

Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr T Darch

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council
held on Monday 20th November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.**

Present: Cllrs. S Harrod (Chair and County Councillor), W Fox, P Fewell, P Allen, C Deacon, G Harris

In Attendance: Mr T Darch (Clerk), 3 members of the public.

131/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr George Bennet.

132/17 Variation of order of business

'Bus Service update' was brought forward and dealt with immediately after Correspondence and Public Discussion for the convenience of the members of the public attending the meeting.

133/17 Declarations of Members' Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

134/17 Matters to Report

Reports were received from South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council. The new District Councillor for Great Milton (Cllr. Caroline Newton) hopes to attend the December meeting of the Parish Council.

135/17 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th October were signed and duly approved as an accurate record.

136/17 Correspondence and Public Discussion

No correspondence was received requiring discussion under this item.

137/17 Bus service update

The Chairman reported that the Wednesday bus service has continued to be poorly patronised despite significant efforts with publicity, a revised timetable to give more journey options to Wheatley and no fares being charged. There are three regular users, supplemented by 3 or 4 occasional users and the odd 'supporter'. There have been no more than 4 users on any one day, but more usually 1 to 3. As a result the Parish Council is not in a position to fund provision going forward given the inequity of any contribution benefiting such a small sample of the village's population. It was therefore RESOLVED to request that Oxfordshire County Council terminate the current arrangement after Wednesday 29th November. This position was understood by those present, who thanked the Parish Council for their efforts up to now and advised that there would probably be no passengers using the bus on Wednesday 29th as a coach outing was scheduled, so the Parish Council could save money by terminating the service before then if it wished to.

The Chairman went on to report that the Parish Clerk has written to Red Rose Travel seeking their view on the potential diversion of the 275 service via Great Milton. No response has yet been received but this will be followed up. Antony and Carol Ayton have written to OCC to suggest that bus provision in the county is revisited: the

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Cabinet Member for Transport has responded to say that a meeting will be held with the bus companies to discuss the issue. The Chairman stated that the effects of bus service withdrawals were not only being felt in Oxfordshire but across the whole country, and that a return to the old funding model was highly unlikely. It was suggested by a member of the public that the Comet 'dial-a-ride' service could potentially be expanded to cater for demand, but the Chairman responded by stating that there was no funding available for the necessary vehicles or staff to facilitate this.

138/17 Planning Applications

A To give consideration to the following planning applications received from SODC:

P17/S3081/FUL (Crofts Furlong Farm Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NJ)

Amendment to Full Application: construction of private tennis court (as amended by drawing P20A which has moved the tennis court 3 metres further away from the existing hedge).

The Parish Council's existing position on this application (to recommend refusal) remains unchanged despite the amendment. This application will be considered by SODC's Planning Committee on Thursday 29th November.

P17/S3619/FUL: The Oxford Belfry Hotel, London Road, Milton Common OX9 2JW
Retention of Staff Accommodation Static Caravans

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application should be refused. The original application was granted for a two-year period while this application seeks renewal for three years, which is excessive given that the caravans are unsightly and close to residential houses. However, the Parish Council would state in its comments that it would support a renewal for two years from the date the caravans were first installed (July 2017).

Notice of appeal (Tetsworth Parish Council):

APP/Q3115/W/16/3156409 (Land adjacent London Road Tetsworth OX9 7BB)

Change of use from agricultural land to provide; Proposed traveller site with provision for twelve individual plots with individual parking, individual amenity, shared paddock / amenity space and bin storage areas.

This inquiry will be heard at a public inquiry on 21 November 2017. The inquiry will be held at Tetsworth Memorial Hall, High Street, Tetsworth, OX9 7AB at 10.00 am for 4 days.

This information on an application affecting a neighbouring parish was noted.

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

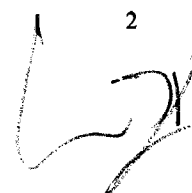
South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that consent is **GRANTED** for the execution of the works referred to below:

P17/S3260/HH (Stonham, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NP). Loft conversion with rear dormer construction to create a bedroom and en suite.

The Parish Council had no further comments on this application.

P17/S3223/FUL (Swarebrook, Lower End, Great Milton OX44 7NJ). Amendment to existing planning application P16/S3466/FUL to include a small cellar for storage purposes only. The above ground development that was previously approved is not to change: 'Building and erection of a single storey dwelling; provision of garden and parking.'

