

Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council
held on Monday 19th December at 7.30pm in the Pavilion:

Present: Cllrs. S Harrod (Chair, County and District Councillor), B Fox (Vice Chair)
P Allen, C Deacon, P Fewell and G Harris.

In Attendance: Ms H Cherry (Clerk) Three members of the public.

150/16 Apologies for Absence
None

151/16 Variation of order of business
It was agreed to bring agenda item 11/16 'Maple Tree Children's Centre' forward and discuss after Correspondence and public discussion

152/16 Declarations of member's Interest (if any)
To receive declarations of interest in matters on the Agenda.

153/16 Matters to Report
Reports from Police and/or County / District Councillors (if in attendance).
Appendices 153/16

154/16 Correspondence and Public Discussion
To receive items of correspondence and take questions from the public.
Village bus
Now that the 103 bus service has ceased, it was resolved to enquire how residents are coping without the service. Cllr Harrod agreed to write a piece in the next edition of Great Milton bulletin and ask residents to let Cllr Peter Fewell know how they are coping without the bus service and what impact it has had.

155/16 Maple Tree Children's Centre
Maple tree Children's Centre presented a business plan to GMPC, they are seeking funding from local Parish Council and Businesses to remain open Since Oxford County Council announced its decision to reduce the support of 44 Children's centres in the county and 8 children and Family Centre Hubs located in rural locations. It was RESOLVED that GMPC are in support of Maple Tree Children's Centre and will include funding towards the centre in their 2017/18 budget.

156/16 Planning Applications
A To give consideration to planning applications received from SODC:
It was RESOLVED that GMPC held NO STRONG VIEWS on Application Reference: P16/S4020/LB (Listed Building Consent) Application Type (see definition over): Other Proposal: Demolition and removal of existing dilapidated garage/storage building and replacement with new garage block Address: Monkey Puzzle Farm Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NL

It was RESOLVED to hold a separate planning meeting to review Application Reference: P16/S3980/FUL (Full Application) Application Type (see definition over): Other Proposal: Proposed conversion of agricultural building for commercial (B1) uses. Address: Heath Farm Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7JD



157/16 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21st November and Planning meeting held on 28th November.

158/16 Financial Resolutions

A To authorise cheques for payment:

Helen Cherry. Salary, Tax and Expenses. TBC

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production. £517.60

Mr C Putt. Village Maintenance £650

Cut hedge right back from Green Hitchings footpath, down the back of Fullers Field and Dispose of rubbish

Cllr Harrod. Reimburse payment for Community Christmas Tree & lights £76.60

SODC. Planning permission for Neighbours Hall. £22.50

B The draft budget for 2017/18 was reviewed in detail. It was noted that expenditure was in line with 2016/17 except for grants totalling £1,500 for the Maple Tree Children's Centre and/or a replacement bus service. Total income and expenditure on this basis amounted to £18,795 - an increase on the previous year of about £1,500. IT WAS RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE BUDGET FOR 2017/18.

C The level of precept for 2017/18 was discussed. It was agreed that the precept should be set at the level assumed in the draft budget, thus balancing income and expenditure. IT WAS RESOLVED TO SET THE PRECEPT AT £51.53 PER BAND D HOUSEHOLD, AN INCREASE OF 9.8%.

159/16 Parish Clerk and Cllr's update of matters in hand (taken from Action Monitoring Sheet)

Emergency Plan

several volunteers have come forward. The next step is to agree Committee members.

Pitts Lane

Unfortunately there has been no clarification of who owns Pitts Lane, Lower end, Great Milton. The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with Oxford County Council, Highways and Land Registry.

Lease of Land

The renewal of lease of land at Great Milton Primary School is currently with GMPC solicitors.

160/16 Village CCTV

Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons notified GMPC that they are currently investigating the cost of having CCTV installed on the main road passing their entrance.

161/16 Maple Tree Children's Centre

This item was brought forward to 155/16



162/16 Dates for Great Milton Parish Council meetings 2017

The dates for 2017 GMPC meetings were agreed. Due to Easter Monday landing on the third Monday of the month, the April Annual meeting will be changed to Tuesday 18th April 2017.

