

Great Milton Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council

held at the Pavilion, Great Milton on Monday 21st March 2022

Present: Cllrs W Fox (Vice-Chair), P Allen, G Bennet, C Deacon and D Harms.

In Attendance: Tim Darch (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

30/22 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received in advance from Cllrs Steve Harrod and Caroline Newton.

31/22 Variation of order of business

Discussion of Item 42/22 was brought forward for the convenience of those present.

32/22 Declarations of members' interests

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

33/22 Matters to report

Reports were received from the County and District Councillors: these appear on the parish council's website. Cllr Fox observed that reported progress on the proposed development of circa 3000 homes at Grenoble Road hopefully meant a reduction in the chances of development at Harrington.

34/22 Correspondence and public discussion

No correspondence has been received this month other than that relating to matters dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

35/22 Planning applications

A The following planning applications received from SODC were considered.

P22/S0613/FUL (Bentley House London Road Milton Common). Demolition of existing car repair workshop and erection of replacement commercial building comprising 4 units, with associated works including access, parking and landscaping. Amendments to planning approval P20/S3158/FUL to reduced permitted eaves height to 5.4m and install 1.8m high fence and landscaping enclosure to the front of the site. Details submitted to reword conditions 3,4,5 and 6 of P20/S3158/FUL to allow development to be undertaken in accordance with submitted details and to remove condition 11 relating to construction being undertaken in accordance with BREEAM excellent standard.

This application was reviewed by Cllr Allen. The application is for a car workshop that is approximately three to four times the size of the existing building on the site. SODC has already approved the application, this being a variation to various aspects including building height and landscaping. Having already objected to this application in its original form, after brief discussion it was AGREED to reiterate the original objections, but to note the minor amendments which may generate a small improvement in the appearance of the development.

B The following planning decisions received and outstanding planning matters were considered. P21/S5363/LB (The Old Stores, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NT). Removal of mid/late C19 sash windows with plate glass to be replaced with new sash windows with original details and heritage slimline glazing to the front façade. Permission GRANTED.

36/22 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the February meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 21st February 2021, were received, reviewed and approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

37/22 Financial resolutions

- A The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:
Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £808.53 (*includes £200 GMPC bonus agreed at Item 28/22 and backdated national salary increment for 2021-22 of £99.68*)
Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production March. £tbc
Shield Solutions. Dog bin emptying February. £62.40
St Mary's Church annual grass cutting grant. £600
Recreation Ground annual maintenance grant. £400
ALCC annual membership renewal. £50
OALC annual membership renewal. £162.70
ICO data protection fee. £40
Oxford Green Belt Network. £15
Green and Growing: removal of storm-damaged trees at allotments. £264
Website support February. £19.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)
BT Office/e-mail package. £10.80 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)
- B The latest monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received. Considered and approved. The reconciled bank balance as at 4 March 2022 was £45,756.45.
- C To note an increase in the Clerk's salary following a national salary agreement from £11.53 to £11.73 per hour from 1 April 2021. The backdated pay increase has been paid this month, and ongoing salary payments will be at the new rate from April.

38/22 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

- The zig-zag markings outside the school have been re-marked and the road resurfaced to facilitate this.
- The vehicle-activated signs in Milton Common warning speeding drivers to slow down will be installed shortly, now that the poles upon which they will be mounted have been erected.
- Fallen barbed wire exposed by the recent tree works at the top of the 'Manoir Field' has been removed: thanks have been expressed to the Manoir team for this.
- The significant volume of brambles on the section of Fullers Field closest to Thame Road has been removed by SOHA. Thanks to local residents for their part in this improvement.
- The litterpick on Saturday 19th was successful and well-attended: many thanks to all who attended and who helped to collect around 20 bags of litter. The Parish Council now has its own litter-picking equipment: if anyone would like to borrow a picker, hoop and hi-viz jacket, or look after a set for regular use, please get in touch with the Clerk.

39/22 COVID-19: update on village response/impacts

Although it was initially proposed that this item should be removed from future agendas, all present agreed that in light of the recent surge in Covid cases this item should continue to be raised at future meetings for the time being. No specific local issues were reported that have not been covered nationally.

40/22 20mph zone

There are no further developments to report on progress towards a 20mph zone.

41/22 Tree outside 'Stonefield', Lower End

A sycamore tree which straddles the verge outside 'Stonefield' (Lower End, opposite Pitts Green) has been added to the parish council's tree inventory, and will be included in its inspection and maintenance regime going forward.

42/22 Security in the village

Thames Valley Police have been contacted with a view to providing security guidance in light of recent criminal activity in and around the village. A selection of leaflets have been supplied, which will be placed in the shop, Neighbours' Hall and the Pavilion. Additionally, representatives of the Community Policing Team will be in attendance at **the Pavilion on Saturday 23 April and Saturday 16 July (1000-1400)** to meet residents, provide advice and respond to concerns.

The forthcoming Bulletin will include a piece by the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, introducing themselves, seeking additional volunteers and providing advice. A Neighbourhood Watch page has also been created on the village website, with links to useful electronic documents and web content.

It was also suggested by a representative of the Neighbourhood Watch group that there should be a Neighbourhood Watch stall at the Church Fete on Saturday 11th June. This was unanimously supported by councillors. It was also suggested that various services (for example 'Smartwater' marking) could be offered at the fete. Discussions will continue as regards the best way to utilise a stall should one be available.

43/22 Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

The evolving plans for celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the long weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June were discussed. Various issues were raised, not least the scheduling of the Tug-of-War on the previous weekend and the Church Fete the weekend after, resulting in a glut of village events and a consequent reduction in available people to assist with organising any Jubilee-related celebrations, coupled with many people being away from the village that weekend. Various options have been considered, but after lengthy discussion it was agreed to pursue the possibility of a 'community picnic' on the Recreation Ground on Sunday 5th (pending the agreement of the Rec Committee), with the suggestion that other informal events could take place at The Bull (pending the agreement of management and staff). Discussions will continue, and further details will be communicated in due course.

44/22 Clerk's remuneration for the coming financial year 2022-23

The Clerk's salary for the coming year was discussed. Following a proposal by Cllr Allen it was AGREED to pay the Clerk for an additional hour a week (10.5 hours) from 1 April 2022, to reflect the hours actually being worked on council business.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held at the Pavilion on Tuesday 19th April 2022 (a day later than usual due to the Bank Holiday), immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.30pm and to which all are welcome.

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