

# GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council meeting held on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009**  
at **7.30pm** in the **Pavilion.**

Present: Mr. Ken Rogers (Chairman), Stephen Harrod (Vice Chairman), Mr. Phil Ashworth, Mr. Ian Bradley, Mr. Doug Colley, Mr. Peter Fewell, Mrs. Christine Pepperell

In Attendance: Joanna Botha (Clerk)  
John Nowell-Smith (District Councillor)  
3 members of the public

## 87/09 **Apologies for Absence**

David Turner (County Councillor)

## 88/09 **Register of Interests for this Meeting**

None

## 89/09 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**Action:**

The term 'killer' weed was amended to 'pernicious' weed. The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record. This was proposed by Ian Bradley (IB), seconded by Peter Fewell (PF) and agreed upon unanimously.

## 90/09 **Matters arising from the Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

### **A Traffic Speed in the Village – Guest Speaker Peter Ronald (PR), Area Traffic Engineer**

Mr. Ronald had been invited to talk present his thoughts about traffic speed in Great Milton. He explained that his team must first establish whether a village has a perceived problem or an actual problem and would do speed surveys using a hidden radar before any action was taken. If the problem is about enforcement it would be down to Thames Valley Police.

He described various options such as 30 mph repeater signs, painting 30 mph roundles on the carriageway, putting up yellow 30 signs or flashing signs. Some of these methods depend on certain criteria from the speed survey and often he finds they are unpopular as villagers don't want to see their village appearance change. With all such measures the impact will usually fade over time.

Any physical calming in Great Milton village, such as humps, chicanes or speed cushions would need to be accompanied by a 20 mph limit because there is no street lighting present. He felt humps may be an option, chicanes can have the opposite effect as motorists race to get to them first and that speed cushions are not warranted.

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He reported his team's recent success with the method of removing the white centre lines. It has the effect of reducing speeds by 15-20 per cent. This has a psychological effect by reducing a driver's ability to judge the width of the road and therefore slowing speed when approaching oncoming traffic. If the Parish Council was in agreement his team would do the speed survey, remove the lines, and then repeat the survey to measure the impact. This could be a good option as it doesn't really require consultation, is not controversial and the lines can be put back if necessary.

Parking in the village also helps slow speed down and can be designated if necessary.

Mr. Ronald does not recommend speed activation signs as these are very costly and while effective at the start, lose their impact.

The first step would be for the PC to say where it would like survey equipment placed, this may require a walk around the village to identify points for the survey. A survey would then be carried out 24 hours a day for a week and would be completely hidden. The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should order the survey.

JB

Ken Rogers (KR) asked PR if further to their recent meeting a decision had been made about preventing verge erosion in the Forties where buses pass. PR explained that there was no budget for this work and that the bus companies have not complained.

## **B Recreation Ground Driveway**

Stephen Harrod (SH) reported that Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) is winding up and requires match funding to be in place for future bids. We will therefore be looking at another landfill fund, WREN, for possible funds.

SH

## **C Footpath between Fullers Field and the Recreation Ground**

IB had met with Martin Wilbery of SOHA Housing. A sensible discussion was had from which it was agreed that the fruit trees need pruning and that this could be done as part of SOHA Housing's normal work. A tree surgeon is coming to look at the problem and come up with a recommendation. IB will be available to meet on site.

IB

## **D Damage to Grass Verge Opposite School**

The Clerk explained that Heyfordian had written to say that its driver had only caused part of the damage, but had enclosed a cheque for £22.50 to cover the cost of the repair. It was resolved that the cheque should nevertheless be paid in. It was reported that there had been similar damage caused on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and that witnesses had seen turf hanging from the 3.30pm school coach. Cars are regularly being parked on the school Keep Clear lines which is causing the problem. The Clerk will write to the school again for confirmation of the 3.30pm contractor and about the Keep Clear area.

JB

## **E Chilworth Lane, Thame Road and Lower End Potholes**

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It was reported that Thame Road and Chilworth have been done. An officer had been in touch with the Clerk with regard to Lower End, saying that he would be monitoring the problem but could not take action currently because it was not a pothole and is within the 30 mph limit. It was resolved that the Clerk should report that a villager's car is grounding on it.

JB

## F **Sign to Village Post Office and Shop**

PR advised that estimations have gone off to the contractors and the PC must await quotes.

## G **Old Cottage Building Works**

This area has now been cleared. Mrs. Greenhalgh had promised to make good the land.

## H **Horse Chestnut Tree Roots causing Problems in Church Road**

The Clerk had reported this to Martin Gammie. KR said he would also inform Tim Wilde of Oxfordshire Highways.

KR

## J **Parish Plan**

Anton Nath of Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council (ORCC) had recommended that he meet informally with a few interested Councillors in the first instance. KR and PA to meet with him on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 7pm in the Pavilion. The Clerk will confirm his availability and book the Pavillion. Information about the Parish Plan process can be found at [www.clp-se.org.uk](http://www.clp-se.org.uk) and Mr. Nath has advised that David Turner is the best source of information on other villages' experiences.

KR/PA/JB

## K **Himalayan Balsam – Pernicious Weed**

The Clerk had reported this and agreed to follow up.