- 16th January
- 20th February
- 20th March
- 18th April (Tuesday)
- 15th May
- 19th June
- 17th July
- No meeting in August
- 18th September
- 16th October
- 20th November
- 18th December

The meeting closed at

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 16th January 2017 starting at 7:30pm in the Pavilion.

Signed:



APPENDICES

153/16

- County Council Report
- District Council Report
- Police Report

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

The County Council has proposed a single unitary council for the county, with Area Boards managing local affairs, based on existing District boundaries. This seems to me to be an extremely logical and workable solution to the impasse in which we find ourselves currently and I hope that District leaders will respond to this idea in a positive way to move forward the evolution of a new structure in local government for Oxfordshire – not forgetting the £100 million that could be saved over the next five years if this were to take place!

KEEP WARM KEEP WELL

Pharmacies across Oxfordshire will be providing people with free thermometers this winter to make sure their homes are warm enough to keep them well. Patients over 60 will be offered information cards, provided by OCC, when collecting prescriptions that will remind them one of the best ways to stay well during the winter is to stay warm, and advise them to have their home heated to at least 18°C. The free hot water bottle shaped card also feature a thermometer to test the temperature of their home to make sure it's warm enough. People with concerns about their heating bills will be advised to contact the Affordable Warmth Helpline on 0800 107 0044. The free helpline provided by an independent charity and funded by local councils offers free advice and guidance on reducing energy bills, heating homes efficiently and affordably, and available grants and financial assistance. For more information or advice on how to keep warm and well this winter visit

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/keepwarm

PLANS FOR REGIONAL AGENCY TO IMPROVE ADOPTION SERVICES

OCC is developing plans to transform its adoption services by joining forces with neighbouring councils. The aim is to create a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) for the Thames Valley to improve outcomes for both children and adopters – including the ability to match children with families more quickly and improve support services for adopters. It follows a Government paper setting out plans for all adoption services to be delivered through RAAs by 2020. OCC would be the host authority within a partnership known as Adopt Thames Valley, alongside six other councils (Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Swindon and Reading) and two Voluntary Adoption Agencies (PACT and Barnardos). All partners have begun work to develop the new shared service across the geographical area covered by the councils. The Government has advised that a grant of £300K will be made available to help set up the new service.

SHARED LIVES SERVICE RECEIVES GLOWING REPORT FROM INSPECTORS

Families across Oxfordshire who choose to share their lives and homes with adults in need of social care have been given high praise by inspectors. The Shared Lives service in Oxfordshire has been running for more than 25 years and involves those in need of care sharing the home of Oxfordshire residents who have been trained and approved as "shared lives households".

The Care Quality Commission inspected the service in Oxfordshire, which is managed, by OCC, 2. Parish Briefing Note – 07 December 2016 in early October. There were five key measures in the inspection judging whether the service was safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led and inspectors spoke to the county council, shared lives families/households and those receiving care. In every single category the CQC rated the Oxfordshire Shared Lives service as "good". The service supports people across all client groups from 16 upwards and the oldest person the scheme has supported was 103. There are usually around 120 people using the service at any one time - about 70 people live long term with Shared Lives Carers and the remainder have short breaks or a few hours support during the day. Training and vetting is undertaken very carefully before people/families qualify to become approved in the shared lives scheme.

OXFORD TRANSPORT CHARGING SCHEME STUDY TO BEGIN

A study is to be carried out to look at ways in which an ambitious package of transport measures for Oxford could be funded. OCC's Cabinet has approved a report which gives the go ahead for work to begin on an outline business case for a workplace parking levy scheme and investigate the opportunities for a congestion charging scheme – the first step in a process that will be kept under review and consulted widely on before any final decisions are taken.

OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

Plans to improve connectivity between Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire have been in development for several years. The focus is an 'Expressway' – a motorway-standard road – that would run east-west across part of southern England linking the A34 first to the M40 and then on to the M1. The plans received a boost in the recent 'Autumn Statement'. This initiative is driven by central Government, and OCC will have only consultee status. Details can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/571353/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway-strategic-study-stage-3-report.pdf

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards

Stephen Harrod

County Councillor

Chalgrove & Watlington Division

Oxfordshire County Council

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E:

Parish Notes for December 2016 from your District Councillor

SODC Parish Notes – 07 December 2016

Unitary local government

The County Council has proposed a single unitary council for the county, with Area Boards managing local affairs, based on existing District boundaries. This seems to me to be an extremely logical and workable solution to the impasse in which we find ourselves currently and I hope that District leaders will respond to this idea in a positive way to move forward the evolution of a new structure in local government for Oxfordshire – not forgetting the £100 million that could be saved over the next five years if this were to take place!

Planning Matters.

Didcot Garden Town is a major part of our plan for development in the District, offering a significant number of jobs and homes. During November residents, businesses and visitors to Didcot have been asked to share their best ideas for the future of the area at Didcot Garden Town drop-in events.

The drop-ins, were hosted by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, with the public getting their first opportunity to feedback on what they think the Garden Town should include.

The councils are keen to speak to as many people as possible and a new interactive website has been launched at www.didcotgardentown.co.uk. It allows people to pin their ideas, comments and suggestions for Didcot to a map of the town, as well as to see what other people are commenting on. Anyone living in Didcot and surrounding villages is urged to have their say.

Two new Neighbourhood Planning Officers

Preparation of a neighbourhood plan remains a high priority for towns and villages across the district. Whilst Simon Rowberry has now left us, as part of our commitment to support parishes through this process we are pleased to announce the appointment of two new Neighbourhood Planning Officers:

- Ricardo Rios:

starts 14 November 2016

- Rachael Riach:

starts 21 November 2016

Ricardo and Rachael can be contacted by email planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk or telephone 01235 422600.

We aim to support this team with further recruitment.

GLL seeks projects for funding initiative

GLL, our leisure management contractor, is supporting a crowdfunding initiative to encourage local people to be active. GLL is offering funding of up to £2,500, access to qualified instructors and coaches, use of its facilities, free activities and monthly membership discounts.

To be considered projects should get people active and improve their wellbeing such as revamping a playground, installing a zip-wire across a park or holding a mini Olympics in the high street! The benefits of the project should be enjoyed by people in public spaces and have a tangible result. It can be permanent (e.g. new football pitch) or temporary (e.g. an event). For more information email colin.williams@gll.org (South Oxfordshire projects).

Scrutiny

There were two Scrutiny Committee meetings this month.

The first was Joint with the Vale and we looked at the emerging Plan for improving how we communicate with our residents and Councils. Whilst Customer Satisfaction surveys show encouraging results, they do not cover those who might have responded if they hadn't 'missed' the offer of opportunity. The Plan is encouraging and we could generally endorse it with a few suggestions of our own, so it is now proceeding to the next stage in its development. The second meeting was specific to our District and was a review of the recently completed report on Graveyard availability. With a steadily rising population, the number of deaths will increase pressure on the availability of graveyards and, as a District, existing space is rapidly being used up. We have reviewed the report, and put forward a number of recommendations, including a more in depth analysis of the capacity at the local crematoria.

Reminder to encourage residents to sign up for newsletter

As mentioned above, we are keen to improve communications with resident and South News, the newsletter which includes information of interest to residents, is one of our initiatives. Please encourage residents to sign up for the newsletters which will be published every two months.

South News keeps residents in touch with news from the council, including the latest on planning and housing in South Oxfordshire, news on recycling collections and events at our leisure centres and Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot. To receive South News visit www.southoxon.gov.uk/southnews

Thame through to Great British High Street final

Thame has been named as one of the country's best high streets by being shortlisted in the Great British High Street competition. It is one of the top 3 in the Small Market Town category.

To be crowned champion, Thame town needed votes and there has been vigorous polling which has now closed and we await the announcement of the result with baited breath! Whether Thame wins or not will be announced on Monday 12th December, it is a fantastic achievement to reach the last three!

