

Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr C Ashworth

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Website: www.great-milton.co.uk

Minutes of the meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held at the Pavilion on Monday, 19th June 2023, at 7:30 pm.

Present: Cllrs B Fox (Vice-chair), D Harms, M Horsley, S MacMahon, S Illingworth

In attendance: Chris Ashworth (Clerk) and Cllr F Van Mierlo (OCC)

66/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received in advance from Cllrs S Harrod (Chair) and P Allen. Cllr G Heritage (SODC) conveyed their apologies for their absence.

67/23 Variation of order of business

Agenda item 76/23 was spoken about before item 75/23

68/23 Declarations of members' interest

No declarations of members interest were made.

69/23 Matters to report

The County Councillor and District Councillor's reports were received, reviewed, and available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Van Mierlo highlighted the Parish town council charter that is in his report. It is about setting up better lines of communication. An engagement period will begin to go towards this charter, which he encourages the Council to engage with once it begins.

70/23 Planning applications

A No new planning applications have been received in the period from SODC

B To review the following planning decisions received and any outstanding planning matters.

P22/S2788/FUL (Brimpton Grange Access To Hotel From A40 Milton Common OX9 2JW) Erection of six detached dwellings, creation of vehicular and pedestrian access and associated infrastructure and works. (As amplified by additional energy information received 31 August 2022 and drainage information received 1 November 2022 and amended by revised site plan showing right of way received 6 January 2023 and amplified by ecological information submitted on the 23 January 2023) South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is **REFUSED**.

71/23 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the May meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday, 15th May 2023, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

72/23 Financial resolutions

A The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Chris Ashworth. Salary, Tax and Expenses May: £562.72

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste May: £62.40

J M Dudley April Bulletin: £311.40



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Community Heartbeat trust: £162
SODC uncontested election fee: £200
Green and Growing: £120.00
McCracken and Sons: £1092.00
Oxfordshire animal sanctuary: £100
BT Office/e-mail package May: £10.80 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)
Hugo Fox: web support May: £23.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

- B The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received, reviewed and approved.
- C The internal audit report and signed Internal Audit Certificate were received from Matthew Hale, Internal Auditor. The report raised no issues or items of concern.
- D Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 2 for the year ending 31st March 2023.
Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement) and subsequently Section 2 (Accounting Statements) were received and approved by the Parish Council, and the documents were signed by the chairman of the meeting and the Parish Clerk/RFO as required.
- E The start of the Exercise of Public Rights period, during which the Parish Council's accounts can be freely examined, was announced. This period begins on Tuesday 20th June and concludes on Monday 31st July.

73/23 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

- White lines are now painted along the bottom of Thame Road at the junction.
- We are still looking at suitable places for the Hornbeam tree within the Parish. At this moment in time, OCC cannot find an appropriate alternative location. The tree will be removed if no location can be found going forward.

74/23 Security in the village

Residents are encouraged to continue to report any incidents they witness or experience to the police via the 101-telephone service or online via the police.co.uk website.

75/23 Broadband in the Pavilion

To further discuss the potential of broadband in the Pavilion. Along with an update regarding the notices put up about installing an 8m light telegraph pole.
Cllr Horsley read out the following statement to the Parish Council:
Statement to the Parish Council



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In 2022, in response to alleged youth-driven vandalism, some Great Milton residents set up a Youth Club. The aim was to give kids in the village a club to try out new activities in an inclusive way. This would be a mix of sports and other activities, including 3D gaming. To do this, they needed Broadband. As such, I was approached primarily to see about funding and make some enquiries.

I (Cllr Malcolm Horsley) informally approached James Cunningham, the chair of the Rec Committee. He explained that this had been looked at before and stated that as long as it was an underground solution, it would be considered. When it was considered before it was deemed that additional telegraph poles would be unsightly

I investigated a mobile Wi-Fi (Mifi) solution. However, this is not really feasible until 5G networks arrive in the countryside (no visible plans at the moment).

Earlier in 2023, OCC Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo attended the Parish Council meeting and announced that he had a fund for community projects. I questioned whether we could use it as part of funding for an underground solution to getting Broadband in the Pavilion alongside other sources of funding. He suggested that there may be a better way.

