

# 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 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

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

**In Attendance:** Tim Darch (Clerk), Malcolm Horsley (new Councillor), Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC) and no members of the public.

### 161/19 Apologies for Absence

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

### 162/19 Variation of order of business

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

### 163/19 Co-option of new Councillor

Cllr Malcolm Horsley has volunteered his services as Parish Councillor for Lower End to the parish boundary at Wheatley, and has been duly co-opted in the absence of any other interest when the vacancy was advertised immediately following Gwen Harris's resignation. Cllr Horsley's Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed and his Register of Interests received: this will be sent to the District Council's Monitoring Officer as required.

### 164/19 Declarations of member's Interest

Cllr Peter Fewell declared an interest in his absence in Item 167/19, and specifically Planning Application P19/S2605/FUL (Mount Pleasant Farm, Thame Road, Great Milton). The land upon which the proposed housing will be constructed is partly owned by Cllr Fewell.

### 165/19 Matters to Report

Cllr Caroline Newton reported that Robert Jenrick (Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) directed SODC not to discuss or proceed further with any potential changes to its Local Plan during the parliamentary election period. It is assumed that Robert Jenrick will remain in post in the new government Cabinet, and that he will instruct that the Local Plan is put forward for inspection without further changes or councillor involvement. An emergency SODC cabinet meeting is likely to decide next steps, but currently it appears that the Local Plan will remain and be considered for adoption in its current form.

Although there has been no announcement as yet due to the election, there are strong hints that the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway will be cancelled, in its current form at least. Financial pressures at Vale of White Horse District Council may lead to the merger of SODC's and VOWH's finances to improve the situation in the short term: this may also trigger a one-off council tax rise.

### 166/19 Correspondence and Public Discussion

A letter has been circulated by the 'No Expressway Group' to the approximately 400 communities which are within 5km of the preferred 'Corridor B'. Essentially the purpose of this letter was to publicise the group's activities, to seek support and to summarise the current position with the Expressway. Given the uncertainty over the Expressway described above it was agreed to not discuss the letter further and to await further developments.

A resident of Milton Common has informed the Parish Council that building contractors at the site currently under construction on London Road have been blocking the pavement with their vehicles and materials. The Clerk has reported this to SODC, who in turn advised that it was an OCC matter. It is understood that this has been dealt with, but the Parish Council is happy to respond to further similar reports.

## **167/19 Planning Applications**

A The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:  
P19/S2605/FUL (Mount Pleasant Farm, Thame Road, Great Milton). Erection of two 4-bedroom dwellings with double garages. Amendments detailed in additional information received 11 November 2019 (trees, flooding/drainage, ecology).

It was agreed that the amendments and additional information received had no bearing on the Parish Council's original comments on this application (with particular reference to the size of the proposed dwellings and the garage gable ends facing Thame Road) or the concerns of residents that have been raised (one of which was that the site was in the Green Belt).

As a result it was agreed that the Council's original position of NO OBJECTIONS to development at this location be reiterated, but with the suggestion that consideration be given to smaller houses for which there is a significant need in the village, a request that hedgerows are retained and proposal that the garage arrangement should be redesigned so that the gable ends do not present to the Thame Road frontage.

P19/S4092/HH and P19/S4093 LB (Creeper Cottage, Church Road, Great Milton, OX44 7PB). Remove existing bay window to rear elevation and replace with oak framed single storey extension with hipped tile roof. New single storey extension to extend existing entrance area and provide new WC facility - remove existing internal flat roof area.

No objections have been voiced by from neighbours with regard to this application to reconfigure access arrangements and the internal layout, which the Parish Council agreed to FULLY SUPPORT.

B The following planning decisions received were reviewed:  
P19/S0677/FUL (Coach House Milton Lodge Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NJ)  
Pedestrian pathway to the existing door to The Coach House. Reinstatement of parking space to grassed area. (Temporary low fence to allow the grass to establish to be erected around the seeded area). Description amended to remove reference to removal of condition as agreed by agent's email dated 28 November 2019. Planning permission is GRANTED for the works described above.

## **168/19 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th November 2019 and the Special Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 27th November were received, signed and agreed as a full and accurate record of proceedings.

## **169/19 Financial Resolutions**

A The following cheques were authorised for payment and cheques signed:  
Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses December. £434.90  
Green and Growing. Mowing November. £90  
Castle Water. Allotment supply 1/10/19-31/3/20. £31.60  
Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production December. £278.50  
Great Milton Recreation Ground Committee. Annual grant. £400.  
Payment for village Christmas tree. £80.

B The latest monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements were received and signed. The bank balance as at 9 December was £29,093.07.

C Budget for 2020-21.  
The final draft budget was discussed in detail. Expenses totalled £22,440, an increase of 4.3% compared with the previous year. Income from sources other than the precept was £3,710 compared with £3,510 in the previous year, while the precept was forecast to rise 4% from £18,010 to £18,730. It was noted that the General Reserve stood at approximately £21,040. It was agreed that this level of reserves was reasonable and should be maintained. After discussion it was RESOLVED that the draft budget for 2020-21 be accepted and approved.

Precept for 2020-21.

In the light of the agreed budget for 2020-21 and after discussion, it was RESOLVED that the precept for 2020-21 be set at £18,730. The precept request was approved and signed as required.

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## 170/19 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

Red Rose Travel has not yet confirmed whether it will be able to divert selected 275 service journeys through Great Milton.

## 171/19 School parking update

Progress on implementing the scheme to utilise spare driveway space has stalled pending contact from the school on final implementation.

## 172/19 Path along Sworford Lane from Great Milton to Wheatley

Peter Challis of Sustrans is scheduled to meet with the Clerk and other interested parties to discuss the proposed path to Wheatley on Wednesday 18 December. The outcome will be reported to the January meeting.

## 173/19 Honorary Freeman or Freewoman

It was agreed at a special meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 27 November that the title of Honorary Freeman of Great Milton should be conferred upon Raymond Blanc OBE, in recognition of his significant contribution to the economy of Great Milton and village life in general over his 35 years at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons. This took place in a presentation ceremony on Monday 2 December and a letter of thanks was subsequently received from M. Blanc.

## 174/19 Carols around the Christmas tree

Carols will be sung around the Christmas tree at 6.30pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, followed by mince pies and mulled wine at The Bull.

## 175/19 Dates for Great Milton Parish Council meetings 2020

It was agreed that GMPC's meetings in 2020 should take place on the following dates:

- 20<sup>th</sup> January
- 17<sup>th</sup> February
- 16<sup>th</sup> March
- 20<sup>th</sup> April
- 18<sup>th</sup> May
- 15<sup>th</sup> June
- 20<sup>th</sup> July (*Revision/cover possible dependent on Clerk's holiday arrangements*)
- No meeting in August
- 21<sup>st</sup> September
- 19<sup>th</sup> October
- 16<sup>th</sup> November
- 14<sup>th</sup> December

The meeting closed at 8pm.

***The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 20th January starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.***

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