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Appendix

44/21

Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Report of the Parish Council

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Annual Report and Financial Statements from:

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The Hard Surface Play Area Committee

Neighbours Hall Committee

Sheppard Charitable Trust

St Mary's Church/Kent and Couling Charity

Old Field Charity

Great Milton Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report 2020/21

- Covid
 - The pandemic has dominated our lives this past year but there appears to be light at the end.....
 - The community has rallied heroically to support each other during the periods of lockdown that we have endured
 - Special mention should go to Jane Jefferis and her team of volunteers, as well as Laura Putt, for their sterling work in ensuring the vulnerable in the community were all cared for
 - Pat and Chris Donnelley stoically maintained service from the shop and Post Office, ensuring we had access to these vital facilities
- Planning
 - Le Manoir has submitted a planning application for extensive development that is causing some concern to residents
 - Amended plans are being submitted to SODC and these will be discussed in due course
- Parking, traffic and roads
 - Concerns over speeding in Milton Common are being addressed in collaboration with the police
 - Parking in Great Milton especially at school times is still an issue despite some residents offering their driveways as temporary parking areas
 - Discussions with the school and police are on-going
- The Bull
 - Extension of the outside seating area at the Bull has been completed and is proving to be a saviour under Covid restrictions
 - Ankit and Vinay have done a great job in keeping the pub going during the pandemic
- Strategic issues
 - Chalgrove Airfield proposals are still in play, although staunch resistance from Martin Baker is preventing further development at this stage, together with a damning letter from the Civil Aviation Authority.
 - The Oxford-Cambridge Expressway has been cancelled but the threat of development at 'Harrington' remains
- Parish Clerk
 - Our Parish Clerk, Tim Darch, continues to perform in his role and provides strong and invaluable support to the Council.
- Peter Fewell
 - Peter has stepped down from the Parish Council after many years of active contribution. Our thanks to him for his service and our best wishes follow him.

Thanks are of course due to my fellow councillors for their continued efforts and support throughout this year.

Stephen Harrod

Chairman

26 April 2021

Haseley Brook Ward SODC Annual Report - April 2021

Cllr Caroline Newton

COVID-19

Work at SODC has been dominated over the last year by the pandemic. Early in the first lockdown, many of the decision-making powers of the council were delegated to the Chief Executive of SODC under emergency rule, and SODC intensified its cooperation with neighbouring local authorities and public services. All official meetings of the council have been taking place virtually, and most officers are still working remotely.

At the start of the pandemic many officers were re-deployed to COVID-19 related roles (eg supporting vulnerable people and coordinating the payment of business grants); and in the early stages of the vaccination programme, they worked closely with the health service to achieve rapid progress here in Oxfordshire.

Planning

Whilst this year has been anything other than business-as-usual for SODC, officers have tried to ensure the planning service remains on track in the face of a heavy workload.

Local Plans 2035 and 2041: Councillors voted to adopt the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035 in December 2020. This is the strategic development plan for the district which determines where housing, business and infrastructure will be focused over the next 15 years, and the development policies that will shape them. The main development sites will be around the city of Oxford, Culham, Berinsfield and Chalgrove Airfield. The plan, which identifies locations for 28,000 homes, including over 4,000 for Oxford City's 'unmet need', was controversial amongst residents and councillors. The council administration's - ultimately unsuccessful - attempts to demonstrate that the numbers were too high absorbed hundreds of hours of senior officer time; and the QC bills alone amounted to almost £250,000.

Work now begins on the next iteration of the development plan - the Local Plan 2041 - which is due to be adopted in 2024. The administrations at SODC and the Vale of the White Horse District Council have agreed to make this a joint local plan. The scale of LP2041 will be driven by the longer-term 'Oxfordshire 2050' strategy being determined by the Oxfordshire Growth Board (a high level body which brings together businesses, local authorities and civic bodies from across the county). 'Oxfordshire 2050', in turn, has to conform to Government's plans for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc - including Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire which is projected to be a zone of high economic growth in the next period. We expect to hear the level of housing numbers in June/July 2021.

Chalgrove Airfield: Like most local residents I have been most concerned about impact of Homes England's proposed development at Chalgrove Airfield. The Civil Aviation Authority, in its response to the outline planning application, has stated that housing development on this site is not compatible with the continued operation of Martin Baker Ltd. It is now for Homes England to respond with a plan that mitigates these concerns.

Harrington: LP2041 is likely to require the district to identify the need for further housing, and that re-opens the possibility of the Harrington development which is being promoted as a site for 6,500 houses. I am working with colleagues in parish councils across this ward to ensure that this site does not go forward into LP2041.

