

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 16th March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Present: Cllrs S Harrod (Chairman), W Fox (Vice-Chairman) and C Deacon.

In Attendance: Tim Darch (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

31/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received in advance from Cllrs G Bennet, M Horsley, P Fewell and P Allen, along with Councillor Caroline Newton (SODC).

32/20 Variation of order of business

Discussion of items 41/20 and 45/20 was brought forward for the convenience of members of the public who had attended the meeting.

33/20 Declarations of member's interest

Councillor Deacon declared an interest in Item 36/20, and specifically planning application P20/S0578/FUL (6 Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7HY) as it relates to his own property.

34/20 Matters to Report

The County Councillor's and District Councillor's monthly updates were received by the meeting and can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

35/20 Correspondence and Public Discussion

An e-mail has been received from a member of the public supporting various initiatives to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists in the parish, including the suggested footpath along Sworford Lane, making Sworford Lane one-way with one carriageway devoted to pedestrians and cycling (as put to OCC last month), traffic calming on Sworford Lane and a 20mph limit in the village. This communication was considered as part of Item 41/20.

36/20 Planning Applications

A The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:
P20/S0598/HH and P20/S0599/LB (1 Monkerly Farm, Church Road, Great Milton OX44 7PB).
Removal of geodesic dome, replacement with car port/store with study in roof.
After consultation with neighbours no strong objections were received to this proposal, and it was AGREED that the Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS.

P20/S0773/LB (Monkerly Barn, 1 Monkerly Farm, Church Road Great Milton OX44 7PB).
Concealment of an opening on the south boundary wall with obscure fixed glass.
After consultation with neighbours no strong objections were received to this proposal, and it was AGREED that the Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS.

P20/S0578/FUL (6 Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7HY). New detached dwelling on infill plot next to 6 Thame Road.
Detailed discussions on this application were not possible given insufficient numbers of councillors subsequent to Cllr Deacon's withdrawal.

B The following planning decisions received were considered:
P19/S4694/FUL (11, Ashurst Court, London Road Wheatley OX33 1ER). Alterations to building to provide meeting room. Planning permission is GRANTED for the proposed development.

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). Planning permission is GRANTED for the proposed development.

Planning application for small power generation facility at Wheatley

Planning permission has been granted for a small power generation facility in Wheatley, close to the M40 near to Wheatley Farm Stores. Concerns about lack of consultation or with Great Milton Parish Council (the parish boundary is at Wheatley Bridge) and the risk of this decision setting a precedent for the ongoing application at Lobb Farm have been expressed to SODC, but in response reassurances have been received to the effect that the significant differences in scale and location mean that the two applications are not comparable and will be evaluated on their own merits.

37/20 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th February 2020 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

38/20 Financial Resolutions

A The following payments were authorised and cheques signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £434.90

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production February. £264.50

OALC membership 2020-21. £153.26

PCC annual grass cutting grant 2020-21. £600

ICO data protection fee 2020-21. £40

B The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements were all received and signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 5 March was £27,275.88.

39/20 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

There is nothing to report that is not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

40/20 School parking update

An update will be sought from the school on the success or otherwise of the parking trial in time for the April meeting. Initial reports are that at least one parent is making use of one of the driveways that have been offered for use.

41/20 Pedestrian and cycle access 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 for their feedback. OCC has raised several concerns about the proposal, including whether there is the required road width for a two-way pedestrian/cycle facility while still accommodating larger vehicles on the vehicle carriageway, how segregation would be safely managed (white lines possibly insufficient, white blocks or other more 'invasive' methods possibly not suitable for an unlit road), one-way roads encouraging higher vehicle speeds, along with concerns over management of displaced traffic, length of required diversions and the cost and practicality of modelling the proposal.

A member of the public stated that although a path along Sworford Lane may be too costly, a 20mph limit in the village may be an option, especially in conjunction with a 30mph limit on Sworford Lane. Cllr Harrod stated that an issue with regular excess speeds above 30mph in the village would need to be proven: on Sworford Lane this would need to be proven above 60mph. Cllr Harrod agreed that the formal path idea is too costly to pursue, but that an informal path may be possible if local landowners are happy to mow a strip on the edge of their fields: the member of the public offered to approach landowners to assess their willingness to create permissive paths on their land where they don't already exist alongside Sworford Lane.

42/20 New bus service

Red Rose service 275 (High Wycombe-Chinnor-Milton Common-Oxford) began serving Great Milton village on Monday 24 February. Initial uptake has been encouraging and positive feedback has been received, but steady usage is required to ensure the viability of the diversion and hopefully encourage enhanced provision.

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43/20 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. Please meet outside The Old Garage, where equipment will be distributed: if the event is to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak, updates will be transmitted via the village website.

44/20 Donation requests

Donation requests were considered from Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice, which reportedly advised 47 Great Milton residents in 2018-19, Home Start Southern Oxfordshire, which supports vulnerable families with a child under 5 across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse and Cleanslate, which provides long-term emotional support for survivors of abuse in Oxfordshire and aims to encourage individuals to explore their own mental health needs and adopt coping strategies for long term recovery. It was agreed to donate £100 to OSAVCA given its proven benefit to a significant number of Great Milton residents, £50 to Home Start and £50 to Cleanslate.

45/20 Coronavirus update

It has been suggested that a means for people to be supported during the current Coronavirus outbreak should be explored. A database of vulnerable people already exists: this is currently being updated, and it was suggested that the 'Viral Kindness' form recently publicised in the national press may be a good device by which to offer assistance. A piece seeking volunteers and explaining the proposed scheme will appear in the April Bulletin.

Procedural amendments are being suggested by local government 'trade bodies' at county and national level to ensure that parish council business can carry on when limited numbers of available councillors may ordinarily mean that meetings are not 'quorate', and therefore cannot take place. These amendments will mean that essential functions can continue, even without meetings if they are impractical or such gatherings are suspended. The Parish Council will ensure that its statutory duties are fulfilled but the current circumstances may mean that prioritisation is necessary. Any significant changes will be communicated to residents via the usual channels.

46/20 VE Day

It now appears likely that any village events that would have been scheduled for the weekend of 8th, 9th and 10th May to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day will not take place.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 20 April starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion. The Annual Parish Meeting is also currently scheduled for this date: this may be rescheduled depending on advice received.

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