

# Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr T Darch

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council

held at the Pavilion, Great Milton on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

Present: Cllrs S Harrod (Chair), P Allen, D Harms and M Horsley.

In Attendance: Tim Darch (Clerk), Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo and one member of the public

### 14/22 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs W Fox, G Bennet, C Deacon and Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC).

### 15/22 Variation of order of business

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

### 16/22 Declarations of members' interests

No declarations of interest were received in matters on the agenda.

### 17/22 Matters to report

Reports were received from the County and District Councillors: these appear on the parish council's website. Cllr Allen asked a question about bus service funding: Cllr Van Mierlo replied that some funding is pending from central government, but probably not all that had been asked for. The bus companies are struggling financially and some service reductions are taking place in light of reduced patronage. Although the County Council has aspirations to increase public transport use the impact of Covid may influence this.

### 18/22 Correspondence and public discussion

No correspondence has been received this month other than that relating to matters dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

### 19/22 Planning applications

A The following planning applications received from SODC were considered. P21/S4878/HH (The Old Stable Yard Thame Road Great Milton). Stable buildings and concrete apron to front comprising three stables, tack room and store. The application was reviewed by the ward councillor, who in his absence provided comments in advance for review and discussion. No issues or significant comments were raised, either by councillors or nearby residents when contacted. As a result the parish council agreed to SUPPORT the application.

B The following planning decisions received and outstanding planning matters were considered.

#### Le Manoir planning application update

It is understood that following objections from Heritage England and SODC's landscape officer, the applicants are reviewing their plans with a view to some amendments.

#### Tiddington-with-Albury Neighbourhood Plan pre-submission plan

Tiddington-with-Albury's Neighbourhood Plan pre-submission plan has been received for consideration. Having reviewed the content, Great Milton Parish Council congratulates Tiddington-with-Albury Parish Council on the content of the plan, and shares its concerns over the impact of potential development at Harrington, Chalgrove and the site of Waterstock Golf Course on local infrastructure, particularly with regard to additional traffic generation on the A329.

### 20/22 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the January meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021, were received, approved and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

## **21/22 Financial resolutions**

A The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:  
Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £504.65  
Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production February. £335.20  
Shield Solutions. Dog bin emptying January. £62.40  
SLCC annual membership renewal. £112  
Website support February. £19.99 (now paid by Direct Debit: authorisation of invoice only)  
BT Office/e-mail package. £10.80 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

B The latest monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received, considered and approved. The reconciled bank balance as at 7 February 2022 was £46,581.50.

## **22/22 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand**

- Airband appears to have been installing fibre-related infrastructure in the village over the last few weeks. This hopefully means that much of the village will shortly have access to full fibre broadband, though it appears that the houses beyond Oxen Piece on Thame Road and some more isolated properties may not be covered by this project. Clarification on this and on timescales and procedures for accessing services will be sought from Airband, though it appears that domestic access may not be available any time soon.
- A resident of the houses erected recently on London Road in Milton Common has reported incidences of inconsiderate parking, including on the pavement and close to driveways. Residents are politely reminded to ensure that visitors park safely and respectfully, preferably in the allocated parking spaces outside the houses if available, or in the laybys on London Road. The parish council has no powers of enforcement in this area, but the issue has been reported once again to the Neighbourhood Policing team.
- Remedial work to address the drainage issues on Lower End has now got the go-ahead from OCC, but timings are yet to be determined. Some work was under way in the problem area on the day of the meeting: it is hoped that this was to address the drainage issues.

## **23/22 COVID-19: update on village response/impacts**

No significant local developments were reported with regard to the current pandemic, other than those widely publicised nationally.

## **24/22 20mph zone**

Requests for 20mph speed limits will be fully funded by the county council. Villages and towns that have already put in applications will be bundled into two batches in summer and winter 2022. Further rounds will be planned in 2023 and beyond. There is nothing to indicate which batch Great Milton's application (submitted in January) is included in.

## **25/22 Issues with mail deliveries**

It appears that the issues with mail deliveries reported last month have eased.

## **26/22 Security in the village**

Security in the village was discussed in light of reports of a number of attempted and successful burglaries in recent months. A resident was in attendance representing the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. CCTV was discussed, though issues with lighting, costs and privacy were raised. It was suggested that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme could take a more prominent role in the village in terms of providing a link between the Parish Council and the police. Cllr Van Mierlo also suggested contacting Matthew Barber (Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley) to express concerns over the apparent recent increase in crime, and particularly burglary, in the village. The Clerk will pursue this. It was also proposed that the neighbourhood policing team could be approached by the Neighbourhood Watch group with a view to attending a local event where advice could be provided to concerned residents.

## **27/22 Protocol for death of a senior figure: 'Operation London Bridge'**

Various organisations (including Oxfordshire County Council) have encouraged local councils to once again revisit their arrangements for the death of a senior figure, and to ensure an element of coordination between parish councils, churches and other elements of the community in marking such an event. After brief discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council's existing protocols were sufficient, having been revisited within the last year.

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## **28/22 Parish Clerk's remuneration 2021-22**

The Clerk's remuneration for the current financial year was reviewed and discussed.

Negotiations are currently ongoing between Local Government employers and the unions on the 2021/22 pay increase. The process has been protracted and there has been no agreement as yet. However, there seems to be little appetite among the union members for industrial action: as a result it seems probable that agreement will be reached soon: the parish council will keep the situation under review and backdate any pay increment when agreed to April 2021. In the meantime councillors agreed to pay the Clerk a cash bonus of £200 in March to recognise his excellent contribution over the year, particularly during lockdowns and other restrictions.

## **29/22 Date of April meeting/Annual Parish Meeting**

To note that April's Annual Parish Meeting and the monthly meeting of the parish council will take place on **Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, instead of on the Monday as is usual which is Easter Monday.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

***The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at the Pavilion, starting at 7.30pm.***

**SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_