

GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th February 2009 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Present: Mr Ken Rogers (Chairman), Mr Stephen Harrod, Mr Phil Ashworth, Mr Doug Colley, Mr Peter Fewell, Mr Ian Bradley

In Attendance: Michele Block (Clerk)
Pat Cox (Bulletin Reporter)
David Turner (County Councillor)
John Nowell-Smith (District Councillor)
1 member of the public

10/09 Apologies for Absence

Action:

Richard Pearce

11/09 Register of Interests for this Meeting

Ken Rogers registered a personal interest under the Flood Plan Update item, as he lives in Church Road, which is one of the areas affected.

12/09 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on Monday 12th January 2009

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record. This was proposed by Phil Ashworth, seconded by Ian Bradley and agreed upon unanimously.

13/09 Matters arising from the meeting held on Monday 12th January 2009

A Flood Plan Update

Old Field

Following last month's meeting, Doug Colley (DC) met Richard Read (RR) a local farmer with ditching experience. RR is to provide an estimate for the work on Thame Road and Old Field. The proposal is to dig out the gully in Thame Road to expose the drainage pipe and ensure that it is clear and working effectively. RR is also quoting for the work to expand the 'winter pond' in Old Field to take the excess water. DC added that the wheat field on the opposite side of the Thame Road belongs to the Read family, and if given the job, RR would dig out the gulleys on both sides of the road, at only the cost of hiring the digger itself, and dispose of the earth in his field.

Ken Rogers (KR) informed Councillors that he had had a conversation with David Holme (DH) from the Old Field Committee, who was upset that the Committee had not been represented at any of the meetings regarding flooding in and around Old Field.

KR asked the Clerk to write a letter to Niki Patrick, Chairman of Old Field, explaining that the Parish Council has been asked by South Oxfordshire District Council to prepare a Flood Plan for the whole village following last June's flooding at Oxen Piece. The flooding in and around Old Field needs to be included as part of this plan. Over the last three months, the Parish Council has taken professional advice from the various local agencies/authorities who have all given their expert opinions. These recommendations for Old Field are not just an isolated case and form part of the whole village flood prevention plan. KR further asked the Clerk to request a meeting with Old Field Committee members, on site, as soon as possible, which he and DC will attend.

Action:

MB

Finally, the Clerk was asked to investigate whether there are any tree preservation orders on the two oak trees in Old Field, as several branches will need to be lopped before ditching work can commence.

MB

Oxen Piece

The Clerk had circulated an email from the Vale Housing Association (VHA), who own 1 Oxen Piece, stating that its ownership of land at Oxen Piece ends on the boundary of number one's garden. Ian Bradley (IB) had researched this matter and resolved that on Ordinance Survey maps boundaries may well be shown as ending at the end of a housing plot, however, in practice, they usually continue over a hedge line and ditch, as with farming landowners.

IB offered to draft an appropriate letter to the VHA outlining the boundary/ownership issue at 1 Oxen Piece and requesting that the VHA clear the piece of scrap land and ditch, or the Parish Council will organise the work and forward the invoice on to VHA. The Clerk confirmed that she would send this letter out from the Parish Council, as soon as she received it.

IB/MB

Church Road

KR reported that no further progress appears to have taken place on Church Road. Oxfordshire Highways is to carry out an investigation on the nine inch pipe that carries water from the gully under the road, which appears to be either blocked or has collapsed, however, to date, this work has not been carried out. KR confirmed that he would chase Tim Wilde at Oxfordshire Highways on this matter.

KR

David Turner confirmed that the Scrutiny Committee at South Oxfordshire District Council was meeting tomorrow, 10th February 2009 at 6pm, to discuss the Flood Plan for the district. The Clerk had circulated the report being presented at the meeting to all Councillors, and except for the outstanding matter in Church Road, it would appear that all works set out in the report are in hand.

B M40 CEG - Proposed Noise Barriers at J7/M40

The Clerk had circulated an email from Ken Edwards, Chairman of the

M40 CEG, stating that the tree/crop planting along the M40/A40 slip to reduce noise pollution in the village was at a very early stage. Mr Edwards felt that, at this stage, it would be beneficial to have a contact at the Parish Council with whom he could liaise as progress is made on this project. Richard Pearce offered to take up this role and all Councillors agreed. The Clerk confirmed that she would put the two in contact.