SODC Corporate Plan

During the year the council adopted its corporate plan which will cover the period up to 2023. It is remarkable for its focus on sustainability, nature recovery and the 'green agenda'. SODC has a target to achieve carbon neutrality in its own operations by 2025, and in the district more broadly by 2030.

Oxfordshire County Council Annual Parish Report

INTRODUCTION

As County Councillor, I represent Chalgrove and Watlington Division, which is made up of some fifteen parishes across South East Oxfordshire. It is my pleasure to present this report to you and if there is anything I can help with, all my contact details are on the OCC website.

In addition to representing the interests of residents in this Division and my place on Full Council, I am Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services and, in this capacity, chair several related committees.

COVID-19

Obviously, the past year has been dominated by dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. It has had a huge impact on how we as a Council have delivered our services, with most of our offices being closed and many staff working remotely online, dealing with residents as well as holding many internal meetings. All Council, Cabinet and other committee meetings have been driven online and members' attendance at local Parish Council meetings has followed suit.

An upside to this has been the discovery that much of our work CAN be delivered far more efficiently via online systems, though not all, as personal contact is still vital in areas such as children's services. Nevertheless, significant savings in travel costs have been achieved if nothing else.

The long-term effects of Covid on how we conduct our business are yet to be felt but we intend to take forward the positive lessons we have learned by implementing such things as hybrid meetings to minimise travel time and costs, and selective home-working for our staff.

Some of the savings achieved during the pandemic include:

- A potential £306,000 saving in utility bills. This is the result of many of the county council's buildings being closed for several months due to COVID-19, and to anticipated increases in utility rates not materialising.
- A saving of £400,000 is expected because of reduced spend on travel, printing, stationery, expenses and other areas.
- In Adult Social Care, additional funding from the Hospital Discharge Scheme will save £1.3m. Additional funding from NHS England is expected to be made

available nationally to support the on-going cost following discharges from hospital since 19 March 2020. This means council funding for care now being met by the Hospital Discharge Scheme (HDS) can be released on a temporary basis. Responsibility for on-going assessed care needs will revert to the council with assessed contributions from people towards the cost of their care once the HDS ends.

- The total council contribution to the Better Care Fund pooled budget in 2020/21 is £102m. The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and local government which seeks to join up health and care services so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in their communities for as long as possible. By increasing the focus on maximising use of residential and nursing beds available through existing contracts, minimising the length of any vacancies, and looking for creative ways to meet needs at lower cost while also helping service users be as independent as possible, it is anticipated that it may be possible to reduce spend by around 1% in the second half of 2020/21. This would save £500,000.
- In Children's Social Care a total of £903,000 will be saved due to a revised model of implementation for the new family safeguarding model of delivering care, which is being introduced during 2020/21. A delayed implementation from summer to autumn due to COVID-19 has meant lower running costs in this year; redesigning and reducing set-up costs; reducing the project team that is supporting the implementation. However, the council is maintaining its frontline investment in the new service so that it can still improve services for children and families.
- The council allocated £200,000 in 2020/21 to carry out an assessment and redesign of youth services. COVID-19 has prevented the council from progressing this work as services for children in need of immediate help and protection had to be prioritised during the lockdown, while youth groups were not been operational in this period. However, the council has designed a proposal for the assessment that can take place this year, for which £25,000 is earmarked, and it will be looking for groups/organisations to bid to undertake this work. A saving of £175,000 will therefore be achieved.
- Community Support Services have remained open throughout the coronavirus pandemic which has required the use of different approaches to support people to meet social distancing requirements. During the remainder of 2020/21, this has enabled the council to identify an alternative base for its community support service in Didcot which has merged with Wantage. Everybody who received a service at Didcot will still do so. This will save £75,000, but also offers the opportunity to explore alternative delivery models for Community Support Services in the future.
- In highways and transport, £500,000 relating to various schemes will be charged to capital (project) budgets instead of from day to day spend in revenue budgets.
- Extra money as a one-off was allocated for 2020/21 for additional vegetation clearance and sign cleaning. A total of £175,000 of additional 2020/21 allocation is being offered back as a potential saving. This does not affect the council's normal level of service.

- Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue propose to save £200,000 by delaying plans to replace older diesel vehicles with electric vehicles by one year. The ambition is to have a full fleet of electric cars for general and operational use. It will have no impact on service delivery but will delay the reduction in emissions from the fleet.

Local government structure

During summer 2020, independent experts took a fresh look at the different options for local government structures that could emerge for debate among communities and councillors in Oxfordshire as the nation awaits a Government blueprint for the future.

Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council recently commissioned a piece of work to look at the various options that may be viable in the county. This followed a motion unanimously agreed by county councillors in July.