The Parish Council had no further comments on this application.



139/17 Financial Resolutions

A

The following payments were authorised:

Timothy Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses: £529.81

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production, October: £244.40

Green and Growing (October grass cutting): £534

OCC: 'Comet' bus provision. £252

OALC: 'VAT for Clerks' course. £42

Adam Blauza (Village Handyman): Recreation Ground hedge trim, Milton Common bus shelter refurbishment. £130 (£60/£70)

The Maple Tree Children's Centre: donation (as agreed at December meeting, minuted at Item 155/16). £1,000

Refund to Little Milton School (Full-page colour advertisement for fundraising event requested in November Bulletin, but black and white provided). £7.50

To note: unrepresented cheque (1779) for £50 donation to St John Ambulance made in 2015-16 has been removed from cashbook as per BDO External Audit recommendation.

B

A full bank reconciliation was received. The reconciled bank balance as at 4th November 2017 was £27,412.99.

140/17 Requests for funding

A request for a grant of £600 towards the cost of grass-cutting at St Mary's Church was received. It was RESOLVED to grant the sum requested: a cheque will be written at the December meeting.

141/17 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

- Laptop purchase

The Clerk reported that following discussions with a local IT consultant a budget of £500 was recommended to enable the purchase of a suitable laptop. It was RESOLVED to approve expenditure to a maximum of £500, which will be paid for from the Transparency Fund grant.

- Village maintenance: update

The hedge between the rear of the houses on Fullers Field and the Recreation Ground has been trimmed, and the bus shelter in Milton Common tidied up. The Chairman reported that the 'grips' enabling drainage of water from the road through the verge into the ditch at Lower End need clearing out: it was RESOLVED to seek a quotation for this work.

- Proposed fencing at Milton Common (opposite SVS)

The Clerk reported that the area under discussion is highway land. It was RESOLVED to report the issue of parking on this land to the County Council as the landowner, and to seek its initial view on potential action.

- Lower End footpath (refurbishment of bridge across brook by landowner)

Charles Peers has asked if the Parish Council wishes to make a contribution towards the cost of remedial works carried out on the bridge. It was RESOLVED to defer a decision on a contribution pending further investigation and discussion with the landowner.

- Carols on the Green

The Parish Council agreed to meet to purchase the Christmas tree on the afternoon of Friday 8 December.

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142/17 Tree maintenance

No tree issues requiring maintenance were reported.

143/17 SODC 'Deep Clean' offer

The District Council has reported that operatives will be visiting its villages for routine maintenance work and has asked for information on locations that may need a more thorough clean. It was suggested that the verges and hedges on Sworford Lane and on Thame Road between the A329 and the 90 degree bend would benefit from litter-picking. This will be reported to SODC by the Clerk, along with a suggestion that the pavements on Church Road are also attended to.

144/17 Budget 2018-19 preparation: presentation of first draft budget and discussion of Precept request

The Clerk and Councillor Peter Allen have looked at income and expenses and will look to present a budget requiring no more than a 6% increase in the precept. The Bulletin has been identified as a significant cost which may need to be reduced (possibly by increasing emphasis on its online presence). Costs for grass cutting have increased with new areas of coverage being added and milder wetter weather stimulating growth and necessitating an additional cut this growing season. It may therefore be necessary to increase the budget for this area of expenditure. Other minor adjustments are being considered and a further iteration of the draft budget and Precept request will be presented at the next meeting.

145/17 Grass cutting

Following discussion it was RESOLVED to request one further cut of the verges and common land from the contractor.

146/17 South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan 2033: publicity period

The Chairman will submit comments on the Local Plan on behalf of the Parish Council before the publicity period closes on 30 November.

147/17 Oxford-Cambridge Expressway proposal

It was reported by the Chairman that Oxfordshire County Council has no official position on the Expressway, and that he has supported the Expressway Action Group in his role as County Councillor. The National Infrastructure Commission's view as an advisory body is that the Expressway should follow the route of the proposed 'East West Rail' link. The County Council is talking to Highways England to get the best outcome for the people of Oxfordshire, with the main objective to relieve pressure on the A34. An announcement on the preferred corridor is expected July 2018. It was RESOLVED to support and endorse the activities and position of the Expressway Action Group, which the Chairman will action.

The meeting concluded at 9.05pm

The next meeting of the Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 18th December 2017, starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

SIGNED _____

