

Great Milton Parish Council

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10th June 2020

To the Chairman and members of Great Milton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council

held virtually via video conference on Monday 15th June 2020 at 7.30pm.

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

In Attendance: Tim Darch (Clerk), Michael Tyce (Chairman, Waterstock Parish Meeting), Judith Jones (Director, Witherslack Group).

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

73/20 Apologies for Absence

All councillors attended the meeting.

74/20 Variation of order of business

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

75/20 Declarations of member's Interest (if any)

There were no declarations of interest in matters dealt with on the Agenda.

76/20 Matters to Report

Ad hoc updates from the County Council 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.

77/20 Correspondence and Public Discussion

Michael Tyce (Chairman, Waterstock Parish Meeting) addressed the meeting regarding proposals for a distribution and warehousing centre potentially employing up to 3,500 people on the site of Waterstock Golf Course, and the suggestion that a campaign group including Waterstock, Great Milton and Tiddington villages be established to represent shared concerns with the proposed development. The proposed site will cover 200 acres, though there is an option on 300 acres of nearby agricultural land which could bring it to 500 acres, 2/3 the area of Thame. The significant concerns of Waterstock Parish Meeting relate to significantly increased vehicle and HGV movements on the A418 and the surrounding road network and the change of land use in the Green Belt from green recreational land to an industrial site, generating significantly increased CO2 emissions. Judith Jones, representing the Chilworth schools opposite the golf course, shared Mr Tyce's concerns, with particular regard to issues with pupil and parent safety that may result from significantly increased traffic on the A418.

Cllr Fewell asked about reports that the land was contaminated. Mr Tyce reported that some contamination had been discovered in the waste used to construct the golf course, and that despite a court order to remove the waste this had not been actioned and it was too costly a task for OCC as the waste authority to take on. Cllr Horsley questioned whether an alternative proposal for something more lucrative than the reportedly little-used golf course (perhaps a hotel) may be more palatable to the landowners. Mr Tyce said that he couldn't second-guess either the landowners' or SODC's view on that prospect.

In response to a suggestion that it was unlikely that large sites like this and Harrington would be included in the Local Plan despite playing on the requirement for a local and national economy boost, Mr Tyce felt that some sites currently in the Local Plan may be thrown out. The planning inspector would then have to consider the consequences: although he would not be able to put sites into the plan himself, it may put pressure on SODC to do so.

After some further discussion it was AGREED unanimously to support Waterstock Parish Meeting in their campaign against the suggested proposal for a distribution and warehousing centre on the site of Waterstock Golf Course. Cllr Harrod requested that Michael Tyce keep in touch with the Parish Council regarding any developments.

78/20 Planning Applications

A No planning applications have been received from SODC since the last meeting.

B The following outstanding planning matters were discussed
The Parish Council has become aware of application P20/S0595/FUL Land to the East side of Junction 8a, M40, Waterstock, Oxfordshire, for 3 mobile homes, registered on the 12th March 2020, having received no notification in March when it was originally deposited. The clerk has asked SODC via Cllr Caroline Newton why the Parish Council was not advised of the application or consulted on it as a neighbouring parish.

79/20 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held virtually on Monday 18th May 2020 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

80/20 Financial Resolutions

A The following cheques for payment were approved to be physically signed along with associated invoices subsequent to the meeting:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £488.34

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production June. £98.20

Green and Growing. Village mowing April/May. £372/£966

Community Heartbeat Trust. Annual Maintenance Contract. £162

Three Villages Car Scheme insurance premium. £42

Castle Water. Allotment supply. £23.24.

B The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements were received and approved. The reconciled bank balance as at 3 June was £37,428.97.

C The submission of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 3 for the year ending 31st March 2020 was noted.

D The commencement of the Exercise of Public Rights period was noted, during which the Parish Council's accounts can be freely examined. This period begins on Monday 15 June and concludes on Friday 24 July.

E The submission of the application for the refund of £1140.72 VAT incurred between April 1 2019 and March 31 2020 was noted.

81/20 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

- Having been notified by SODC of increased costs for dog bin emptying from £0.77 to £3 (2020-21) then £6 (2021-22) per collection, alternative options have been investigated. However of the two companies contacted one was not interested and another charged £5.40 per bin, significantly more than this year's cost. After discussion, it was AGREED that the removal of dog bins to reduce costs seemed a backwards step for village hygiene, and that an appropriate increase in the precept request will be sought to cover the cost of SODC continuing to empty the existing bins.

- A local resident has kindly offered to refurbish the noticeboard near the shop. The project is now complete: the wood has been stained and protected, the engraved upper section replaced and the Perspex windows renewed, giving the board a new lease of life and saving the Parish Council a significant sum. The board at Milton Common is also being refurbished. Many thanks to the resident concerned for their time, enthusiasm and expertise.

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- Overgrown 'vision splays' at all junctions have recently been mowed by OCC.

82/20 Proposed revisions to Great Milton village website

A survey has been published seeking opinions on the Great Milton website with a view to some amendments and improvements while looking to comply with forthcoming changes to accessibility legislation. A link to the survey appears on the website and in the July Bulletin, and has been circulated to those who receive e-mail updates. The initial response rate has been encouraging: all suggestions will be considered.

83/20 COVID-19: update on village response/impacts

Financial contributions from the Parish Council towards the Covid-19 volunteer effort were discussed. The £500 donated from Cllr Caroline Newton's Covid fund was intended to support Laura Putt's 'care packages': however these have ceased for the time being so it was agreed to direct these funds instead to the Kent and Couling Charity, with the suggestion that they are 'earmarked' for Covid-related support for the time being. The Parish Council will consider further support should it be necessary, and will continue to monitor the financial situation via the organisers of the Great Milton Against Coronavirus response.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council is currently scheduled to be held virtually on Monday July 20th starting at 7.30pm.

SIGNED _____