

Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr C Ashworth

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Website: www.great-milton.co.uk

Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday, 19th February 2024 at 7:30 pm.

Present: Cllrs S Harrod (chair), M Horsley, S MacMahon, S Illingworth and Cllr G Heritage (SODC)

In attendance: Chris Ashworth (Clerk), Amy Williams (Future Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

13/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from B Fox (Vice-chair), P Allen, D Harms and Cllr F Van Mierlo (OCC)

14/24 Variation of order of business

Item 26/24 was spoken about before item 15/24.

Item 23/24 was spoken about before item 19/24.

15/24 Declarations of members' interest

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

16/24 Matters to report

The County and District Councillors' reports were received and reviewed and are available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr G Heritage raised the new grant scheme: The community levy grant fund. For town and parish councils that have infrastructure projects, the grants range from £75k to £250k.

Cllr Horsley asked whether it could be applied for broadband to areas of the village that haven't yet been connected.

Cllr Heritage also raised that there will be financial support available for flood victims with SODC at this time, collating a list of details for those who need to apply.

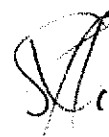
17/24 Correspondence and public discussion

Neighbourhood Watch raised the recent issues of what happened during a discussion on the village WhatsApp. Cllr Harrod went on to explain an overview of the details of what happened to inform Councillors who were unaware.

We had a member of the Recreation Ground Committee attend the meeting, and they said that recently, some members of the Committee had been approached about the fact that some dogs have been seen off lead within the Recreation Grounds. The long-standing rules are that dogs are to be kept on leads at all times while on the Recreation Grounds. A member of the Recreation Ground Committee reiterated the above rules in the village WhatsApp. The Recreation Ground Committee is reliant on the dog-walking community to adhere to these rules.

Cllr Horsley stated that the rules can be enforced as with more recent laws regarding Public spaces. It is now law that dogs must be kept on leads at all times (Public Spaces Protection Orders).

Cllr Harrod wanted to ensure the main outcome of this discussion was to ensure that antisocial behaviour in the Village is dealt with and doesn't become a long term issue. Along with the profanities used during the WhatsApp discussion, there was a recent



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incident of three white roses stolen from a grave in the Church Graveyard. Cllr Harrod questioned where this recent behaviour is coming from.

Cllr Harrod then read out a statement he had drafted for the Parish Council to discuss for publication in the Bulletin. Following further discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Harrod would redraft the statement and send it to all Councillors for approval before it was issued.

Cllr Illingworth suggested that any issues such as the above raised on the Village WhatsApp should be redirected to the relevant forum from the WhatsApp chat. The Recreation Ground Committee member in attendance told the Parish Council that the signs stating these rules will be moved to more visual places and at eye level, and the Recreation Ground Committee will reiterate these rules within the Village.

18/24 Planning applications

A The following planning applications were received from SODC and reviewed:

P24/S0313/FUL (The Bull The Green Great Milton OX44 7NS) Alterations to existing car park. All Councillors fully support the proposal.

P23/S2616/FUL (Land adjacent to The Yard Thame Road Great Milton) Erection of a new dwelling. This application was responded to in September 2023. There are now amended plans and additional information.

Cllr MacMahon reviewed this planning proposal and spoke to some local residents who raised concerns regarding lights from cars.

B The following planning decisions were received and reviewed.

P23/S3048/FUL (The Bull The Green Great Milton) Demolition of existing single and two-storey extensions, erection of single-storey side extension, single and two-storey rear extension, internal alterations, dormer window to rear, with alterations to existing parking layout (Bat roost assessment, tree protection, and plan to make changes to car park layout received 13 December 2023). **Refusal** of Planning Permission.

P23/S3051/LB (The Bull The Green Great Milton) Demolition of existing single and two-storey extensions, erection of single-storey side extension, single and two-storey rear extension, internal alterations, dormer window to rear, with alterations to existing parking layout. **Refusal** of Planning Permission.

19/24 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the January meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday, 19th January 2024, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

20/24 Financial resolutions

A The following cheques for payment were reviewed, agreed and signed:

Chris Ashworth. Salary, Tax and Expenses February: £608.22

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste January: £62.40

J M Dudley (Bulletin Jan): £335.20



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J M Dudley (Bulletin Feb): £359.00
Gillet and Johnston (church clock maintenance): £216.00
Castle Water (For the period 21 Sep 2023 - 31 Mar 2024): £60.72
Christmas Tree purchase: £250.00 (Re-issue of cheque)
BT Office/e-mail package: £10.80 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)
Hugo Fox: web support: £23.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

B The January bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were reviewed and approved.

21/24 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

- The annual spring clean litter pick will take place on Saturday, 16th March 2024, and will be advertised in the March bulletin, online and within the Parish.

22/24 Security in the village

Recent antisocial behaviour as raised in item 17/24.

Neighbourhood Watch also raised one more incident regarding graffiti in the village, which was reported to Thames Valley Police. Several councillors questioned if the youth club is still running and is successful as it seems to be a good way to help combat the recent antisocial behaviour. The Parish Clerk will find out about the youth club and report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

23/24 Grass-cutting contract 2024/25

The three quotes given for the grass-cutting tenure for the forthcoming season were reviewed by the Councillors. At the meeting, Henry Matthews from Tactical spoke about what his company can offer the Parish Council in regard to grass cutting. He recommended that the frequency of the cuts be increased during the growing season (March – November) compared to what the Parish Council had previously sought. With 18 cuts during the growing season in any areas that are used such as the Recreation ground. Verges are to be cut Monthly during the growing season.

Cllr Illingworth asked whether the days the grass cutting would be completed could be communicated to the village. Mr Matthews noted that they always give one week's notice to the Village before attending; this way, if any events are happening, they can work around these and ensure the village is in the best condition possible. The Parish Clerk will ensure that once a cutting day is advised, it is advertised on the Village website and WhatsApp to ensure villagers are aware and can take any precautions needed. Mr Matthews also confirmed that if the Parish Council feel more or less cuts are needed, Tactical will be able to adapt to our requests.

The Parish Council voted in favour of going ahead with Tactical for the grass-cutting tenure. This will be on an initial 3-month trial basis, which will give both the Parish Council and Tactical time to work out any queries. The Parish Clerk will be in contact with Tactical to arrange the contract.

24/24 Parking issues in the village



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The Parish Council discussed parking within the Village, especially down Thame Road, which is becoming more of a problem. Cllr Horsley noted that the parking has recently improved after the issue was spoken about on the Village WhatsApp. Cllr Harrod also spoke to Le Manoir, who will ensure staff are aware of parking safely and considerately in the village.

25/24 Speed indicator devices


The Parish Council reviewed the two quotes given for the purchase of the SID for use in the Village, and now the poles have been erected. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would go with the quote from Elancity, with one extra solar panel unit ordered on top of the two in the quote. The Parish Clerk will begin the arrangements to get the units ordered.

26/24 New Clerk/RFO

The Parish Council is delighted to welcome Amy Williams to the role of Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer starting 01/03/2024. The current Clerk will be employed until the end of April 2024 to allow time for a full hand-over. Amy's contact details will be updated in the Bulletin and other local information sources in due course.

The following Great Milton Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday, 18th March 2024, at 7.30 pm at the Pavilion.

Meeting ended 20:31

 18/3/24