

# Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr T Darch

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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 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllrs S Harrod (Chairman), W Fox (Vice-Chairman), P Allen, C Deacon, P Fewell and M Horsley.

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

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**

#### **84/20 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received in advance from Cllr George Bennet.

#### **85/20 Variation of order of business**

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

#### **86/20 Declarations of member's Interest (if any)**

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

#### **87/20 Matters to Report**

Ad hoc updates from the County Councillor and District Council are currently being regularly received: these are being cascaded to residents as a matter of course. A written monthly report from the District Councillor was received by the meeting.

Councillor Newton also reported that SODC will overspend by £500k this year, and there is likely to be an in-year budget in October: however with healthy reserves this is likely to determine how much of these will be used. A council tax increase is unlikely at the moment.

The Examination in Public of SODC's Local Plan has begun. The application for Chalgrove is unlikely to be determined until it has been decided whether or not the site will be in the Local Plan. There is little mention of roads and highway infrastructure in the Chalgrove application: as a result the Planning Committee may refuse it, as OCC cannot support it without consideration of these items.

The potential creation of a unitary authority for Oxfordshire to replace the current two-tier model is under consideration at a high level. Central government favours this approach, the question is more how quickly it could happen (possibly as early as May 2021). Cllr Harrod reported that councillors are working proactively on the matter, and are keen to have an input to the outcome rather than have something imposed upon them.

SODC is looking to return people to work in their offices, prioritising those who are having difficulties working at home. However this is against a backdrop of limited space (of 440 people only 120 can be accommodated with necessary social distancing) and the possible need to leave the Milton Park office due to termination of the lease, with further uncertainties about where the authority could relocate to.

#### **88/20 Correspondence and Public Discussion**

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

#### **89/20 Planning Applications**

A The following planning applications received from SODC was considered:

P20/S2134/O (Chalgrove Airfield Chalgrove OX44 7RJ)

Outline Planning Application for Residential-led mixed use development comprising the following elements with all Matters reserved, except Access, as shown on the Land Use and Access Parameter Plan, Building Heights Parameter Plan and the floorspace outlined on the Parameter Schedule, comprising: . 3,000 homes (C3) including up to 300 homes in C2 use; . Two 2FE primary schools (D1) on sites each of 2.22 hectares; . An 8FE secondary school including a 300 pupil sixth form College (D1) on a site of 10.55 hectares, including formal

sports pitches; . 5 hectares of land for employment uses within classes B1, B2 and B8, and retention of existing business uses; . Partial removal of existing runways and periphery and construction of a single new main runway, associated taxiways and hard standing, arboricultural management including felling, lopping and pruning of trees; . A Town Centre accommodating uses within classes A1-A5, B1, C2, C3, D1 and D2; . Additional floorspace, outside of the Town Centre, including uses within classes A1-A5, B1, D1 and D2; . At least 30 hectares of public open space, including playing fields, parks and gardens, amenity space, civic space, allotments/community orchards including storage buildings, green corridors, play areas, semi-natural/natural open space and drainage attenuation; . 3 Gypsy and Traveller pitches, and associated hardstanding; . Realignment of the B480 to include formation of new vehicular connections to the existing B480, including alterations to part of the existing B480 to form a green lane.

Councillors expressed concerns about whether Chalgrove not being approved would make development at Harrington more likely. Cllr Harrod believed that Harrington being added to the Local Plan instead of Chalgrove was unlikely at this stage, but that it could potentially be added to a future plan or come forward as a possible development corporation project (though there are no development corporations in this area at present). There are also numerous other sites that could be considered instead, and local opposition to Harrington from John Howell MP. Concerns were also expressed about the poor quality of road and public transport infrastructure at Chalgrove: although funding has been offered by Homes England for mitigation measures at Stadhampton and Chiselhampton there is nothing proposed for Little Milton or Cuxham, either to deal with construction traffic during the period of development (likely to be 13 years-plus) or the significant number of additional vehicle movements once complete.

It was AGREED that Cllr Harrod would submit a response to the Chalgrove application to SODC on behalf of the Parish Council. Additionally the Parish Council will produce and deliver a leaflet to all homes in the village along with a covering letter, to ensure that all residents are fully informed and able to submit their own responses should they wish to.

B No planning decisions have been received since the last meeting, and there were no outstanding planning matters to consider.

**90/20 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held virtually on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings and were signed by the chairman on camera.

**90/20 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held virtually on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings, to be physically signed subsequent to the meeting.

**91/20 Financial Resolutions**

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

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses July and August (no meeting August). £501.01/£489.89

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production July. £95.80

Green and Growing. Village mowing June. £276

Gillett and Johnston. Annual church clock service. £206.40

SODC dog hygiene 1 April – 30 June. £269.10

B The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements were received, signed and approved by the meeting. The reconciled bank balance as at 6 July was £36,449.11. With regard to parish council funds, concerns were raised about the potential for the non-payment of council tax to affect full settlement of the second half of the parish precept. The Clerk has asked Cllr Caroline Newton to look into this.

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C To note the impending conclusion of the Exercise of Public Rights period (during which the Parish Council's accounts can be freely examined) on Friday 24 July. No requests to view the Parish Council's unaudited accounts or associated documents had been received at the time of writing.

D To note the receipt of the refund of £1140.72 VAT incurred between April 1 2019 and March 31 2020.

## 92/20 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

- It has been reported that one of the water troughs at the allotment has been slow to fill for some time: the stopcock could not be located, which made it difficult to resolve the issue. A local resident has now located the stopcock and repaired the trough: the Parish Council is grateful for his help.
- A Saturday return journey will be added to the 275 bus service timetable from the first weekend in September. Journeys will operate as per the Monday to Friday timetable: this new facility will hopefully be well received and well used.
- Tree branches that are fouling telephone lines near the Great House on Church Road and power lines on Lower End/Sworford Lane are due to be trimmed shortly.

## 93/20 Proposed revisions to the Great Milton village website

27 responses from the survey seeking opinions on the Great Milton website have been received. Changes to improve accessibility have also been made: thanks to Carina Martin for orchestrating this.

Cllr Deacon outlined the questions asked in the survey, and the responses received. In summary although many people were appreciative there were some comments about the layout of the site and the currency and nature of the information it carried. The site also currently caters mainly for villagers and should maybe be more inviting to people from outside the village. Many sensible and useful suggestions have been received: they will all be considered as part of the redesign process, along with the layout, content and usability of the site. It was AGREED to further investigate a managed solution for the website with a view to engaging an external provider, and to look to embrace the redesign as part of this process.

## 94/20 The Bulletin

The potential for resumption of a full print run and door-to-door delivery of The Bulletin from October was discussed. It was AGREED to defer a decision until the September meeting so that the pandemic situation at the time can be considered.

## 95/20 COVID-19: update on village response/impacts

It was AGREED to ring-fence the £500 received from SODC for the village's Covid response for potential future use.

***The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council is currently scheduled to be held virtually on Monday September 21st starting at 7.30pm. There is no meeting in August but the Parish Clerk remains available to deal with any issues or concerns.***

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_