Both councils asked experts at PwC to complete the work. PwC are currently acting in an advisory capacity to Government and other local authorities undertaking similar pieces of work.

The report sets out a high-level appraisal of three options for local government reform in Oxfordshire:

1. Optimising the existing two-tier collaboration
2. Establishing a new single unitary authority
3. Establishing two new unitary authorities, based on a 50/50 split of the population to meet Government criteria around size

It is important to note that this review does not seek to make recommendations about the future of local government in Oxfordshire. Instead, it examines three options, which have been modelled using existing published data, and is designed to provide a useful basis for a positive conversation about how we can work as a local authority family across Oxfordshire to achieve the best outcome for residents.

Oxfordshire currently has one county council providing services such as social care for adults and children, highways, libraries, fire and rescue, trading standards, registration services (births, deaths, and marriages). Oxfordshire County Council is also the local education authority.

Oxford City Council, Cherwell District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council provide services such as waste collection, environmental health, planning, leisure, and housing.

We await direction from central government as to how these options may be moved forward.

Budget for 2021/22

Full Council agreed a balanced budget in February 2021 that will provide continued investment in key services and avoid any cuts to frontline delivery. Locally,

councillors' Priority Fund budgets have been reduced, spreading the usual £15,000 over a two-year period, effectively halving the amount we have available to support local initiatives but also ensuring that we still have some means to continue our support for these projects.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Above all please take care, stay safe and follow the advice.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Harrod'.

Steve Harrod
County Councillor
Chalgrove & Watlington Division
Cabinet Member for Children & Family Services
Oxfordshire County Council

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Great Milton Parish Council
Receipts and Payments Accounts
Year to 31 March 2021

Receipts	Actual to 31/03/21 £	Budget for the year £	Variance £
Precept	18,730.00	18,730.00	
Bulletin Advertisements	2,690.00	2,000.00	690.00
Access/Rental agreements	277.15	150.00	127.15
Allotment rentals	240.00	200.00	40.00
OCC Grass Verge Maintenance	356.39	360.00	-3.61
VAT Claim	1,140.72	1,000.00	140.72
Miscellaneous	100.00		100.00
Rec Grd			
Funding grants	500.00		500.00
Interest			
BT Direct Debit - Council Email - Reimbursement			
Transparency Fund			
Total receipts	24,034.26	22,440.00	1,594.26
Payments			
Expenses	336.99	250.00	-86.99
Salary	5,791.32	5,500.00	-291.32
Staff training	-60.00	150.00	210.00
Parish Council Insurance	338.40	350.00	11.60
Website	566.94	250.00	-316.94
Bulletin DTP and Printing	1,602.00	3,000.00	1,398.00
Rec Grd Maintenance	400.00	400.00	
Rec Grd Insurance	921.84	950.00	28.16
Sundry	238.80	560.00	321.20
Handyman & materials / Village Maintenance	480.95	1,700.00	1,219.05
Water Allotments	23.24	70.00	46.76
Grass Cutting	5,848.00	5,000.00	-848.00
SODC Dog Hygiene	876.37	300.00	-576.37
Doctor and Hospital service	42.00	50.00	8.00
Church Clock service	206.40	210.00	3.60
Subscriptions	362.49	400.00	37.51
Donations	350.00	500.00	150.00
PCC Grass Maintenance grant	600.00	600.00	
Tree Management	174.00	1,000.00	826.00
BT Direct Debit - Council Email	129.60	150.00	20.40
Archive Room overheads - History/GMPC		200.00	200.00
Grants - Replacement bus service/Childrens Centre	500.00	500.00	
Defibrillator maintenance and training	162.00	350.00	188.00
Reserves			
BT Sponsorship of Red Telephone Kiosk			
Land Registry fees			
Old Field Insurance			
Contingency			
Donation from reserves			
Election fees			
Neighbours Hall Touring Theatre			
External audit costs	240.00		-240.00
Total payments	20,131.34	22,440.00	2,308.66
Earmarked reserves			
Neighbours Hall refurbishment			
Transparency Fund		1,865.00	1,865.00
Net receipts/payments	3,902.92	-1,865.00	5,767.92
Balance brought forward	29,664.22		
Balance carried forward	33,567.14		
VAT to claim	1,416.68		
S137 expenditure			

Great Milton Parish Council

Observations on Accounts Financial Year 2020-21

26 April 2021

Tim Darch

Observations on Great Milton Parish Council's accounts

Financial year ending 31st March 2021

Receipts

Receipts for the 2020/21 financial year amounted to £24,034.

The opening cashbook balance was £29,664.22.

