

# Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr T Darch

Email: [contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)

Website: [www.great-milton.co.uk](http://www.great-milton.co.uk)

## Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council

held virtually via video conference on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm.

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

**In Attendance:** Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC) and Tim Darch (Clerk)

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**

### 01/21 Apologies for Absence

All councillors were present at the meeting.

### 02/21 Variation of order of business

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

### 03/21 Declarations of member's Interest (if any)

No declarations of interest were received in matters on the Agenda.

### 04/21 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. Caroline Newton circulated a lengthy monthly report which is available on the Parish Council website:

<https://www.great-milton.co.uk/community/great-milton-parish-council-18553/meetings-2021/>

### 05/21 Correspondence and Public Discussion

No correspondence was received which is not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

### 06/21 Planning Applications

No planning applications or decisions have been received since the last meeting.

### 07/21 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held virtually on Monday 14th December 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### 08/21 Financial Resolutions

A The following cheques were authorised for payment, to be physically signed along with associated invoices subsequent to this meeting:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £504.65

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production January. £189

Website hosting January (reimbursement to Clerk). £19.99

Recreation Ground Annual Maintenance Grant: £400

B The latest monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements were received and approved. The current account balance as at 7 January was £39,337.55.

**09/21 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand**

- An appeal has been submitted in response to SODC's decision to refuse reduction works to the degree nearby residents believe is necessary to the silver birch tree close to the school. If the appeal is dismissed reduction will still be possible, but at a reduced level as recommended by SODC's forestry officer. A decision is awaited.
- It has been recommended by a tree surgeon that the two large trees on the bank between The Great House and Romeyns Court should be removed due to potential weakness in some areas. This opinion has been confirmed by three potential contractors who have submitted costings for the work. A contractor has been selected, and residents living adjacent and nearby will be advised of progress as it continues: although the trees are not subject to TPOs they are in a conservation area so the proposal will require approval from the planning authority.

**10/21 COVID-19: update on village response/impacts**

Residents are reminded to continue to follow government guidance. The Parish Clerk is happy to receive requests for assistance from those shielding or isolating and to pass these on as appropriate. **A reminder from SODC to always wash/disinfect your hands and your bins after collections are made: the refuse teams handle many items during the course of a round, which presents an obvious potential transmission risk.**

**11/21 Village mowing**

Costings have been sought from three potential contractors for mowing the village greens and verges for the next two years.

**12/21 Proposed move to new dog waste collection contractor**

Notice has been given to SODC for the emptying of dog waste bins: a private contractor will take over from April, at around half of the quoted cost of continued provision by SODC (although this is still five times more than SODC's charge of two years ago).

**13/21 Proposed road closure, Lower End/Sworford Lane, June 2021**

Advice has been received from Oxfordshire County Council of a two-day road closure of Sworford Lane from April Cottage to a point close to Lower End from June 21st to 23rd. The suggested alternative route sends all traffic to and from Wheatley via Windmill Hill and The Forties: use of The Forties for significant volumes of traffic in both directions raises concerns over safety and the impact on this single-track road for the period of the closure, along with the risk of damage to vehicles using the severely rutted pull-ins and potential subsequent claims to OCC as the highway authority. The Clerk will speak to the officer named on the closure notice to seek a potential alternative, possibly routing traffic via Little Milton instead and/or closing The Forties for the duration.

**14/21 Kate Dawson OBE**

Kate Dawson was awarded an OBE for Services to Business in the Queen's New Year Honours List. Kate grew up in Great Milton and is the daughter of Maurice and Pat Dawson who have lived in Tinker's Cottage since 1963. The Parish Council would like to extend its hearty congratulations to Kate, Maurice, Pat and family.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

***The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council is currently scheduled to be held virtually on Monday February 15th starting at 7.30pm.***

**SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_