

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY 15 MAY 2023 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllrs J Brown, C Groves, D Lindsay, R Sheehan, T Suter (Chairman), J Webster, P Woodrow, A Oughton (Clerk) and one member of the public.

**Declarations of Office**

Each Councillor duly signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, this being the first meeting following elections held on 4 May 2023. It was agreed that Cllr Groves will sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting.

**23/01 Election of the Chairman**

Cllr Suter called for nominations for the position of Chairman. It was proposed and duly seconded that Cllr Suter be elected Chairman. On being put to the vote it was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Suter signed the Declaration of Office of Chairman.

**23/02 Election of the Vice Chairman**

Cllr Suter called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. It was proposed and duly seconded that Cllr Sheehan be elected Vice Chairman. On put to the vote it was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Sheehan duly signed the Declaration of Office of Vice Chairman.

**23/03 Councillor Representatives**

Discussion took place on current and possible new Committees.

**Resolved that the Committees and Representatives be agreed as follows:**

Planning – Cllr Lindsay  
Footpaths – Cllr Webster  
Allotments – Cllr Brown  
Millennium Wood – Cllr Sheehan  
Miss Cross Field – Cllr Groves  
Playing Fields – Cllr Groves  
Village Hall – Cllr Woodrow  
Communication – Cllr Lindsay

Discussion took place on the creation of a Planning Sub Committee (as per Standing Order 2i) with delegated responsibility to discuss and make recommendations on planning applications when it is not possible for applications to be discussed by a meeting of the Parish Council. All recommendations made will be noted at the next scheduled Parish Council meeting. The Planning Sub Committee agenda will be published three clear days in advance of the meeting in the usual way, on the noticeboards and website.

**Resolved to form a Planning Sub Committee, members will be Cllrs Suter (Chairman), Lindsay, Sheehan and Woodrow.**

**23/04 Public Discussion and Public Questions**

There was no public discussion or public questions.

### **23/05 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Groves (Personal).

### **23/06 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **23/07 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2023. It was noted that Cllr Lindsay had given his apologies, with this amendment the minutes were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **23/08 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not covered on the agenda.

### **23/09 Planning Applications**

There were no planning matters to discuss.

### **23/10 Financial Report**

Bank statements to the end of March and to 28 April 2023 were noted. The Clerk reported that the following transfers had been made from the current to business reserve account before 31 March: £1,250.00 – Village Hall Reserve, £1,000 Parish Protection Reserve, £3,460.17 Community Infrastructure Levy.

The balance on the Current Account at 28 April was £33,591.05 and Business Reserve Account £46,562.89. It was noted that the first half of the Precept had been received.

### **23/11 Payments**

The following cheques were written as notified on the agenda: Abingdon Stone & Marble £2,498.40, Society of Local Council Clerks £83.50, A & W Grounds £510.00, Shield Maintenance £62.40, L Woodrow £22.00 (village tidy day).

A further cheque was approved: Village Hall Committee £335.92 (donation towards the village event to celebrate the King's Coronation).

Castle Water Direct Debit £5.00

### **23/12 Standing Orders & Financial Regulations**

The Clerk had reviewed the Standing Orders. There was one suggested change to the number of meetings held per year highlighted in red. After discussion it was agreed that in addition to the Annual Meeting a further 6 Parish Council meetings will be held annually.

**Resolved to accept the proposed change and approve the Standing Orders for 2023.**

Having reviewed the Financial Regulations, the Clerk proposed that they remain unchanged for 2023.

**Resolved to approve the Financial Regulations for 2023.**

### **23/13 General Power of Competence**

The General Power of Competence was brought into force through the Localism Act 2011 as part of the Government's move towards the decentralisation of powers down to town and parish councils. The Power gives local councils the power to do anything that individuals generally may do as long as it is legal.

To be eligible to act under the General Power of Competence a council must pass a resolution at which time at least two thirds of the members of the council must hold office as a result of being elected and the Clerk must hold the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

**Resolved that the Parish Council met the eligibility for the General Power of Competence.**

### **23/14 Schedule of Meetings**

Following discussion under item 23/13 the following meeting schedule was agreed: May - Annual Meeting of the Council, Parish Council meetings - June, July, September, November, January, and March.