Bulletin Advertisements

Receipts from bulletin advertisements amounted to £2,690 (£690 over the budgeted amount for the year). The increase is the result of new advertisers from the last few years continuing their commitment, plus other new additions. There is no significant debt outstanding from advertisers other than expected slight delays to payments where invoices have been issued.

Access Rental/Agreements

£277 has been received from access/rental agreements relative to the budgeted amount of £150.

Wayleave payments from SSE and BT are now received automatically. A rental payment of £100 per year from OCC from the rental of allotment land for provision of a temporary classroom is invoiced in April: arrears of £30 (£10 per year) resulting from OCC 'holding over' pending agreement on out-of-hours access arrangements for the tennis court/'hard surface' are currently being pursued.

OCC Grass Verge Maintenance

£356 received (budget £360).

VAT reclaim from 2019-20

The budgeted sum was £1,000, while the amount received from the reclaim for 2019-20 was £1,141 (£141 over budget for the year).

The larger figure was largely the result of necessary tree maintenance works, the refurbishment of a bus shelter in Milton Common, vehicle speed checks after reports of speeding and a new requirement for maintenance of the village defibrillator, all of which were subject to VAT.

Allotment rentals

Income was £240, £40 more than the budgeted £200 as a result of full occupancy of allotment plots.

Miscellaneous

£100 was received from an anonymous contributor towards repair costs following damage to the village green.

Funding grants

£500 was received from SODC's Covid emergency fund. This was to be used to support the volunteer effort, specifically to contribute to food parcels for those in self-isolation: however the sum was not needed, but remains available for now in case it is needed again in future. This has been agreed with District Councillor Caroline Newton.

Payments

Total payments for the financial year 2020-21 amounted to £20,131.

Areas that were over budget:**Expenses**

Expenditure was £337, over budget by £87 (budgeted sum £250). This was largely the result of an increase in the working from home allowance from £2 to £6 per week.

Salary

Expenditure was £5,791, over budget by £291 (budgeted sum £5,500).

Website

Expenditure was £567, over budget by £317 (budgeted sum £250). The council website was revamped this year to enable compliance with new accessibility requirements. This came at a cost of £399: an ongoing monthly maintenance charge of £19.99 (£29.99 for the first month) is also now paid to guarantee an element of professional assistance if required, rather than relying on voluntary services from village residents.

Grass cutting

Expenditure was £5,848, over budget by £848 (budgeted sum £5,000). Growing conditions meant that mowing of the verges and village greens continued until December. Additional maintenance (for example digging out of drainage gripps and path clearance) was also included in some invoices for mowing. A new contractor will take over the mowing from 2021 to 2023: it is anticipated that this will generate a cost saving going forward.

Dog hygiene

Expenditure was £876, already significantly over budget by £576 (budgeted sum £300) and with a further invoice of £269 still to be received and paid. SODC increased their rates for dog hygiene from £0.66 per bin (plus VAT and service charge) in 2019-20 to £3 in 2020-21, with a further increase planned to £6 per bin in 2021-22. The increase was implemented with no prior warning at the beginning of the 2020-21 financial year, giving no opportunity to investigate alternatives: however a new contractor has been appointed for 2021-22 which will maintain rates at broadly the current level. The agreed rate is significantly lower than SODC's potential charge for the coming year, and has been accounted for in the 2021-22 budget.

External audit costs

Over budget by £240 (no sum budgeted). It was anticipated that an external audit for the previous financial year would not be necessary, but the repayment of a loan to the Neighbours Hall sent receipts over the £25k threshold.

Areas that were under budget:**Staff Training**

No staff training was received in 2020-21, though a refund for a course scheduled for March 2020 and cancelled due to the Covid pandemic was received, hence a negative credit of £60 appearing in the accounts.

Parish Council insurance

A new long-term arrangement with a new insurer has led to a small reduction in the cost of insurance at £338 (£12 under the budgeted sum of £350).

Bulletin DTP and printing

Expenditure was £1,602, £1,398 under the budgeted sum of £3,000 but with two cheques with a total value of £419 yet to be cashed. Costs were significantly reduced due to physical copies of the Bulletin not being printed and delivered during the first lockdown. Full production and delivery has now resumed.

Recreation Ground insurance

Recreation Ground insurance came in £29 under budget at £921 (budgeted sum £950). This represents a slight increase on the previous rate on renewal by the Rec Committee, but a possible increase was budgeted for.

Sundry

Expenditure was £238, under budget by £321 (budgeted sum £560). Sundry expenses were largely on printing, of 'kindness cards' for village residents (offering help and support during lockdown) and leaflets publicising the consultation on the Chalgrove Airfield planning application.

