

Great Milton Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held on Monday 15 April 2019 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Present: Cllrs. W Fox (Vice-Chairman), P Allen, P Fewell, C Deacon, G Bennet and G Harris.

In Attendance: Tim Darch (Clerk), Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC) and 3 members of the public.

59/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received in advance from Cllr Steve Harrod (Chairman).

60/19 Variation of order of business

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

61/19 Declarations of member's Interest (if any)

As outlined in Item 65/19 the Chairman (though absent from this meeting), Vice-Chairman and several councillors declared an interest in the planning application for The Bull public house, as either members of the Great Milton Community Pub Company management committee or as shareholders. To avoid any conflict of interest no discussion of this item took place: local residents are advised to comment directly to the planning authority.

62/19 Matters to Report

The County Councillor's monthly update was received by the meeting and is available on the Parish Council website. The District Councillor added that the OVO Women's cycling race will be visiting South Oxfordshire on 12 June, though it will not pass in the immediate vicinity of Great Milton.

63/19 Correspondence and Public Discussion

A member of the public raised the issue of vehicles parking on the verge at the junction of the A40 and the A329 at Milton Common. The Parish Council has raised this with OCC as the highway authority (which owns the land) but it appears unenthusiastic about taking enforcement action.

64/19 Planning Applications

A

To consider the following planning applications received from SODC.
P19/S0677/FUL (Coach House, Milton Lodge, Lower End, Great Milton). Remove condition 6 from application ref P14/S2675/FUL to allow for the creation of a parking area for the property on Ives Gate Lane, (an unadopted road outside the curtilage of the property).

Objections in person were made at the meeting highlighting the following issues:

- The area on which the parking space is proposed is not owned by the applicant
- The original planning application provides for vehicular access to the property within the existing curtilage of Milton Lodge, independent of the main Lodge forecourt. There has been no material change in circumstances to require additional parking on Ives Gate Lane, which was restricted by S6 of the original application, which this amendment seeks to overturn.
- Ives Gate Lane is a narrow, unsurfaced track leading to a handful of residences, as well as being a public footpath— as such, the concerns raised in the design & access statement as to safety of children in the garden of Milton Lodge as per the existing planning application are equally applicable to parking/vehicle movements in Ives Gate Lane.
- The design & access statement argues that the space may be needed to make the property more accessible for those with mobility issues in the future. The choice of proposed surface (hoggin) was questioned as to its suitability for such access (for example wheelchair use). It was suggested that an alternative surfacing, such as hexagonal matting which allows grass to grow whilst providing temporary parking space for vehicles, may be more palatable to residents, but that the main objections would still stand.
- Similar objections were also raised with Cllr Harris from additional residents.

- Informal advice provided by OCC Rights of Way identified that due to the width of Ives Gate Lane, the proposed parking would not be considered to materially affect public enjoyment of the right of way over the lane.

After consideration of both the arguments in the design & access statement for the proposed amendment, and of the objections raised, the Parish Council agreed that as the proposed parking space is on land which does not belong to the applicant, that independent parking and vehicular access for the Coach House can be achieved within the existing curtilage of Milton Lodge, and that safety concerns for people in the grounds of Milton Lodge are also applicable to the public using Ives Gate Lane, it was RESOLVED to advise the planning authority of the Parish Council's **objection** to the application.

P19/S1035/FUL (The Bull, The Green, Great Milton). External stores and associated picket fence.

Given that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council are also members of the Committee of The Great Milton Community Pub Company Limited, the Parish Council will not comment on these applications to avoid any potential conflict of interest. However local residents are encouraged to submit their own comments directly to SODC.

- B To review any planning decisions received and any outstanding planning matters.
P19/S0013/FUL (Welcome Break Oxford, Thame Road, Waterstock, OX33 1LJ). Extension to existing HGV park and associated works. (As amplified by additional drainage information received 24 January 2019 and Swept Path Analysis drawing received 15 February 2019). Planning permission is GRANTED for the works described above.

P19/S0629/FUL (6 Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7HY). New detached dwelling on infill plot next to 6 Thame Road.

South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is REFUSED for the carrying out of the development referred to above for the following reason(s): The Development Plan identifies appropriate locations for new development. New buildings within the Green Belt will not be allowed unless the development falls within strictly defined criteria. Great Milton is one of the villages within the District where infill development may be allowed. In this case, the site lies outside the built-up limits of Great Milton within the Green Belt where infill is not acceptable. As such, it would not be considered as an appropriate location for new residential development. The NPPF advises that inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the openness of the Green Belt unless there are very special circumstances which outweigh that harm. No very special circumstances exist in this instance. The provision of a new dwelling on this site would consolidate a row of houses outside the main body of the village and would have a greater impact on the openness than the current use. As such, the proposal is contrary to advice in the NPPF, policies CSR1 and CSEN 3 of the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy and saved policy GB4 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan. Caroline Newton expressed her regret that she had not been notified of this application coming to Planning Committee and her resulting absence.

65/19 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18th March 2019 were signed and approved as an accurate record.

66/19 Financial Resolutions

A To authorise cheques for payment:

Timothy Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £461.88

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production April. No payment made (no invoice received).

