number of concerns to the applicant about the plans for expansion at Le Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons, with particular regard to the scale of the proposed building and its impact on a sensitive site, on the Green Belt, and on a historic building.

The applicant has been advised of these concerns, and it is now for them to come back with proposals that will be acceptable. This is likely to happen within the next couple of weeks, after which the plans will be subject to wider consultation.

58/21 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held virtually on Monday 15th March 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

59/21 Financial Resolutions

- A The following cheques were authorised and invoices signed by the Chair and Vice Chair subsequent to the meeting:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £619.95
Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production April. £243.20
Website hosting (reimbursement to Clerk). £19.99
Maple Tree annual grant. £500
Three Villages car scheme insurance. £72
OCC speed monitoring. £180
Oxford Green Belt Network membership. £15
SODC dog hygiene Jan-March 21. £269.10
McCracken and Son. March mowing. £402
Jenks Group. Tree maintenance. £1314.

- B The final bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement for the financial year 2020-21 were received, reviewed and approved. The final reconciled bank balance as at 31 March 2021 was £33,567.14.

- C To note that given expenditure and income of less than £25,000 in the financial year 2020-21, the Parish Council wishes to declare itself exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review. The Chairman duly signed the Certificate of Exemption.

- D The following proposed dates for Great Milton Parish Council's internal/external audit activities were reviewed and subsequently agreed:

- Internal Audit (commenced April 2021)
- Signing of Certificate of Exemption (AGAR Part 2): Monday 26 April 2021
- Exemption Certificate to be with Moore Stephens by 30 June
- Approval of AGAR Part 2 (including Internal Audit, Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements): PC meeting in May or June 2021
- Exercise of public rights – Tuesday 22 June to Tuesday 3 August 2021
- All required information to be displayed on website by 1 July

- E Submission of the Parish Council's VAT reclaim for the year 2020-21, for the sum of £1416.68, was noted.

- F Amendment to bank signatories

The removal of Peter Fewell as a signatory to the Parish Council bank account in light of his resignation at the March meeting was authorised. The necessary documentation to be signed as required in person by the remaining signatories.

60/21 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

- A new scheme has been launched this month with a view to rural communities being equipped with 'full fibre' ultrafast broadband, potentially giving speeds of up to 1000mbps versus superfast broadband which offers speeds of up to around 80mbps. **Superfast broadband is already available to around 90% of properties in the parish.** The scheme is somewhat complicated, but essentially stage 1 is to seek expressions of interest from residents in upgrading to full fibre. Each property looking to go full fibre is allocated a notional 'voucher' which goes towards the cost of installation: **there will be no cost to individual households for the installation of the infrastructure, only for the service once installed.** Essentially, the more that want it, the more

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likely it is to happen. The Parish Council will be looking at ways to proactively encourage widespread adoption of Ultrafast broadband.

- SODC has decided that the proposed felling of the sycamore trees adjacent to Romeyns Court is not justified as they are a significant village asset and their condition does not give cause for concern. Although contrary to previous advice received from a tree specialist, the Parish Council is obviously delighted to hear that the trees pose no danger to the houses opposite and can remain. Some maintenance work may be required: discussions are ongoing between the District Council and the chosen contractor as to what is appropriate, if anything.

61/21 COVID-19: update on village response/impacts

There were no significant local developments to report with regard to the current pandemic.

62/21 Village mowing

The new contractor began mowing the verges and Recreation Ground at the end of March. Please let the Clerk know if there are any issues: a few minor glitches can probably be expected in the first few months of the contract but all those spoken to have been very positive about McCracken and Son's first visit.

63/21 New dog waste collection contractor

A private contractor has now taken over emptying of the village dog bins. Please let the Clerk know if there are any issues relating to the bins, which should be emptied every Monday. The first collection appears to have been performed flawlessly. SODC continues to be responsible for the bin on the Grove footpath which has recently been replaced.

64/21 Community Resilience and Community Emergency Plan

A 4x4 driver has been lost from the plan with the departure of the previous residents of The Priory. The Clerk will ask the new residents of The Priory if their 4x4 can be made available and their details included in the plan.

65/21 School parking

There have been several further reports of inconsiderate and unsafe parking at school drop-off and pick-up times. The school has been contacted, and the Neighbourhood Policing team has made an initial enforcement visit. All parties will continue to liaise to hopefully help improve matters in the long-term.

66/21 Excess speeds in Milton Common (A40 east of A329)

Speed monitoring by Oxfordshire County Council has confirmed an issue with excess vehicle speeds on the A40 east of the A329 in Milton Common. The Parish Council is investigating the purchase of electronic signage to notify motorists of their speed, and Thames Valley Police is looking to include this location on its camera van rota. A meeting is scheduled with OCC Highways' local representative with a view to discussing potential measures on the highway that will hopefully help to reduce average speeds.

67/21 Suggested proposals for village event on Saturday June 12th

The Parish Council has expressed concerns to the organisers regarding the event planned for Saturday June 12th, particularly over the chosen date and measures to ensure that it is 'Covid secure'. However discussions have allayed these concerns and the Parish Council is delighted to support the event which will involve stalls, entertainment and children's activities largely on the village green areas. Further details and publicity will follow in due course.

68/21 Vacancy for Parish Councillor

Having notified SODC of the casual vacancy following the resignation of Peter Fewell the Parish Council has now been advised that it can look to fill the position by co-option. A candidate has expressed an interest and the Parish Council is following up on this.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.

Due to the conclusion on 7 May of the regulations which allow virtual meetings, the next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held earlier in the month than usual, on Wednesday 5 May 2021 and immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which will start at 7pm. All are welcome to attend via the published Zoom link.

Signed