Raising awareness of domestic abuse

On 25th November, we worked with the local charity, Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse (RRDA), to support White Ribbon Day, the international day for the elimination of violence against women.

To mark the day, RRDA and our Community Safety team had been given permission by the district and county councils to stencil chalk messages relating to domestic abuse on pavements and car parks across South and Vale. The messages will include the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service's Helpline number 0800 731 0055 and RRDA website.

White Ribbon Day is only one day, but abuse occurs every day so please help spread the word that there is support for those who need it 24 hours a day every day, including Christmas Day.

Excellent police feedback about councils' CCTV

The latest quarterly report on the district councils' CCTV cameras highlights how we continue to positively support the police in tackling crime and helping vulnerable people in South Oxfordshire.

During quarter two, our CCTV operators monitored over 550 incidents across Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford. Their alerts to the police resulted in 24 arrests.

The police are very happy with the service we provide. A new aspect of the reports is a section setting out the results of the customer satisfaction survey we ask all police officers to complete when they have requested camera footage. According to the feedback we received between July and September they thought our CCTV staff were excellent in terms of being polite, professional and informative.

Food and Safety team in The News

Our Food and Safety team has been featured in the news twice in November. Firstly, in Environmental Health News, the professional body publication of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, the team featured for its part in the successful prosecution of a nursery in Marcham, fined £6,740 after mouse droppings were found in their kitchen, as well as the recovery of £1,280 in costs from a takeaway in Didcot after a hygiene emergency prohibition notice was served to prevent the use of food storage buildings.

Their second appearance in the news was regarding a Chinese takeaway in Thame which was fined after council officers found mice droppings during a routine food safety inspection. On Tuesday 22nd November at Oxford Magistrates' Court, the owners of Tommy Yaki, pleaded guilty to four food safety offences. They were fined £2,400 and ordered to pay £1,876 costs. Food safety officers from SODC found the premises littered with mice droppings and a filthy kitchen. The building also had construction defects that allowed pests to get on the premises, and important cleaning and pest control procedures hadn't been carried out. Officers immediately forced the premises to close, and it was prevented from reopening until action had been taken to remove the risk. Following urgent improvements, the takeaway reopened a week after the closure – it was recently inspected and has now been awarded a rating of four.

Housing and homeless support amongst best in the country

Our housing and homelessness support has been recognised as one of the country's top performers by the National Practitioner Support Service (NPSS). In a review of our vital front line housing services we scored an impressive 80 per cent, putting us in the top eight nationally (average 69 per cent) and one of the highest scorers in the south east. The review checked that the advice and support our residents receive is provided in a targeted, effective, and efficient way.

The high score follows recent improvements we have made to the service, including launching a new online self-help service for housing information and advice, a new phone service for vulnerable residents, and intervening earlier to support those at risk of becoming homeless.

Harwell link road work to begin

Contractors will start site clearance for the Harwell link road from 1 December in preparation for the main phase of work in the New Year. The £11.8m project is part of a package of improvements that focus on improving the access to the Enterprise Zone and reduce local congestion.

Work is expected to be complete in Spring 2018.

Report highlights PCSOs' community role

Each year we provide £100,000 to part fund six Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). Here's a quick update of just some of the activities they carried out to support people in South Oxfordshire.

Between July and October 2016, our PCSOs organised and attended several events, including an Emergency Services Day in Thame, speed awareness checks in Binfield Heath and Gallowstree Common, and an event in Wallingford to help people avoid being caught out by banking frauds. They also assisted 268 victims of crime, and supported a vulnerable resident in Didcot. To read the full quarter two report about our PCSOs visit our neighbourhood policing page.