Village Maintenance

Expenditure was £481, under budget by £1,219 (budgeted sum £1,700). The budgeted sum was significantly increased to account for a potential contribution towards anticipated tree maintenance, but the pandemic meant that these works were delayed. These works will now take place in 2021-22.

Allotment water supply

Expenditure was £23, under budget by £47 (budgeted sum £70). The water supply account was suspended in January following the receipt of an apparently inaccurate estimate: a reading is awaited to establish the correct usage and resulting bill, hence there have been fewer payments than usual in 2020-21.

Doctor and Hospital service

Expenditure £42 for contribution towards insurance costs, under budget by £8 (budgeted sum £50).

Church Clock Service

Expenditure was unchanged at £206, under budget by £4 (budgeted sum £210).

Subscriptions

Expenditure £362, under budget by £38 (budgeted sum £400). Increases in membership fees for OALC, SLCC, ALCC and the addition of the ICO 'Data Protection Fee' over the last few years were accounted for when the budget for 2020-21 was agreed.

Donations

Expenditure was £350, under budget by £150 (budgeted sum £500). Several donations were made in 2020-21, including to Wheatley Park School, Cleanslate, Citizens' Advice and Homestart.

Tree management

Under budget by £826 (expenditure £174, £1,000 budgeted). Sole expenditure was on trimming of branches of trees on Parish Council land adjacent to Romeyns Court. The remaining sum will be needed for maintenance works which are anticipated in 2021-22.

BT Direct Debit Council e-mail

Under budget by £20 (expenditure £130, budgeted sum £150).

Archive room overheads

No expenditure (not claimed in 2020-21). Budgeted sum £200.

Defibrillator maintenance and training

Under budget by £188 (expenditure £162, budgeted sum £350). Expenditure was on ongoing maintenance costs. A further training session funded by a donation from a local fund-raising event will be arranged as and when the easing of Covid restrictions permits.

Earmarked reserves

The remaining funds from the Transparency Fund (£1,865) remain earmarked for use if required (for example for replacement of ICT equipment).

Section 137 expenditure: NIL

SUMMARY

Receipts exceeded expenditure by £3,903

Total receipts were £1,594 over budget.

Total payments were £2,309 under budget.

Total reserves to carry forward into 2021-22: £33,567.14

Tim Darch

Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer, Great Milton Parish Council

Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee

Great Milton Recreation Ground

Annual Report for the year to 31 March 2021

1. **The Recreation Ground**, The Green, Great Milton, Oxfordshire, OX44 7NP is registered with the Charity Commissioners (No 304308) and constituted by a scheme dated 4th July 1979.
2. **The charity** is administered by the Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee, which for 20/21 comprised

Chairman	Mr Andrew Noble (resigned 30 Sept 2020), James Cunningham (30/9/20)
Vice Chair	Mrs Michele Block
Secretary	Ms Clare Blakeway-Phillips
Treasurer	Mr Paul Dennis
Other members	Dr Emily Johns, Mrs Caroline Smith and Mr Michael Robinson (resigned)

3. **The Custodian Trustees** – Great Milton Parish Council
4. **Composition of the Committee** – the maximum membership may be 3 elected members, 8 representative members and up to 4 co-opted members. The committee hold office until the following AGM.
5. **Elective members** – there were no members elected at the last AGM.
6. **Co-opted members** – Andrew Noble (resigned), Emily Johns, Caroline Smith and James Cunningham were co-opted to the committee.
7. **Representative Members** – the appointing body and number to be appointed were-

Body	Number	Representatives
• Parish Council (resigned)	2	Mrs Michele Block & Mr Michael Robinson
• PCC	2	Ms Clare Blakeway-Phillips +1
• Youth Club	1	Not represented
• Cricket Club	1	Mr Paul Dennis
• Football Club	1	Not represented
• Governors of GM School	1	Not represented

For 21/22 year we will be having representatives join from the School and the Football club. We will be asking the PC and PCC for representatives to join.

8. **Objects** – the object of the Charity is the provision and maintenance of facilities for the recreation and leisure time occupation for the residents of Great Milton parish. In particular a playing field with ancillary facilities and a playground for young children.

9. **Discussion** – The Pavilion continues to be home to the Cricket and Athletics Clubs as well as the Great Milton Choir, the Great Milton Toddlers Club, the Arts and Crafts Club, Yoga Classes, Parish Council meetings and as the village Polling Station. However like the rest of the country, activities of the clubs and hire of the Pavilion were severely curtailed with the various lockdowns and tier restrictions. The most disappointing element of the first lockdown was that Government guidance meant we were forced to close the children's play area completely. Unfortunately events such as the Church Fete, the School Sports Day and the Fireworks evening did not take place.