The Planning Sub Committee will meet (if required) in October, February and April. No meetings will take place in August and December unless it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting on matters of planning and / or finance.

### **23/15 Back Way**

Discussion took place on correspondence received from a resident suggesting a possible change to the Local Authority Definitive Map. Back Way is considered a public footpath and registered as such on the Definitive Map. Given that it is a footpath in name but not in function the resident has suggested there may be a good case for approaching Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to seek a change of status on the Definitive Map which reflects more adequately its modern usage.

The Parish Council is happy to support Back Way residents of which the Parish Council is an interested party as a land owner of the allotments, Miss Cross Field and Millennium Wood. It was agreed to seek clarification from OCC on the process for making representations to change the Definitive Map and to arrange a meeting between OCC and Back Way residents.

### **23/16 Access to A418**

Shabbington Parish Council has written to request the Parish Council's support to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists using the road from Shabbington to the A418.

**Resolved** to write a letter of support to Shabbington Parish Council.

### **23/17 Projects**

#### Public Art

Cllr Suter and the Clerk had met with Paul Cowell, Mayor of Thame and Mandy Sturdy, Town Clerk. It was a good meeting, discussion took place on the possible split of s106 public art funding related to the industrial development on Rycote Lane and also the Neighbourhood

Priority Statement objective to improve connectivity between Great Haseley and surrounding villages, including Thame.

#### Neighbourhood Priority Statement (NPS)

It was agreed to present the draft NPS to the village at the next Pop-Up Pub, starting at 6pm.

#### Miss Cross Field – new play equipment

Cllr Lindsay reported he had received notification from the National Lottery Community Fund that the Parish Council's bid for £8k of funding towards a new piece of play equipment in Miss Cross Field has been successful. Together with allocated CIL funding, grants from the Pumpkin Show and Taylor Blackall there was a shortfall of £4.5k. It was agreed to set up a 'Just Giving Page' and encourage residents to contribute towards the cost of the play equipment.

War Memorial – nothing to report.

#### B17 Memorial

At the last meeting, during public participation, the Great Haseley History Group requested that the Parish Council consider applying for a road closure for the B17 memorial unveiling event.

**Resolved that the application for a road closure is made in the name of the Parish Council.**

### **23/18 Allotments**

Cllr Brown reported that following consultation with interested parties no objections had been raised to the proposal to keep bees on the allotments.

**Resolved** that the Allotment Rules be changed to allow bees to be kept on an allotment plot provided the area is kept light and airy, fenced to ensure bees fly upwards and not disturb people, hives are kept in one place, a limit is set on the number of hives, hives are inspected once a week between April – July, the bee keeper must be qualified, have public liability insurance and a 'mate' in the village who can be called upon in an emergency related to the bees.

### **23/19 Reports from Committees / District and County Councillors**

County Councillor Freddie van Mierlo had given his apologies and circulated his monthly report. Newly elected District Councillor Georgina Heritage had given her apologies.

Allotments – Cllr Sheehan reported a public consultation will be held on proposed new fencing at the allotments and the results presented at the next meeting. The plan is to have 1.2m high low-profile fencing and back plant with hedging.

Environment – Wild Oxfordshire have grant funding available for future hedge planting projects.

Millennium Wood – Cllr Sheehan has submitted the closing report to the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment (TOE). TOE are very happy with the project. All agreed the wood is looking marvelous and thanked Cllr Sheehan for all his hard work.

Playing Fields – Cllr Groves will arrange for the broken post to be replaced.

Village Hall – the Parish Council expressed its thanks to the Village Hall Committee for organising such a wonderful event to celebrate the King's Coronation. Cllr Woodrow said the Committee had received lots of thanks from those who attended.

**23/20 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**23/21 Information Exchange**

Nothing to report.

**23/22 Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on 12 June 2023 in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm

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Chairman  
12 June 2023