

Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr C Ashworth

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Website: www.great-milton.co.uk

Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday, 11th December 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Present: Cllrs S Harrod (chair), P Allen, D Harms, M Horsley, S MacMahon and Cllr G Heritage (SODC)

In attendance: Chris Ashworth (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

137/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Fox, S Illingworth and Cllr F Van Mierlo (OCC)

138/23 Variation of order of business

There was no variation in the order of business.

139/23 Declarations of members' interest

Matters to report: item 140/23 was spoken about after item 148/23.

140/23 Matters to report

The District Councillors' report was received and reviewed and is available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Heritage (SODC) updated the Councillors on her report, with lots of work on the Neighbourhood Plans. With Neighbourhood plan referendums held for Lewknor, Towersey and Wheatley.

Cllr Heritage visited the Cornwell Solar Farm site near Stoke Talmage, and this site is run by the same company that will be installing the Harlesford solar farm. This visit helped to open up links between Cllr Heritage and the Company – Low Carbon Ltd.

The Warm Spaces initiative is running in South Oxfordshire. The South Oxfordshire centres are Abbey Sports Centre (Berinsfield), Didcot Wave (Didcot), Henley Leisure Centre (Henley), Park Sports Centre (Wheatley) and Thame Leisure Centre (Thame).

The Warm Spaces scheme will run from 9 am-2 pm on weekdays in the café and communal areas of the centres. All the centres have been registered on the official Warm Spaces website.

141/23 Correspondence and public discussion

There was no correspondence or public discussion.

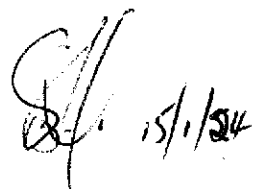
142/23 Planning applications

A No planning applications were received from SODC.

B The following planning decisions were received from SODC.

P21/S0428/LB (Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons Church Road Great Milton OX44 7P)
Listed building consent for internal and external alterations and minor extensions, repair and refurbishment works to the Grade II* Manor House (Amended plans September 2021 and Amended plans and additional information April and June 2022)

South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that listed building consent is **GRANTED**.



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P21/S0343/FUL (Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons Church Road Great Milton OX44 7PD) Full planning permission for the erection of a new Wellness Spa, Bistro, Garden Villas, Garden Rooms, Pavilions and Storage Barns, minor extensions and alterations to the existing Grade II* Manor House, former Stables building and Staff Facilities building, new highway access, internal road and car parking areas, limited demolition and associated works. (Amended plans and information September 2021, Archaeological Evaluation Report October 2021 and Amended plans and additional information April 2022 and June 2022).

South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is **GRANTED**.

P23/S3748/AG (Views Farm Windmill Hill Great Milton) Erection of steel portal frame barn. Agricultural Development - **Application Not Required**.

143/23 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the November meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday, 20th November 2023, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

144/23 Financial resolutions

A The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Chris Ashworth. Salary, Tax and Expenses December: £608.22

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste November: £62.40

J M Dudley: £359.00

Great Milton History Society: £240.00

BT Office/e-mail package: £10.80 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

Hugo Fox: web support: £23.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

B The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement for November were received, reviewed and approved.

C Budget 2024-25

The second draft of the budget was reviewed. Since the draft budget was discussed at the November Parish Council meeting, the forecast number of households in the village paying council tax in 2024-25 has been received. This forecast shows that the number will rise by 3.7%. With increased costs, the Parish Clerk is proposing that the Parish Council increase the precept by a total of 7%. This comprises a 3.7% increase in the number of households paying Council Tax and a 3.3% increase by the Parish Council.

Cllr Harrod recommended to the Parish Council that the Precept be increased more than proposed on the second draft budget to allow for additional expenditure, including helping to fund the local Freecycle scheme, which was not included in the second budget draft. Cllr Harrod told the other Councillors that the Parish component of the Council tax is so small that even a 10% increase in the precept is less than a 1% increase in Council tax. All the Parish Councillors present agreed with Cllr Harrod, and the Parish Clerk will draft a new budget with these changes.



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Precept 2024-25

The proposed Precept from the second budget draft was not approved, with changes to be made to the request.

145/23 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

- Christmas tree recycling will be located adjacent to the entrance to the Rec. Trees must be 6ft or under or cut down to size and left by 9th January for collection on 10th January.
- Carol singing around the Christmas tree will be held on Wednesday 13th December at 6 pm with mulled wine and mince pies at The Bull afterwards.

146/23 Security in the village

The Neighbourhood Watch representative attended the meeting. With discussion about the progress of the Lion's message in a bottle scheme. Which has around 30 residents now taking part.

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.

147/23 Steps to the Well on the Green

Green and Growing have been out and completed the tidy-up to the steps to the green and have given the Parish Council estimated quotes for potential work to the steps.


The Parish Council all agreed in favour of getting Green and Growing to complete the works and that the works should be done to fully repair the steps. The Parish Clerk will arrange with the above contractor to get these works completed.

148/23 Neighbourhood planning update

CLRs Harms, updated the Councillors on the Neighbourhood planning online presentation. Cllr Harms reported back that the online presentation was very interesting. Cllr Harms raised the biodiversity and climate side of the Neighbourhood plan as being the most critical area for small Villages. Although this is important, Cllr Harms also pointed out that to complete a Neighbourhood Plan, you need a lot of time, money and resources, as well as the expertise of someone who understands the area to help complete a successful plan. Cllr Harrod raised the point that Great Milton is too small of a Village, with not enough developmental land to worry about the expensive undertaking of a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Harrod pointed out that a Parish Plan was completed in 2012 with very little coming from this plan and took a lot of time, money and resources to complete.

The following Great Milton Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday, 15th January 2024, at 7.30 pm at the Pavillion.

The meeting ended at 20:10

 15/1/2024