In between the various lockdowns the Cricket Club managed 4 home fixtures, the athletics club a number of training sessions, in addition to a few private hires of the Pavilion.

The Football Club has all but reformed but are looking to next season for their Project Restart.

The Playing Field was used extensively by lots of people for a wide range of informal activities during the year, with increased usage resulting from the lockdown. The picnic tables procured by Mike Robinson from the Bull were well used and we will look to replace some of them in the year.

The Committee had organised working parties in December and February to clear away the excess plant growth and debris at the rear of the Pavilion and this task continues.

The financing of the insurance and most of the grass cutting and grounds maintenance is provided by the Parish Council, and the maintenance of the Recreation Ground entrance is carried out by Greenford Ltd.

The proceeds from the sale of the "garage strip" in 2003 continues to be invested according to the guidelines laid down by the Charity Commission and I would like to thank the Trustees of the Sheppard Trust for their continued support.

The Recreation Ground is grateful to the Covid support grant from SODC which helped cover the basic utilities costs whilst we are without our normal income streams.

And finally after more years than are recorded by the Village History Society, two very long standing committee members have managed to escape- Andy Noble (chairman) and Mike Robinson. During their time both the Recreation Ground and Pavilion have gone through some significant renovations including: rebuild of the changing rooms & hallway, new playground equipment and fencing. We would like to thank them for all their time and work for the Rec ground.

10. **Financial Information** - the Accounts for the Year ending 31st March 2021 show that the Charity held uncommitted cash reserves of £14,600, whilst up on last year the reserve will be utilised as we are likely to have little rental income during 21/22.
11. **Connected Party Transactions** - Trustees have received reimbursement of expenses incurred with third parties on production of receipts.
12. **Future Developments** – there are no plans for further developments at the moment and we would welcome suggestions from the community for new projects.
13. **Conclusion** – Finally, I would like to thank all the committee members for their many efforts, and I would also like to express my gratitude to all those people who have given their time throughout the year to help maintain the Recreation Ground, Pavilion and Play Area for the benefit of the community and we would be delighted if more people in the village would offer their help towards the common good.
James Cunningham, Chairman.
31st March 2021

GREAT MILTON HSPA – REPORT 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021

Overall: - Activity limited in 20/21 because of government lockdown requirements.

Committee evolution:

Sue, Nollag and Jon have stepped down as committee members after many years of service. Nollag kindly remains as an advisor to the recruited new committee:

Chair – Mark Nethercleft

Treasurer – Dan Bennett

Membership Secretary – Sarah MacMahon

Committee Member – Henry Elphick

Memberships 20/21

20/21 - 17 family memberships and 1 individual membership.

Renewals due 1 May 2021. 21/22 membership fees will remain unchanged at £30 family, £10 individuals. Existing booking system remains unchanged.

Membership recruitment for 21/22 to be run from April.

Tennis Camps on the HSPA 21/22

Neil James has agreed to run the camps inc their management and admin. Participating children must be members (via family or individually to participate) as a source of income for the club.

HSPA Maintenance 21/22

HSPA is scheduled to be repainted soonest in April / May 2021 when weather allows.

Summary of Accounts for the period 1 May – 30 April 2021 (Prepared by Nollag).

RECEIPTS	30/04/2021
	£
Membership Fees	520
Coaching	
Summer Holiday Tennis	
Interest (est)	
Grants & Fundraising	
Court Fees/ sale of balls	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	520
EXPENSES	
Advertising	
Wages	
Snacks	
Court Maintenance	35
Court resurfacing/plans	
Insurance	198
New balls	
Loo hire for fun weeks	
TOTAL EXPENSES	233
<i>Surplus/deficit</i>	<i>287</i>
Opening bank balance	6968
Closing bank balance	7255
Cash in hand	
check	0

End. (Mark – Chair - 07799 037 354).

Neighbours Hall Annual Report

Having ended last year on a high, the Neighbours Hall had celebrated the incredible refurbishments with a well attended tea party and promptly closed its doors for most of the following year.

There were a few false starts, gallons of PPE installed, a few yoga classes then a closure, repeat, repeat...

Thanks though to the politicians nationally and locally this report can be quite upbeat. We applied for and got £10,000 in lieu of business rates relief and for the latter part of the period were able to furlough our caretaker. There were other grants available but having looked at our books it was felt that it would be greedy to take them. £10,000 was sufficient to cover any losses on bookings and fixed costs. Having paid all the bills from the refurbishment we also took the opportunity of the closure to resurface our car park with the last of our refurb funds.

