

Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr T Darch

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Website: www.great-milton.co.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held on Monday 20th January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

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

In Attendance: Tim Darch (Clerk), Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC) and 3 members of the public.

01/20 **Apologies for Absence**

All councillors were present for this meeting.

02/20 **Variation of order of business**

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

03/20 **Declarations of member's Interest (if any)**

Cllr Peter Fewell declared an interest in Item 06/20, and specifically Planning Application P19/S2605/FUL (Mount Pleasant Farm, Thame Road, Great Milton). The land upon which the proposed housing will be constructed is partly owned by Cllr Fewell.

04/20 **Matters to Report**

The County Councillor's and District Councillor's monthly reports were received by the meeting and can be viewed on the 'Meetings 2020' page of the Parish Council website. The key points from Caroline Newton were that SODC's budget will be set on 31 January, then go to Scrutiny Committee on 13 February. Following the decision from the Secretary of State ordering the District not to progress further with its Local Plan it has not been discussed or considered in any way. Plan-making powers may be passed to OCC, after which it is likely to be inspected as it would have been anyway. A formal merger of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils is still possible: this may present opportunities for cost savings, along with a one-off increase in council tax. A unitary council for all of Oxfordshire is also a possibility, but there is some doubt as to where Oxford City would 'sit' in this arrangement.

05/20 **Correspondence and Public Discussion**

An e-mail has been received from a resident of Milton Common detailing issues resulting from construction work at Milton Common, including obstruction of the footway, noise and mess. This has been reported to SODC's planning enforcement officer who has advised that most issues are not matters that the Planning Department of the District Council is able to deal with. Advice has been relayed as to the appropriate agencies to contact, which in most cases are Environmental Health or the police.

Residents once again raised the issue of parking on the bend at the bottom of Lower End, which continues to cause concern. After discussion of the possibility of yellow lines, asking problem vehicles to park elsewhere and a reminder that OCC was not of the opinion that there was a safety risk at this location it was once again determined that there is no straightforward solution to this matter. It is hoped that residents will approach this corner with care from both directions, and that those unfamiliar with the area will heed the speed limit in the area.

06/20 **Planning Applications**

A The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P19/S4652/DIS, for development work at the following location: The Old Stores The Green Great Milton. Discharge of conditions 2(joinery) & 3(glass) on application P19/S2743/LB. (Replace cracked and damaged single glazing with slim/heritage glazing in two bay windows).
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: NO CONSULTATION ON DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS.

P19/S4694/FUL (Unit 11, Ashurst Court, London Road Wheatley). Alterations to building to provide meeting room.

After brief review it was agreed that there were NO OBJECTIONS to this application given the nature of development proposed.

P19/S2605/FUL (Mount Pleasant Farm Thame Road Great Milton). As per amended plans and additional information received 08 January 2020.

Cllr Bennet stated that the latest amendment largely takes account of the views of the Forestry Officer, along with small changes to garage and parking arrangements. A neighbouring resident noted that the houses had been made smaller and that the proposed development is now realistic as regards being an appropriate size for the plot available. However, it was also noted that the 'red line' extends all the way to the carriageway: the ownership of the verge should be questioned by the planning authority prior to a decision being made on planning permission. A request was received for support in requesting a planning condition for reinforcement to the hedge along Chilworth Road, to ensure that existing biodiversity is retained subsequent to construction. The Parish Council agreed with this suggestion, and agreed that its position as before was that it had NO OBJECTIONS but with comments to be considered, which will be relayed to the District Council.

- B No planning decisions have been received since the last meeting of the Parish Council. Caroline Newton relayed news that the travellers site appeal in Tetsworth has been rejected, largely on the grounds of measures to mitigate noise from the M40 being deemed ineffective.

07/20 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th December 2019 were received and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

08/20 Financial Resolutions

- A The following payments were authorised and cheques signed:
Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses December. £436.90
Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production January. £236.50

- B The latest monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received and signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 7th January was £28,018.07.

09/20 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

There were no updates to relay other than those relating to items dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

10/20 School parking update

The Clerk will once again attempt to make contact with the school to get a trial of the proposed driveway parking scheme up and running.

11/20 Path along Sworford Lane from Great Milton to Wheatley

Peter Challis from Sustrans visited Great Milton before Christmas for initial discussions about a possible shared use path to Wheatley from the village. After discussion of potential routes it was agreed that a path on the 'field' side of the hedges along Sworford Lane and following the alignment of the road was likely to be the optimal solution for a number of reasons, not least avoidance of the flood plain of the River Thame. Peter advised that informal discussions with landowners along the potential route should be the first step in proceedings: initial contact will be made shortly to this end.

A relatively small amount of Section 106 funding (around £25,000) will become available from development in Milton Common over the next year or so, but with a new bus service starting shortly a decision needs to be made on whether this should be used to help support continued/improved public transport in the future (if necessary), or to support the proposed path scheme. With no aspiration from Oxfordshire County Council for the creation of such a facility, sizeable external contributions will be required. The cost of such a scheme based upon similar projects elsewhere and including a sum for contingency is estimated to be £250,000 to £300,000: this excludes the cost of land purchase or lease. All present were of the opinion that unfortunately this was likely to be unaffordable.

An alternative option was suggested by Cllr Bennet which involved making Sworford Lane one-way northbound from April Cottage, devoting the southbound carriageway to cycling and walking in both directions. Key benefits would be reduced speed of vehicles driving on Sworford Lane, a dedicated footpath reducing the risk of accidents, fewer vehicles entering

Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr T Darch

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Website: www.great-milton.co.uk

Great Milton (avoiding the blind corner/parked vehicles at Lower End), and a reduction in vehicle through traffic in Great Milton and 'cut-through' traffic on The Forties. This may be a lower-cost alternative to a path, but would still require new speed limits, road resurfacing, marking and signage, and additional safety features, along with the approval of Oxfordshire County Council for whom Sworford Lane is part of the highway asset. It is also understood that it may present practical issues for some residents, but is merely a suggestion: the Clerk will seek the County Council's view on the idea and relay any response received.

12/20 **New bus service**

Red Rose service 275 (High Wycombe-Chinnor-Milton Common-Oxford) will be diverted through Great Milton village from Monday 24 February. A journey to Oxford will serve the stop opposite the Post Office on Monday to Friday at 10.52, picking up before this on Thame Road and at The Green, and afterwards at Lower End (Potts Close), before heading to Wheatley (Park Hill), Headington and Oxford. The return journey will leave Oxford (High Street) at 14.35, arriving back in Great Milton at around 15.00. These journeys will initially operate on Monday to Friday only. **It is vital that this facility is used if it is to be retained!**

Although there is a sum of Section 106 money potentially available to support and maybe even improve the bus service in future, it was agreed that no commitment should be made until usage has been assessed.

The new service will be publicised in various ways, including via the Bulletin, the website and a banner on the village green if one can be produced quickly. It is hoped that the operator will also put up timetables at key stops: the Clerk is investigating this possibility.

13/20 **Maple Tree: donation request**

The annual request for a donation in the 2020-21 financial year towards the Maple Tree Children's Centre's operating costs was received and discussed, after which was agreed to pay the agreed annual sum of £500, a cheque for which will be written at the April meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 17th February starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

SIGNED _____