

GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held on Monday 11th May 2009 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Present: Mr Ken Rogers (Chairman), Mr Stephen Harrod, Mr Phil Ashworth, Mr Doug Colley, Mr Ian Bradley, Mr Peter Fewell

In Attendance: Michele Block (Clerk)
Pat Cox (Bulletin Reporter)
John Nowell-Smith (District Councillor)
David Turner (County Councillor)
3 members of the public

37/09 **Apologies for Absence**

Ian Bradley

38/09 **To Elect a Chairman**

Action:

Stephen Harrod (SH) proposed that Ken Rogers (KR) take on the Chairmanship of the Parish Council for a further year. Ken Rogers thanked SH for his proposal and confirmed that he was willing to stand for a further year's term. Phil Ashworth seconded the proposal and the motion was agreed upon unanimously by all Councillors present.

39/09 **To Elect a Vice-Chairman**

Peter Fewell (PF) proposed that Stephen Harrod (SH) be voted in as Vice Chairman for a further year, this was seconded by Doug Colley and agreed upon unanimously. SH confirmed that he would be happy to remain in the post.

40/09 **To nominate representatives for:**

The Clerk reported that the following people had been put forward as the proposed Parish Council representatives for the following village charities:

The Sheppard Trust
Ann Price and John Davis

The Hardsurface Play Area
Susan Read and Jon Devitt

The Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee
Michael Robinson and Clare Blakeway-Phillips

The Kent & Couling Charity
Rita Booker and Cynthia D'Anger

The Old Field Charity
Hazel Hand and Fred Smith

Action:

It was proposed by Stephen Harrod that these nominees be approved as the Parish Council representatives for the forthcoming year, this was seconded by Peter Fewell and agreed upon unanimously.

41/09 **To Confirm the Inventory of Parish Documents**

The Clerk confirmed that the Inventory of Parish Documents remained as per the list published to Councillors in September 2005. The Parish Documents had been filed at the Oxfordshire Record Office in September 2001 and had remained unchanged since that time.

42/09 **To Consider the Revision of Standing Orders**

The Clerk confirmed that the Standard Orders had remained unchanged since May 2001 (version 2), with, as per last year, two exceptions, both on page 1 of the Standing Orders. The reviews are the venue, which has changed from Fullers Field Common Room to the Pavilion, and the date of each meeting, which has been changed from the third Monday of the month to the second Monday of the month.

43/09 **Register of Interests for this Meeting**

None

44/09 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on Monday 20th April 2009**

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record. This was proposed by Stephen Harrod, seconded by Doug Colley and agreed upon unanimously.

45/09 **Matters arising from the meeting held on Monday 20th April 2009**

A **Ditches – Thame Road**

Ken Roger (KR) informed Councillors that he had attended another meeting at Old Field regarding the drainage ditches. In attendance were Les Preston (LP), Mr Sri, a representative from Monson, Marion Read and her two sons. The Read family want to dig and clean out the ditch along the southern hedgeline of Old Field (the right hand side as you stand at the entrance gate). The Read's field is adjacent to this hedge and they have recently lost two thirds of their crops to flooding and rabbits. The Reads are the riparian owners of the ditch despite the ditch being in Old Field as the ditch is the boundary. At the last meeting, Old Field Committee (OFC) stated that it did not want the work carried out, as it felt that this would interfere with the wildlife.

Whilst on site, LP inspected the area just inside the entrance gate to Old Field, and it would appear that there is an enormous rabbit warren under a patch of nettles, which is probably responsible for the partial loss of crops. KR has left Marion Read to contact Niki Patrick, Chair of OFC, regarding clearing the Old Field ditch.

The Read brothers also informed KR that they are going to dig and clear out the ditch along the front of their field and Old Field (along the Thame Road) and, if necessary, put a new pipe in to take the excess water away towards the Dreshers Field. .

Action:

KR asked the Clerk to email Niki Patrick, Chair of OFC, to let her know that the Reads are going to clean up the ditch to the front of Old field, which may entail putting a new pipe under the entrance, however, the Reads will make good the area.

MB

The Clerk then informed Councillors that David Turner was chasing Tim Wilde (TW) at Oxfordshire Highways regarding the confusion over ownership of the ditch adjacent to 1 Oxen Piece. Unfortunately, TW is currently on holiday, but hopefully there would be some more information available shortly.