Free Christmas car parking

Please remind residents that we are offering free parking on various days in the run up to Christmas. Parking is free in district council car parks all day on the following days during December:

Abingdon: Saturdays - 3, 10, 17, 24 (plus Sat 26 November)

Didcot: Tuesdays - 6, 13 and 20

Faringdon: Sat 3, Tues 6, Fri 9, Sat 17

Goring: Saturdays - 3, 10, 17 and 24

Henley: Tuesdays - 6, 13, 20

Thame: Saturdays - 3, 10, 17 and 24

Wantage: Fridays - 2, 9, 16 and 23

Wallingford: Thursdays - 1, 8, 15 and 22

Bad weather waste collections

These are our plans if bad weather affects our waste collections this winter. If bins aren't emptied on the scheduled day, residents should leave them out for two more days and we will do our best, weather permitting, to come back. If, after three days, they haven't been emptied, residents are advised to take their bins back in and put them out for the next scheduled collection date. They will also be able to leave extra waste out beside their bin in a suitable container, e.g. open box or a clear sack.

These arrangements do not apply during the Christmas collection schedule between 28 December and 13 January when we will work to the published calendar. Residents whose bins are missed due to adverse weather should take them back in and we'll empty them on the next scheduled collection date. We will keep people up to date with disruption information through our websites, social media, the local press and media.

We will also use emails to keep you up to date. If you receive enquiries from residents because of any disruption, refer them to the Biffa call centre on 03000 610 610.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further information on any of these items, or indeed any issues not addressed here.

Kind regards

Steve Harrod

District Councillor

Haseley Brook Ward

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Thame, Wheatley & Chalgrove Sector Neighbourhood Team Newsletter

December 2016

'You said we did'/ Priorities

Theft from motor vehicles: There has been an increase in theft from motor vehicles throughout the South & Vale area. High visibility patrols have been increased and crime prevention signs have been placed in the hotspots along with crime prevention events.

Crime Prevention

As the winter months are coming in, the darkness is drawing in earlier. This provides thieves more opportunity to commit crime during the darkness. Here are some tips to help you prevent becoming a victim of crime:

- Close and lock doors and windows when going out or to bed.
- Keep valuables out of sight.
- Don't advertise you're out – invest in a light timer!
- If you're going on holiday, ask your neighbours to keep an eye on your house.

Crime prevention event

The neighbourhood team will be at the Town Hall in Thame on Friday 9 December between 6-8pm. The team will be on hand to give any crime reduction advice and listen to any local concerns you may have.

Vulnerable & Elderly Christmas Bags

Sharing is caring! Thame & Wheatley Neighbourhood Team would like to encourage you to support the vulnerable and elderly this Christmas and donate to our Vulnerable Elderly Residents Association. Any tinned food items are much appreciated to help us to create a Christmas goodie bag for the local elderly residents who has been a victim of crime and who may live alone. You will find the boxes at Thame Town Hall, Chinnor Council Pavilion, Asda Wheatley and Watlington Council Office. All donations will be collected by Wednesday 14th December.

What the neighbourhood team have been doing

Thame Neighbourhood Team along with Oxford Police Cadets carried out a crime prevention pack delivery to some streets in Chinnor that have been recently hit by crime. This was a chance for the Neighbourhood Team to offer crime prevention advice in the run up to the Christmas period. Crime levels are relatively low overall in Chinnor but as the hours of darkness draw in, this creates more opportunity for thieves to commit crime. The aim of providing some of the community with this pack is so that they can put measure in place to prevent becoming a victim of crime.

Have Your Say Meetings

Please come along and speak to your local PCSOs about any local concerns:

- Sunday, 6 December, 10am – 11am at Chalgrove Village Hall
- Wednesday, 7 December, 10:30am – 11:30am at Thame CO-OP
- Wednesday, 14 December, 10:30am – 11:30am at Tiddington Pavilion
- Thursday, 15 December, 10am – 11am at Chinnor Village Centre
- Monday, 19 December, 11am – Midday at Thame Library
- Wednesday, 21 December, 11am – Midday at Watlington Parish Council Office
- Wednesday, 28 December, 11am – Midday at Wheatley Merry Bells

Contact us

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email ThameNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk. Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk today. This allows anyone who signs up to choose what updates they receive and how they would like to receive it. The Thames Valley Police Twitter account is kept up to date with what we are up to; please follow us @TVPSouthandVale