Action:

MB

C Great Milton Website

Phil Ashworth (PA) confirmed that he had now received all of the updated and amended website pages, and was collating them prior to sending them off to the web designers. PA did add that he was still looking for some high quality photographs of the village and it was suggested that he contact Jean Dudley, who has a vast library. PA confirmed that the website will be shown to the Parish Council for “approval” before going live. PA will advise Councillors when the website is available for viewing.

PA

D Red BT Kiosk

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council’s application for a grant from The Sheppard Charitable Trust to help fund the sponsorship of the red telephone kiosk had been unsuccessful. Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated a draft letter which Councillors suggested should be sent to local businesses asking for donations towards the cost of keeping the kiosk and payphone in the village. Councillors discussed this issue, approved the letter and asked the Clerk to send it to Le Manoir, Greenford and Revival, asking each if they would consider donating between £100 and £150.

MB

E Potts Close and Parking

Phil Ashworth (PA) had circulated an email to Councillors during January highlighting the major parking problems currently being experienced in Lower End. PA felt that before the new residents of Potts Close move into their new homes, the Parish Council should write a letter to SOHA stating that the bus stop lay-by to the front of the houses is not a parking bay, and that under no circumstances should residents park their cars in the lay-by. The Clerk confirmed that she would send this letter to SOHA.

MB

The Chairman also asked the Clerk to write a letter to Oxfordshire Highways asking them to reinstate the road markings on the lay-by for the bus stop.

PA then asked if the subject of general ‘parking’ in the village could be put on next month’s Agenda.

MB

14/09 Correspondence and Public Discussion

A South Oxfordshire Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers

The Clerk précised a letter from the South Oxfordshire Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers (RCV) outlining the activities and opportunities that they

give to physically disabled people in South Oxfordshire. RCV arranges for local volunteers to either visit members at home or organise trips out, such as swimming, gardening, photography, painting etc. Councillors discussed this organisation and felt it was a very worthy cause. RCV had asked if the Parish Council would consider granting £50 to help its funding this year and Stephen Harrod proposed that the PC donated £50, this was seconded by Peter Fewell and agreed upon unanimously. The Clerk confirmed that she would raise the cheque for March's meeting.

Action:

MB

B South & Vale Carers – Thank you letter

The Clerk read out a thank you letter from the South & Vale Carers, thanking the Parish Council for its recent donation.

C Wheatley Park School Invite

An invitation had been received from Wheatley Park School inviting a member of the Parish Council to the official opening of the John Milton Building, which is to be officiated by John Howell MP. Phil Ashworth confirmed that he would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

PA

D Thame & District Citizens Advice Bureau

The Clerk précised a letter from Thame & District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) requesting funding support. The letter informed the PC that in the current climate the CAB had seen an increase in demand for its services, and this was likely to increase further over the forthcoming year. Councillors discussed this matter and Phil Ashworth proposed a donation of £50, this was seconded by Stephen Harrod and agreed upon unanimously. The Clerk confirmed that she would raise the cheque for March's meeting.

E Information from David Turner, County Councillor

David Turner (DT) informed the meeting that he was still waiting to hear back from Tim Wilde at Oxfordshire Highways (OH) regarding the proposal put forward at last month's PC meeting of roughing up the pavement surface outside Close Cottages. The Parish Council would like to know if OH feel that this may improve this very dangerous stretch of footpath. DT will chase this matter

DT

DT confirmed that the new budgets from OCC and SODC were to be announced this week. The OCC recommendation is for a 3.75% increase and JNS informed Councillors that SODC is recommending a 2.9% increase.

After an enquiry from Great Haseley, DT had investigated whether OCC would provide free salt bins for each village. The outcome is that OCC will provide salt bins but at a cost of between £150 and £200 per bin. However, they will keep the salt topped up free of charge! The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had bought a bin, and it was positioned at the top of the hill, prior to the chevrons, in Sworford Lane, however, someone had stolen it. DT said he would ask Brian

Short if OCC would replace stolen bins free of charge. Councillors also wanted to know whether further heaps of salt could be left around the village without bins, as the number of salt piles appears to have diminished this year. Councillors also discussed making small 'containers' around the village out of half buried flagstones to place the salt in, so that it is more easily identifiable in the snow. DT to report back before any decision is made on where to build the 'containers'.