A new grant has just been announced and given the uncertainties of the coming year, we anticipate that it will take some time for public confidence to return for gatherings, so we will apply for this.

The only cloud on the Horizon is the Manoir plans that will probably spell the end of the fees we received for use of the NH car park. However we have sufficient notice to budget for this.

THE SHEPPARD CHARITABLE TRUST

The Sheppard Charitable Trust was established as a successor of the Great Milton Men's and Boy's Institute. Its income derives from the investment of the proceeds from the sale of a property left by Miss Ellen Katherine Sheppard to the Trust in 1906. The Trust exists "*for any charitable purpose for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the parish of Great Milton*"

The Covid restrictions throughout 2020 meant that the Trustees were only able to meet face to face on one occasion – back in January before the world changed. Three requests for grants were discussed at that meeting, and a further request was dealt with by email later in the year.

Income for the year totalled £10,820.24. Grant Expenditure totalled £3245.00. After adding administration costs of £95.00 expenditure totalled £3340.00. Grants were made as follows:

Great Milton Neighbours Club £1000
To help with general running costs

Great Milton Senior Citizens Party £1000
To offset the costs of the party and summer outing.

Great Milton Arts & Crafts £200
To be used towards hire fees for the Pavilion

Great Milton School £1045
Purchase of a defibrillator for school premises

The Trustees who served during the year were Rev Simon Cronk, Mr John Catterall, Mrs Pat Cox, Mr Tony D'Anger, Miss Ann Price and Mrs Jacqueline Wren. Funds currently available for distribution total £22,000. The Trustees are looking forward to meeting together in June to discuss new grant applications.

Jane Willis
Secretary

St Mary's Great Milton – Village report.

As with all Churches, St Mary's have had to adapt to an extraordinary unforeseen and unprecedented situation. In 2020 the Church experienced the longest time of closure in its history as it wasn't opened for several months (this record has now been beaten in 2021!)

We adapted quickly with the advent of zoom services, shared with the other two churches in the Benefice. These have been well attended and have even attracted a small number of people who had not normally come to services in the Church building. However, some who would have regularly come were unable to connect with these services.

After about three months of zoom only services we were able to re-open our churches and we adopted a pattern of hosting one 'live' service in one of the Benefice churches once a week alongside the weekly zoom service. We were able to hold a shared benefice Harvest service at St Peter's Great Haseley, we had outdoor acts of remembrance at all three churches and we were able to host an outdoor service on Christmas day at St Mary's, again shared with the whole benefice. We had one hundred people attend and we were able to sing carols before a short Christmas day service of Holy Communion in the Church. This was the last time we met before stopping worship in our churches again.

We have kept going and our church members have very much been a part of village endeavours to look after the community. Our biggest challenge has been finances and we have taken an enormous hit with the loss of income from the Parish Fete and Le Manoir bookings for the Church. Together, these have been essential for our financial survival and if 2021 do not allow us to recoup these losses we will be in serious trouble. We were able to host a plant sale, a bric a brac sale and the raffle but these only partially mitigated our financial losses.

The maintenance of the church building continues to be a challenge, together with the ongoing plan to raise money for essential church repairs and a major project in the Church to re-locate the Dormer monument and provide much needed facilities to make the building usable for 21st century needs! We were able finally to install an automated locking system which has allowed us to keep the Church open on Sundays and we very much hope that this has been enjoyed and appreciated by local people. In all of this the ongoing dedication, hard work and quiet service of church wardens and church members has been essential.

We are looking at how we will start opening our churches in the weeks ahead. We envisage that our online presence with Zoom will still have a

part to play but are also really looking forward to hosting worship in our churches again.

Simon Cronk

Kent and Couling Charity

The Charity was busier than normal in 2020. As well as providing annual grants to regular beneficiaries in the Village we were able to make extra ongoing donations. We were grateful for generous donations last year that helped with this and the Charity is in a healthy position for 2021 to carry on with both an annual gift to beneficiaries but also hopefully help to alleviate difficulties for individuals should they arise. We are very eager and open to hear from anyone should you know of such need. All communication would be treated in the strictest confidence.

Simon Cronk, (chair) on behalf of the Trustees, Tricia Treanor and Sue Denham.



Old Field Annual Report 2021

April 2021

The Old Field

Authored by: Adrian Buckmaster, Chairperson

Annual Report

The Old Field, Thame Road, Great Milton

Allotment for Exercise and Recreation (Old Field)

Charity Number 283269

As the newly appointed Chairperson of the “Old Field” I would like to thank all of the previous trustees and committee members for their long years of dedication to this amenity as well as those that continue to give up their time voluntarily to make it a special place for all to enjoy.

