

# 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 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

In Attendance: Tim Darch (Clerk), Chris Ashworth (prospective Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

### 103/22 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received in advance from Cllr D Harms, Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo (OCC) and Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC).

### 104/22 Variation of order of business

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

### 105/22 Declarations of members' interests

No declarations of interest were received in matters on the agenda.

### 106/22 Matters to report

The County Councillor's monthly report was received and reviewed and is available on the Parish Council website along with the District Councillor's delayed June report.

### 107/22 Correspondence and public discussion

No correspondence has been received regarding matters not otherwise covered on the agenda. It was reported by two attendees that excess speeds are still a problem on London Road in Milton Common despite the electronic signage and other measures installed recently. With the scope for further mitigation likely to be limited, it was agreed to communicate the issue to the Community Policing team with a view to an increased presence of the camera van.

### 108/22 Planning applications

A The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:  
P22/S2220/FUL. Underground cable route to connect Dodwells solar farm to Cowley substation. Cllr Allen reviewed this application. The cable route follows roads through Great Milton: significant traffic disruption could be expected during the estimated 48 weeks of construction. Roads affected include the A329, Church Road and The Forties. To avoid this, Cllr Allen felt that the cable should be laid across farmland wherever possible, which would also shorten the route taken. Cllr Horsley expressed the view that one-off disruption to potentially enable a solar farm may be tolerable, while a member of the public observed that the two other proposed solar farm applications nearby at the Harlesford and Cornwell sites are proposed to connect to the network via pylons without the need for a significant distance of underground cabling. Additionally, no justification had been provided for a solar farm so far from the connection point. After discussion, it was agreed unanimously to OBJECT to the proposal on the grounds of the chosen route and the distance between the site and the connection point.

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 (as amended & amplified by information received 8 July 2022).

This application was reviewed by Cllr Allen. In Cllr Allen's opinion the additional documents merely provide further background information and do not change the details of the solar farm. Cllr Allen also observed that some local residents are supportive of the application: however, it was reported by members of the public in attendance that local interests may have been behind this support. A further member of the public observed that the visual impact of the application and all visual receptors had not been properly assessed, and that any proposed screening could take up to ten years to be fully effective. After brief discussion and in light of





the parish council's original objection to the original application, in line with Cllr Allen's recommendation councillors agreed unanimously to OBJECT to the proposed development.

P22/S1316/HH (Swarebrook Lower End Great Milton). Construction of new blockwork garden wall faced in natural stone on one side and lime render on the other side (As amended by plans received 12 May 2022 and plan received 29 June 2022).

This application was reviewed by Cllr Horsley, who reported that the amendment effectively accommodated the parish council's suggestion of a reduction in the height of the wall from 3 metres to 2 metres in certain locations to minimise the visual impact of the wall. After brief discussion it was unanimously agreed to SUPPORT the proposed development.

#### **Le Manoir planning application update**

SODC's Planning Committee voted five to four in favour of granting permission for the planned redevelopment of land associated with and surrounding Le Manoir at its meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June. It is understood that the application will now be referred to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities given its scale and Green Belt location: however, at the time of writing formal notification of the outcome of the Planning Committee's decision had not been received.

- B** The following planning decisions received and outstanding planning matters were considered:  
P22/S1395/HH (1 Colletts Cottages Thame Road Great Milton). Demolition of detached garage and part previous rear extension to facilitate erection of two storey extension to cottage (amended site plan received on 27/05/22 to remove additional vehicular access). Permission GRANTED.

P22/S1895/FUL (The Bull The Green Great Milton OX44 7NS). Erection of a wooden serving bar in the garden of the public house. Permission GRANTED.

#### **109/22 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the June meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

#### **110/22 Financial resolutions**

- A** The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £557.72  
Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production July. £359  
McCracken and Sons. Mowing June. £492  
Green and Growing, A329 path strim. £120  
OCC. Gateway features: Church Road/Thame Road/Lower End. £4875.11  
Shield Solutions. Dog bin emptying June. £62.40  
BT Office/e-mail package. £10.80 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)  
Hugo Fox: web support July: £19.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

- B** The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received, reviewed and approved. The reconciled bank balance as at 7<sup>th</sup> July was £42,504.44.

#### **111/22 Employment policies**


After brief discussion it was agreed to adopt the suggested HR-related policies, with minor amendments as recommended by Cllr Horsley and with an annual review at a time to be decided, potentially the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

#### **112/22 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand**

- A new dog waste bin has been installed at the Thame Road entrance to Old Field and has been included in the dog waste contractor's weekly collection.

#### **113/22 COVID-19: update on village response/impacts**

There are no significant issues to report other than those which are receiving national coverage.



**114/22 Security in the village**

Rod Snowdon, Neighbourhood Watch representative stated that in light of the recent incidents of theft of personal property, intimidation, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour in the village, one of the key outcomes of the Thames Valley Police engagement event on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July was to **advise residents to report any incident that they witness or experience to the police via the 101 telephone service or online via the police.co.uk website.** Many of the recent events (particularly the keying of cars and graffiti in the playground) were apparently not reported: doing so will create an awareness that there are issues requiring police attention in the village, and may improve the chances of resolution. TVP is also planning further community engagement events, and is planning to schedule patrols in the village where practical.

**115/22 Vacancy for Clerk/RFO**

Chris Ashworth, a resident of Cuddesdon, has been appointed as the new Clerk/RFO for Great Milton Parish Council, subject to contract. It is likely that Chris will formally take over the role during the summer 'recess': however, e-mail communications via the Clerk's e-mail address will reach whoever is in post. Contact details in the Bulletin and on the village website will be updated at a suitable moment.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

***The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.30pm at the Pavilion. There is no meeting currently scheduled in August, but the Clerk remains contactable in the event of any issues or queries.***

**SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_

*J. Ward. 26/9/22*