## L **Regularising of Common Land Licences**

KR explained that he was proposing creating a new licensing document in order that people who habitually park on the green are encouraged to stop. The PC had been advised by its solicitors that this is not necessary as the existing licences do not permit parking but if it was felt that this needed to be enforced, a letter could be drafted. KR also asked the PC whether preparing and maintaining the ground for access should be a pre-requisite of any licence. For example, the green adjacent to the Recreation Ground Access way is now eroded.

IB and SH felt that as residents do not have permission to park, a letter would remind them of this and if necessary enforcement proceedings could be looked into and charges made as they have been for recent damage to the verge.

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Mr. Hutton in the public audience informed the PC that the 2006 Common Land Act might impact such a course of action and questioned whether the PC's solicitors were aware of this recent legislation.

It was resolved that SH and KR would speak to Darbys solicitors in the morning and take any necessary action. In particular they would enquire whether an existing licence still stands when a driveway is moved and where the PC stands with regard to the any new surface.

KR/SH

## M **Tree for Thelma Blake**

The discussion about a replacement tree for Thelma Blake will be carried over to next month.

## 91/09 **Correspondence and Public Discussion**

### A **Letters from R. Hutton regarding Yew Tree Cottage Access**

Mr. Hutton had been in touch with the PC urging it to address the legal issues of the works at Yew Tree Cottage promptly. He felt that the PC should issue rules and a charge to any villagers creating a new driveway across common land, with legal costs borne by the villagers themselves. He felt that this should have happened before the works took place at Yew Tree Cottage. He felt that while the District Planning Officer had granted permission for the gateway, the PC was able to prevent the surface of the common land being altered or re-surfaced.

This matter is to be included in the action for 90/09 L above.

Mr. Hutton had also written that in a letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> May, the PC had requested a specification and architects drawings in advance of the works. Mr. Hutton had been promised a copy and had asked repeatedly for this but it had not been forthcoming. He felt frustrated that the PC had asked him to be involved but haven't followed through with what was discussed.

KR explained that while the letter from the Richards at Yew Tree Cottage was not a formal specification, he felt it was adequate. There had been no intention not to forward a copy to Mr. Hutton but rather it had been overlooked in error.

### B **Donation request from South & Vale Carers Centre.**

It was agreed to continue this annual donation and repeat last year's amount of £35. This was proposed by PF and seconded by SH.

JB

### C **Donation request from Sue Ryder Care, Nettlebed Hospice.**

It was agreed to donate £30. This was proposed by SH and seconded by PF.

JB

### D **Letter from Fleur Enser to Planning Officer re Childrens Centre.**

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The Clerk summarised the content of this letter for information only. This was noted.

Mr. Herbert in the public audience asked whether Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) had yet issued a formal response following the PC and the District Council's rejection of the Children's Centre bid. It was explained that there has not yet been a formal response but that an OCC project officer, Jennifer Makreel, had just met with the PC to explain the background to its proposed location. It was apparent from what she said that a combined Children's Centre / Pavillion project was looking unlikely, due to matters of ownership and grant conditions, and that OCC were not looking at any other options for a location within the school grounds. They would instead have to submit the application again and deal with each point of objection.

Mr. Herbert reminded the PC that the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) had said they would back the PC if it rejected the siting of the Children's Centre in the village per se. It was agreed that SH would call Jennifer Makreel and ask whether it was a formal decision that the combined Pavilion project was not an option. If appropriate he would then write to John Hamilton at OCC clarifying the PC's position and copy in Mike Tyce of CRPE.

SH

## 92/09 Planning Applications

### A South Oxfordshire District Council has granted planning permission for the following application:

Romeyns Stables, Church Road, Great Milton, OX44 7PD. P09/W0823

### B South Oxfordshire District Council has objected to the following planning application:

Great Milton C of E Primary School. County Council reference R3.0188/09.  
District Council reference P09/W0843/CC

## 93/09 Financial Resolutions

### A The following payments were agreed; proposed by SH, and seconded by PF and agreed upon unanimously:

- Enterprise (Sep) - £58.32
- Manny Stone. Editorial costs (Nov) - £50.
- Joanna Botha. Clerk's Salary (Oct) - £307.33
- Joanna Botha. Clerk's Expenses (Aug-Oct) - £118.49

The Clerk read out a further invoice that had been received since circulating the Agenda:

- Windmill Landscapes – £214.71

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## 94/09 Items for Discussion

### A Sworford Lane Flooding

KR had been in touch with Rosemary Heelas who owns the ditch that had previously been referred to. Maintenance had been legally ceded to OCC in 2002 and they were contracted to clear these ditches. She had called to request clearance and it was thought this had been done.

### B Grass Cutting Tender

The Clerk read out three quotes. It was agreed to gather references and some background information before making a final decision.

JB

### C Budget and Precept for 2010/.

The Clerk circulated a first draft budget and apologise that she could not do so before the meeting due to her internet being unavailable. It was agreed that Councillors would look at this at home.

ALL

## 95/09 Any Other Business

The Clerk asked whether any Councillors knew of any villagers who might want to donate a Christmas Tree to the village this year. It was suggested that the Clerk contact Charles Peers about a tree and Colin Putt about felling and erecting it as per previous years.

JB

The meeting closed at 10pm.

The next Great Milton Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at 7.30pm** in the Pavilion.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_