

Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr T Darch

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Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held at the Pavilion, Great Milton on Monday 15th December 2021

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

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

149/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received in advance from Cllrs S Harrod (Chair), C Deacon and M Horsley.

150/21 Variation of Order of Business

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

151/21 Declarations of Members' Interests

No declarations of interest were received or required.

152/21 Matters to Report

Monthly reports have been received from Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (County Councillor, Chalgrove division) and Cllr Caroline Newton (District Councillor, Haseley Brook ward). Both are available on the Parish Council website.

153/21 Correspondence and public discussion

No correspondence has been received since the last meeting which is not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

154/21 Planning applications

A The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:
P21/S4645/HH (The Penn Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7HX). Extension and conversion of roof to create habitable room within roof void.
Local consultation by the ward councillor yielded no objections, and Cllr Bennet in reviewing the application raised no concerns. After brief discussion it was AGREED to support the application.

B The following planning decisions received were reviewed, along with any outstanding planning matters.
Cllr Caroline Newton reports that SODC is changing its policy with regard to planning enforcement. In brief, assuming the policy is agreed by SODC's Cabinet, the administration is proposing to 'triage' enforcement cases so that the Council will only investigate those which are particularly egregious; the District Council will also no longer update parish councils or residents on the progress of an enforcement investigation. Cllr Newton feels that this change may be disappointing to residents and is also anxious that it will serve as a green light to people tempted to exploit the planning system.

155/21 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the November meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 15th November 2021, were reviewed, approved and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

156/21 Financial resolutions

A The following cheques were authorised for payment and signed:
Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £498.65
Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production November/December. £243.40/£229.80
Website hosting December (reimbursement to Clerk). £19.99
Shield Solutions. Dog bin emptying November. £62.40
Wheatley Park School annual prizegiving donation. £50
Green and Growing. Mole treatment. £30
Christmas tree purchase. Invoice not received in time for meeting.

B The latest monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received, approved and signed. The reconciled bank balance as of 6th December was £47,916.73.

C **Budget for 2022-23**

The second draft of the budget was reviewed. Since the draft budget was discussed at the Council's November meeting, the forecast number of households in the village paying Council Tax in 2022/23 has been received. This forecast shows that the number will rise by about 3.5%, which means that in order to achieve the aim of keeping the Precept flat year-on-year, the total needs to be increased by £700. This amount has been added to Sundry Expenditure.

Forecast expenses for 2022-23 total £25,930, an increase of 11.1% relative to the current financial year. Income from sources other than the precept is anticipated to be £5,750 compared with £3,750 in the current year, while the precept is forecast to rise 3.6% from £19,480 to £20,180. It was noted that the General Reserve stood at approximately £33,567: reserves have increased from £29,664 in 2020-21, largely as a consequence of reduced expenditure due to the impact of the Covid pandemic.

After discussion it was RESOLVED that the draft budget for 2022-23 should be accepted, approved and adopted.

Precept for 2022-23

In the light of the agreed budget for 2022-23 and after discussion, it was RESOLVED that the precept for 2022-23 should be set at £20,180. The precept request form was approved and signed as required.

157/21 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

- The demolished sign at the junction of the A329 and Thame Road has been reinstated.

158/21 COVID-19: update on village response/impacts

There were no significant local developments to report with regard to the current pandemic, other than those which have been publicised nationally.

159/21 20mph zone

Results from a survey of village residents indicate around 80% support for a 20mph zone in the village centre. Messages of support have been received from Freddie Van Mierlo (County Councillor) and Alyson Frost, Head Teacher of Great Milton Primary School. After brief discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk would now formally submit an application for a 20mph zone to OCC.

160/21 School pick-up and drop-off parking

Issues surrounding school parking were discussed at a meeting on Wednesday 1st December involving representatives of the Parish Council, Great Milton Primary School and the Recreation Ground Management Committee. Various potential solutions were put forward including:

- Using the Recreation Ground for parent parking or staff parking (the latter potentially freeing up the school drive and parking area for drop-off purposes)
- Using some existing school land to create additional parking
- Using The Bull car park for parent parking
- Putting down lines on the narrowest section of road between the school and just beyond the shop to deter parking on both sides of the road
- Seeking improved transport
- Encouraging car sharing from Wheatley.

It is likely that a combination of measures will be required to improve the situation. All parties will investigate potential opportunities and continue to work together to find a long-term solution that works for the school, parents that drive and residents of the village. The note of the meeting is available on the Parish Council website.

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161/21 Community Governance Review

South Oxfordshire District Council will be undertaking a Community Governance Review (CGR) during 2022 with any agreed changes implemented for the 2023 elections. The council's Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee will undertake the review and make the final decision on any alterations. The review will cover:

- Altering the existing boundary of a parish.
- Creating, merging or abolishing parishes.
- Changing the name of existing parishes.
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (e.g. how many parish councillors are required and parish warding).
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council, or de-grouping parishes.
- The "style" of a parish (enabling an area to be known as a town, community, neighbourhood or village rather than a parish).

SODC has agreed to undertake a community governance review every four years with changes agreed for implementation at the next scheduled parish elections – in this case 2023. The Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee will meet in early February to consider any requests and agree the terms of reference for the review: any requests for matters to be considered should be submitted with supporting evidence by 21 January 2022.

Great Milton Parish Council wonders if Milton Common as a whole might be better served by inclusion within a single parish, rather than three as at present, which for example can lead to those on London Road being 'forgotten' in SODC's planning consultations. Any thoughts from residents on the south side of the A40 (who are currently residents of Great Milton parish) would be welcomed to help to inform a response to SODC's consultation. It was AGREED to contact Tiddington with Albury Parish Council (in whose area much of the housing west of the A329 is already included) to seek their views, and to submit a brief response to SODC making the above point.

162/21 Proposed '3 Villages' newsletter

The current producers of 'The Haseleys' magazine have announced that they will not continue beyond December 2022. They have suggested that Little Milton, Great Milton and the Haseleys might combine to produce a monthly magazine covering all three parishes. After discussion it was suggested that should 'The Haseleys' magazine fold, Great Milton Parish Council may consider offering a few pages for Haseley news, with material to be supplied, additional production costs met and delivery arranged by Great Haseley Parish Council or another representative body. Financial and logistical complexities coupled with the creation of a publication that may contain a significant amount of information that may not be of interest to many readers (for example three sets of parish council meeting notes) were considered the major deterrents to a joint magazine for all three communities.

163/21 Dates for Great Milton Parish Council meetings 2022

Proposed dates for the meetings of Great Milton Parish Council during 2022 were discussed and AGREED as follows:

- 17th January
- 21st February
- 21st March
- 18th April
- 16th May
- 20th June
- 18th July (Revision/cover possible dependent on Clerk's holiday arrangements)
- No meeting in August
- 19th September
- 17th October
- 21st November
- 12th December (a week early given proximity to Christmas)

The meeting closed at 8pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 17th January 2022 at the Pavilion, starting at 7.30pm.

SIGNED: _____