Action:

DT

DT reported that there had been complaints from residents in Stadhampton and Little Milton regarding an increase in the number of HGV's using the A329 to get down to Grenoble Road. The figures collated by recent surveys indicate a decrease in HGV's using the road from 263 in 2007 to 222 in 2008, which put a halt on the weight restriction being proposed for the road. However, DT is not convinced that these figures actually reflect the number of vehicles using the road and is going to look into the matter.

DT

Following last month's discussions regarding the lay-by outside Middle Ground in Milton Common, and the number of fuel thefts and attacks that have taken place there, DT confirmed that he has spoken to Simon Alden, who is not prepared to keep repairing the fence on the boundary of his land and the lay-by, as it is continuously being broken down. Therefore, the matter is now with police who are going to make a decision as to whether to close the lay-by altogether.

DT confirmed that the M40/J7 bridge repair work and partial closure is still scheduled for Sept/Oct 2008 (at present!).

15/09 **Planning Applications**

Great Milton Parish Council considers that the following planning application should be refused by South Oxfordshire District Council.

- A Hayesmoor Farm Barn, Lower End, Great Milton. P09/W0023
Erection of two storey rear extension.

The Parish Council gave the following reasons for recommending refusal:

The Parish Council feels that this application should be rejected on the grounds that it is back land development, encroaching into Greenbelt land, and away from the village building line. The PC also considers that the property is overdeveloped from what was a small dwelling/garage.

The Parish Council asked John Nowell-Smith if he would speak to the Planning Office and ask that the case be recommended to go to Committee, if the Officer's decision differs from the Parish Council.

JNS

Great Milton Parish Council considers that the following planning applications should be approved by South Oxfordshire District Council (decided at Planning Meeting on Weds 4th February).

B The Pavilion, Great Milton Recreation Ground. P08/W1326 **Action:**
Erection of a rear extension incorporating kitchen, toilets and storage.

C ASDA Store, London Road, Wheatley. P09/W0029
Single storey storage building for use in connection with internet
homeshopping and proposed pedestrian footpath

**South Oxfordshire District Council has granted planning
permission on the following planning application:**

D Brannock Cottage, Lower End, Great Milton. P08/W1232
Two storey extension.

16/09 **Financial Resolutions**

A The following payments were agreed; proposed by Stephen Harrod,
seconded by Ian Bradley and agreed upon unanimously.

Michele Block. Clerk's Salary - £303.43
Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin Production (Feb) – £183.00
Manny Stone. Editorial Services (Jan) - £50.00
Victim Support. Donation - £25.00 (agreed at Jan Mtg)
Three Villages Hospital Car Service - £21.00 (total – split over 6
cheques)
SODC. Dog Hygiene Bin Emptying - £58.01
Oxfordshire Greenbelt Network. Subscription - £15.00

MB

17/09 **Items for Discussion**

A **Review of the Conservation Area**

Following discussions regarding the Conservation Area during the
Planning Application process, it was proposed by Councillors to
review the Conservation Area in Great Milton. The Clerk was asked to
contact Adrian Duffield at South Oxfordshire District Council to
clarify the current Conservation Area and the criteria for any change or
additions.

MB

B **Waste Bins**

The Clerk confirmed that all the public waste bins in the village had
been repaired, restored or replaced by SODC as per the list detailed in
December's minutes. Phil Ashworth queried whether the new bin
outside the school needed a key and said he would check to ensure it
could be emptied.

PA

18/09 **Any Other Business**

A **Recreation Ground Access**

The Chairman raised the issue of the Recreation Ground driveway,
which crosses Common Land. The entrance has got very bad recently
and earth has fallen away from the pavement and concreted drive,
making it quite dangerous. The matter was discussed and it was
agreed that KR should get a quote from Spade Oak, the company who

laid the rest of the Recreation Ground driveway, to lay a proper hard surface entrance. Once the cost of the work is known, then the Parish Council will apply for grants from SODC and various other local bodies. The Clerk did remind Councillors that for all works totalling over £1,000, three quotes are required.

Action:

KR

The meeting closed at 9.10

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 9th March 2009 at 7.30pm** in the Pavilion.

Signed: _____

Date: _____