Recreation ground insurance premium: £930.89

SODC dog hygiene: £65.48

Maple Tree Children's Centre annual grant (as agreed at minute 12/19). £500

Jenks Oxford (Tree maintenance): £768

Gillett and Johnstone (Church clock service): £206.40

- B The final reconciliation, bank statement and accounts for 2018-19 were received and APPROVED. The reconciled bank balance on 31 March 2019, and the closing balance for the 2018-19 financial year, was £21,041.50.

- C The Council's draft Standing Orders (April 2019) were reviewed and subsequently APPROVED.
- D The Council's Financial Regulations (April 2019) were reviewed and subsequently APPROVED.
- E Review of the Council's Risk Management document (April 2019) was further deferred until the May meeting.
- F The required insurance cover for the Parish Council's policy in advance of renewal was discussed, including consideration of coverage for various items belonging to the History

Society in the Community Room at The Bull. Given that these items are not owned by the Parish Council or kept on Parish Council property, the Parish Council is unable to cover them to its own insurance. However, the Council is happy to discuss helping with improvements to security at the Community Room and/or a contribution towards any premium that may be necessary to ensure coverage of these items.

- G Given expenditure and income of less than £25,000 in the financial year 2018-19, it was RESOLVED to declare the Parish Council exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Clerk were duly authorised to sign the Certificate of Exemption on behalf of the Council.
- H The proposed dates for Great Milton Parish Council's internal/external audit activities were reviewed and agreed as follows:
- Internal Audit (commenced April 2019)
 - Signing of Certificate of Exemption (AGAR Part 2): Monday 15 April 2019
 - Approval of AGAR Part 2 (including Internal Audit, Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements): Monday 21 May 2019
 - Exercise of public rights – Tuesday 18 June to Tuesday 30 July 2019
 - All required information to be displayed on website by 1 July
 - Exemption Certificate to be with Moore Stephens by 28 June.

67/19 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

- The village litter-pick on Saturday 23 March was attended by 15 residents, to whom thanks are extended as well as to Ant Reeve of LASSCO for the use of his van for collection of bags from remote locations. Around 30 bags of rubbish were retrieved from the village's hedges and verges.
- The speed monitoring device will shortly be returned to the police for use elsewhere but will return later in the year when an opportunity arises.
- At the time of writing the defibrillator was being installed in the former telephone kiosk. The Parish Council again expresses its gratitude to the local resident who has kindly funded this provision and facilitated all necessary works.

68/19 Stiles: footpath from Pitts Green (Swarebrook) to Waterstock

No further progress on the issue of stile replacement/repair was reported, although the path has been cleared and as a result is now considerably easier to navigate.

69/19 Volunteer car scheme to Wheatley

At the moment a lack of volunteers means that the proposed car scheme linking with the 280 at Wheatley unfortunately cannot go ahead at present: however residents have suggested that efforts are diverted towards lobbying for the Oxford Bus Company Pick Me Up demand-responsive bus service to include Great Milton in its area of coverage.

70/19 Suggested 50mph speed limits on Windmill Hill/Sworford Lane

Radar devices have been erected by the County Council on Sworford Lane and Windmill Hill to assess speeds on these sections of road. The results have been received and are as follows:

Sworford Lane (Lower End-April Cottage)
4 days of data (battery failure)
TOTAL VEHICLE MOVEMENTS: 4118
Vehicles 51-60mph: 101
Vehicles 61mph+: 1

Windmill Hill (Views Farm-The Forties)
7 days of data
TOTAL VEHICLE MOVEMENTS: 13541
Vehicles 51-60mph: 1324
Vehicles 61-70 mph: 106
Vehicles 71+ mph: 5

In summary, although there are clearly instances of exceeding the speed limit (112 out of 17,659 movements) this is not sufficient to justify the many thousands of pounds it would cost to fund a reduction in the speed limit if not suggested by OCC on road safety grounds.

71/19 Parish and District Council Elections

Parish and District Council elections are taking place on Thursday May 2nd. The Parish Council election will not be contested as no more nominees have come forward over and above the seven existing councillors. The Statement of Persons Nominated has been displayed on the village noticeboards: the Notice of Poll will be displayed in the week commencing 22 April. Please contact Tim Darch (Parish Clerk) if you need any further information on the election process.

72/19 SODC Local Plan 2034

The South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034 and associated documents have been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination. The Local Plan and its supporting studies set out SODC's vision for South Oxfordshire and identify where housing, retail and employment land should be located, as well as the infrastructure required to support this growth, such as new roads, schools, health services and utilities. All documents, alongside other core supporting documents, are available for inspection at:

- SODC's offices 135 Eastern Avenue Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB weekdays from 8.30am until 5.00pm (4.30pm Fridays);
- www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan
- Public libraries in the district during normal opening hours.

The South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034 will now be subject to an independent examination to be conducted by the Planning Inspectorate. This is a continuous process which runs from the date of submission to the publishing of the Inspector's Report. This process will include hearing sessions which provide an opportunity for those invited to attend to respond to matters raised by the Planning Inspector. More details of this process can be found at www.southoxon.gov.uk/lp2034examination.

73/19 Refurbishment of bus shelter at Milton Common

The bus shelter is in a sorry state. Quotes for replacement of the perspex windows have been received and Cllr Harrod in his role as County Councillor has offered to fund half the cost via his Community Fund if the Parish Council can match fund the remaining cost. The cost of repainting the shelter via the shelter maintenance company is likely to be unaffordable, but options are being explored.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 20 May 2019 immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, which will start at 7.30pm.

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