In May, we discovered there was a 'permitted development' notice for a telegraph pole on the gate of the Rec. and the Pavilion. This was discussed at the Parish Council meeting, as we were unaware of it. I followed up with Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo. He put me in touch with the head of the Broadband programme for OCC. We had been prioritised; however, the underground message had been lost. I discussed options for co-funding the underground piece, but that would be too complicated to set in motion. His proposal was to continue to install the telegraph pole, and we could fund moving it directly with BT Openreach directly after. The benefit of this is that OCC would pay the £30-40k connection charges and three years of mega fast broadband service.

I wrote to James Cunningham explaining all of this and apologising for setting things in motion inadvertently (that was not my intention, and there had been no communication from OCC on the matter). On Tuesday, 13th June, The Rec Committee had an EGM to discuss this issue and firmly rejected the proposal. I planned to feedback to the Parish Council on Monday, 19th June and then halt the work on the assumption that we would not be able to come up with a counter-proposal. On Thursday, 15th June, BT Openreach were in the village doing some preparatory work for the installation and were informed by a member of the Rec Committee that this was not wanted.

I was informed by the head of the programme. Given that we appear to have run out of time to find a way to move this underground, and the "install it overground first and then move it" is unpalatable to the Rec Committee, I informed the programme director that all work should be stopped. And this also respects the decision of the Rec Committee, who have significant priorities for the Recreation ground and Pavilion through 2023.

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This means that we will shortly be off the programme and will not benefit from the investment. In the foreseeable future will only be able to connect the Pavilion should 5G arrive in the village. I have informed the Youth Club of the decision.

The Great Milton Recreation Ground Committee are the trustees of the charity that owns the Pavilion and the Recreation Ground. All further questions should be directed to them, and their contact details can be found on the Great Milton Website.

The Parish Council then discussed the issues regarding the installation of broadband in the Pavilion. Cllr F Van Mierlo let GMPC know that the installation scheme was currently on pause for now, but time was running out to go ahead with the scheme and informed the Parish Council that if the opportunity isn't taken now, there will not be an investment like this in the future.

Cllr Horsley was tasked with inviting the Rec Committee to meet with Parish Council to discuss further.

76/23

Grass cutting

A member of the public contacted GMPC to ask about some Lime Trees that had been cut down. GMPC spoke to their contractors for grass maintenance, and it was confirmed that they did not cut down the lime trees. Cllr Horsley will speak to local residents about this.

Some footpaths in Great Milton are becoming a bit hazardous. The landowner's responsible for keeping the footpaths clear and in good repair. Cllr Horsley will contact the landowners regarding the overgrown footpaths.

After all the items on the Agenda had been discussed, Cllr Fox raised the problem of speeding in the Village and asked what more could the Parish Council do to help reduce this problem.

Cllr Fox mentioned the device that tells people their speed and lights up either green or red to make people aware of their speed. Cllr F Van Mierlo told the Parish Council that these devices are relatively effective and can help drop speeds in areas where they are installed on average of about 3-4mph. The devices are solar-powered but would need to be maintained by the Parish Council. He informed the Parish Council that OCC would erect the SID poles at their own expense. The Cllrs asked about using some of Cllr F Van Mierlo's priority fund to help fund these devices, which he encouraged the Parish Council to apply for. The cost for the device is around £2,500, and from Cllr F Van Mierlo's priority fund, around £1,500 could be granted towards the devices.

The Parish Clerk will apply for the Priority fund and also contact other local Parish Councils that currently use these devices to find out about how they are maintained and moved around the Parish. The Parish Clerk will also contact Jon Beale at OCC to begin the discussion about the SID poles installations.

Cllr Horsley asked about the Speed Watch programme which Cllr F Van Mierlo informed the Parish Council is a Thames Valley Police initiative, it is volunteer-run in the community. It was agreed by the Councillors that the Parish Clerk would



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contact TVP to enquire about the Speed Watch Programme and report back at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday, 17th July 2023, at 7.30 pm at the Pavilion.

Meeting ended 20:20

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. H. for', written over a horizontal line.

17.7.23