This has become even more important during the last year of lockdown and many people I have spoken to have commented that this has been a place of escape and refuge during this period. If we have contributed in any small way to people’s well-being and mental health then all of us involved would be delighted.

In previous years we have invited the village to an “open” BBQ in the field, not just to enjoy and celebrate our hard work but also to try to get more people in the village to come along and appreciate the quiet pace of nature that the field offers. This obviously could not be held this year but we are planning a special event, hopefully at the end of this summer to make up for it.

In last year’s report you learned that we had improved the steps leading out of the north gate that people use as a walk-through to cross the A329 en-route to the Windmill. This is a regular dog-walking route and the section at the end was both muddy and dangerous. This has proved a great success.

Since then we have had a number of donations to the charity that enabled us to build a picnic table and benches as well as refurbishing other benches dotted around the field. These are on a substantial scale and have a very sociable and inviting feel to them. If you have not already enjoyed a picnic on them then you are missing out. They are placed in a quieter area surrounded by the newly planted trees.

The pond that is just to the left of the pathway is not a natural feature and was formed by “puddling” clay in a hollow. There is no natural water flow in or out of the pond which poses it’s own problems. To ensure the pond flora and fauna are maintained it is necessary to keep water levels within a certain range and this means we unfortunately have to draw from mains water as necessary. During last year the valve mechanism that controls the water flow was repaired and we now enjoy a very healthy balance. At times rainfall can spill over and the path then suffers from regular use in very muddy conditions.

One of the projects for the coming year is to improve the useability of the path by either introducing drainage or raising the path level with some form of drained surface. This could be gravel, decking or whatever we have available to us. This will be a considerable undertaking so any help or suggestions from anyone in the village would be welcomed.

We intend to repair some of the fencing between the path and the pond and we are grateful to David Cartwright for donating fence posts. The cross timbers are likely to come from other donations made by members of the committee.

The weather is sometimes unpredictable so during last year we had a Fire Risk Assessment produced by a Fire Engineer and as a result we have sited two fire beaters, one attached to the notice board and one remotely in the driveway of Linton Croft (home of our Treasurer) at the junction of Thame Road and Fullers Field. In this way if the field should be overcome we at least have something we could employ.

One of the village residents has very generously donated money to sponsor a wood-carving, to be placed adjacent to the picnic table, and in celebration of his daughter's wedding. The balance of the cost was donated by Fifth Horsemen Ltd who operate in the village.

We have chosen a carved Owl. This is very poignant because the school in Great Milton uses Owl themes throughout and we would be delighted if the Head Teacher would join us in developing a special unveiling. We would look to arrange some live music and food, maybe we could persuade the school children to do something special for the event.

I will submit a financial report from our Treasurer, David Mackrory separately but just a few words from me regarding that. We survive from voluntary work by all of our wonderful committee members and a small bursary that in previous years has produced interest on a quarterly basis. This has all but dried up because of the slump in share values. As you can see from my report this is a very active corner of the village and we have plans to improve it so that it is a universally enjoyable amenity for villagers. We, like all organisations, are suffering the shortfall at the moment so would welcome any and all funding that could be raised to allow us to continue with our work.

Adrian Buckmaster (Chairperson)

April 2021

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Summary of Accounts to Year End 31st March 2021			
Brought Forward from 31/3/2020	£10,785.70	Expenditure	£1,021.91
		COIF Investment Account	£8,902.96
Income	£313.75	COIF Deposit Account	£488.38
COIF Investment Fund 1/4/2020 to 31/3/2021	-£160.19	Barclays Cheque Account	£465.64
		Petty Cash	£60.37
	<u>£10,939.26</u>		<u>£10,939.26</u>
		Less Expenditure	-£1,021.91
		Carried forward to 1 Apr 2021	£9,917.35

Financial Report

Produced for the Annual Parish Meeting 26th April 2021

We have had income of £160.19 which are interest payments from the COIF fund and a donation of £150 from Fifth Horseman Ltd making total income £310.19. There was a small amount of interest from the Deposit Account of £3.56 making total income £313.75

The value of the capital in the COIF fund has reduced, due to market influences, by £160.19

Expenditure was for Insurance of £183.91, Thames Water Bill of £108.00 and Hedge Cutting of £80.00 giving a total of £371.91.

The accounts show a total expenditure this year of £1021.19 which includes £650 for the Owl Carving which was donated in the previous year so is reflected in the balance brought forward.

The Old Field is a registered charity and a full and detailed analysis of the accounts are available for inspection by prior arrangement.

David Mackrory (Treasurer)

19th April 2021