

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 November 2021

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

In Attendance: Tim Darch (Clerk), Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo (County Councillor, Chalgrove Division) and two members of the public.

136/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received in advance from Cllrs G Bennet and M Horsley.

137/21 Variation of Order of Business

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

138/21 Declarations of Members' Interests

No declarations of interest were received or required.

139/21 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. Additionally, Cllr Van Mierlo reported that:

- OCC's 20mph policy has been launched, with a website now live for applications. The parish council will take the required steps to seek the required support from residents, along with the primary school with a view to submitting an application by early 2022.
- A bid for £56m for expanded bus services, including a semi-flexible route from Wallingford to Thame via the Miltons and Haseleys, has been submitted to the DfT.
- OCC's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan is currently under development.
- Civil parking enforcement is now overseen by OCC.

140/21 Correspondence and Public Discussion

- The Chairman has received a request from the chair of Little Milton Parish Council to join a meeting of the respective chairs for Great & Little Milton, Haseleys and Stadhampton Parish Councils to share views and experiences, with the first meeting likely in December.

141/21 Planning Applications

A The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P21/S3915/FUL (Dodwells Solar Farm: Land north of the A40 near Milton Common). Installation and operation of a Solar Farm together with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure.

This application was reviewed by Cllr Allen. One of three in the area for solar farms, this is by far the biggest: the three applications cover an area equivalent to a third of the entire parish, and all are reported to generate exactly 49.9 megawatts, to avoid the need for a more complex planning process required for generation facilities producing 50 megawatts or more. Cllr Allen also reported concerns over the size of the application site and its effect on the countryside and rural views, and its proximity to nearby properties, and expressed a note of caution regarding SODC's objectives for a 'net zero' district, which could possibly lead to approval from the planning authority.

The residents in attendance relayed concerns over the sheer size of the site and the impact on the countryside, along with the magnitude of the necessary works, unsightly fencing in advance of the growth of screening vegetation and the presence of protected Great Crested Newts nearby. They also questioned a lack of clarity over the connection to the National Grid (reportedly at Cowley and therefore requiring approximately 10km of underground cabling), queried whether the application if approved represents a 'green light' for Harrington, and expressed worries over additional noise on top of that from the M40 close to homes in Milton Common. After brief discussion, councillors agreed unanimously to OBJECT to the application

and recommend to the planning authority that permission should not be granted for the development, on the basis of the issues outlined above and in solidarity with other parish councils in the vicinity of the application site and other concerned residents of Milton Common.

P21/S4437/HH (Hampden House Church Road Great Milton). Replace existing timber framed glazed entrance to heritage profile aluminium. New door to North facing gable end. Replace South facing door with similar (vertical timber plank door with ledges), stable door opening. Replace West facing gable end window with painted timber frame, size and profile to match existing but with additional pane added to lower section. 3 new conservation grade roof lights to North facing roof slope New solid fuel stove and flue. Remove electric space fan heating with new Under floor heating and air source heat pump located at south-east corner of barn Replace metal spiral staircase with new traditional timber staircase. Replace current stained timber balustrades and handrail with new glazed option. Improve current roof insulation (from underside only) Increase size of existing WC to offer space for small shower enclosure. Councillor Harrod advised that no objections had been received from local consultation with neighbours, and councillors agreed to recommend SUPPORT of the application.

P21/S4389/T28 (Hanks Yard Holloway Farm Milton Common Oxfordshire). Removal of 3No. existing antennas and their replacement with 3No. new antennas along with the addition of 2No. 0.6m transmission dishes, a GPS module and the addition of ancillary equipment thereto. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY: NO COMMENTS REQUESTED FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL.**

B The following outstanding planning matters were reviewed.
Premises Licence pending decision. Chilworth Court London Road Milton Common Thame Oxfordshire OX9 2JY. To note the application for a premises licence for Blue Faw's Distillery at the above address, which has been advertised locally as required by the licensing authority.

An amendment to the Manoir planning application details the results of an archaeological survey, largely based on findings in trenches dug in the field adjacent to Le Manoir. The Parish Council does not have the knowledge to comment on this amendment, but it is assumed that the County Council will respond as the authority responsible for archaeology.

142/21 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the October meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 18th October 2021, were received, signed and approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

143/21 Financial Resolutions

A The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £498.65

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production November. Invoice not received in time for meeting.

Website hosting November (reimbursement to Clerk). £19.99

Shield Solutions. Dog bin emptying October. £62.40

Recreation Ground insurance reimbursement. £1,105.70

Neighbours' Hall booking for October Parish Council meeting. £25.

B The latest monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received, approved and signed. The reconciled bank balance as of 8th November was £49,650.07.

144/21 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

- The demolished sign on the A329 at the Thame Road junction is due to be replaced on Nov 29th.
- The '50' roundels on the A329 have been repainted along with the turn-in arrows on the approach to Thame Road junction (with an additional arrow also added).
- Exposed barbed wire in the ground at the entrances to the 'Manoir Field' opposite Ariens and at the Neighbours Hall (which may prove hazardous to dogs) has been removed by Le Manoir.
- Detailed information on potential options for dealing with the school parking issue (which largely revolves around liaison between the school and parents but may include reinstatement of the zig-zag markings) is awaited from the community policing team.
- Drainage issues at Lower End close to the school have been flagged up to the County Council and have been added to their program for investigation and action.

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145/21 Budget 2022-23 first draft

The first draft of the Parish Council's budget for 2022-23 was reviewed and discussed. The first draft of the budget has been based upon a 0% precept increase given healthy reserves, reduced expenditure in various areas (including grass cutting and dog hygiene) and increasing revenues from advertising. Cllr Harrod suggested that it may be worth considering a small increase in line with advice both locally and nationally, but after discussion the budget for 2022-23 was AGREED as drafted, to be formally approved at the December meeting.

146/21 COVID-19: update on village response/impacts

No significant local developments were reported with regard to the current pandemic.

147/21 'Carols around the Christmas tree'

The suggested date of Wednesday 15th December at 6pm for the annual 'Carols around the Christmas Tree' event was agreed. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served at The Bull afterwards.

148/21 20mph zones

A new policy making it much easier to get 20mph zones was passed by Oxfordshire County Council on 19 October. Full details of the policy can be found here:

<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ielListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MIId=6381>

Applications are not judged on a 'first-come-first served' basis: this will be done according to the criteria outlined in the policy document. There is therefore no need to rush to complete an online application. A successful application will demonstrate alignment with the policy, and local support (beyond the parish council) for a 20mph zone. The county does not want to put in 20mph zones only to get push back from residents necessitating their withdrawal. Cllr Deacon suggested that a 20mph limit may only serve to reduce the speeds of those who routinely drive over the limit to something more like the 30mph that they should be driving at currently, but after brief discussion it was AGREED that the Parish Council would look to take the first steps towards applying for a 20mph limit, starting with an online and paper-based survey and liaison with the primary school.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 13th December 2021 at the Pavilion, starting at 7.30pm.