DT

B Boundary Potts Close/Backlands

Unfortunately, despite the PC writing to Richard Keal, no information had been forthcoming regarding his dispute with SOHA and Oxfordshire County Council about his boundary and dropped kerb. KR therefore asked if this subject could be carried forward to June's meeting.

c/f June
MB

C Recreation Ground Access

KR confirmed that he had been in contact with Spadeoak to get a price for resurfacing the Recreation Ground driveway (over the Common Land). As this quote had not yet been received, the Chairman asked for this matter to be carried forward to June's meeting.

c/f June
MB

Councillors then discussed that it would be a good idea to approach Bob Hutton, in the interim, and ask him to put down some hardcore as he has done in the past, so that people do not damage their cars leaving the Rec Ground, especially with the Church Fete around the corner in June. SH confirmed that he would ask Mr Hutton if he would be able to do this for the Parish Council.

SH

D Pegswell Lane

Stephen Harrod (SH) updated Councillors on Pegswell Lane. The Parish Council was originally approached about a year ago regarding Pegswell Lane, as Mr & Mrs Brimacombe had placed a piece of wire fence across the bottom of Pegswell Lane enveloping the Well. Some parishioners felt that the Brimacombes were trying to stake a claim on the Well, however, after investigation it would appear that the fence was there simply to keep the family dog from getting out.

The Brimacombes did agree at the time that it would be a good idea to possibly re-build the wall at the bottom, to about waist height. SH asked residents, at the time, whether they would like this and for the Well to be restored, however, residents did not want to publicise this footpath or Well, as they felt it may attract youngsters as a private hang out.

To date, the Parish Council has done nothing about having the wall restored, however, SH informed the meeting that an organisation called TOE has grants to help restore historical features within villages. After some discussion on the matter, it was felt that this area was both unsightly and unsafe, and therefore the Parish Council had a duty to restore the wall and Well. It was agreed that SH should obtain three quotes for the work, and to apply for the grant without publicising the matter.

Action:

It was proposed by Councillors that SH obtain quotes from Colin Putt, David Putt and David Miles.

SH

E Village Website

Phil Ashworth informed the meeting that the new Village Website is quite close to being finished. There are just one or two finishing touches to be added, such as the Introduction and the Parish Council Accounts, and then the site will be ready for final viewing by the Parish Council before going live.

PA

Councillors discussed how the website could move forward, so as not to become stale, and it was agreed that once the website had gone live, the Parish Council would place an advert in the Bulletin to ask people what they would like to add/change etc.

46/09 **Correspondence and Public Discussion**

A Thank you letter from Thame & District C.A.B

The Clerk read out a letter from the Thame and District Citizens Advice Bureau thanking the Parish Council for its recent donation of £50.00.

B Windturbines

David Turner informed the meeting that Berinsfield School produces 9000 KW hours per year from its windturbine. For a self sufficient Village scheme (when the wind blows), a village would require a bigger, or more than one wind turbine. DT will try and obtain further details on this and other ways of generating electricity from John Griffin, who is in charge of Sustainable Wallingford.

DT

C Temporary V.A.S. in Lower End

The Clerk circulated a letter to Councillors from John Davis (JD). Having read the Bulletin article on the temporary VAS in the village and the fact that the Parish Council only has enough money to set up one site for the VAS, JD has offered to buy a second bracket for Lower End. Councillors discussed this and felt that it was a very generous offer from JD. The PC asked the Clerk to respond to JD and thank him for his kind offer, and inform him that the PC would like to accept his generous gift. It was also suggested that JD ask his immediate neighbours if they would like to make a contribution towards the Scheme.

MB

D The Forties & 20 mph Speed Limit

Action:

Following the issues raised at last month's Annual Parish Meeting, David Turner confirmed that he has requested Peter Ronald, from Oxfordshire Highways, to come and have a look at the traffic related issues on The Forties when he is back from holiday later this month. DT to advise when this meeting will take place.

DT

DT also added that he would ask Peter Ronald to make an assessment of the chances for a 20 mph limit in Great Milton, when he visits.

DT

E Change of Refuse Bins/Change of Soll Leisure Group.

John Nowell-Smith informed the meeting that the new bin scheme will be starting in South Oxfordshire on Monday 8th June 2009. All residents should now have their bins, and instructions on what to put in each bin.

The other information from SODC was that the Nexus Group had taken over the running of Thame Leisure Centre from Soll Leisure Group, who had lost the contract during the latest tender process.

F Information from David Turner, County Councillor

David Turner (DT) confirmed that he had attended a meeting with OCC and Fran Hill (FH) to discuss modifications to the GM school to incorporate the new Children's Centre.

Although the plans for the building works have not been processed yet, FH is keen to get the building work underway at the back end of this summer. Obviously there will be parking issues whilst the work is going on, one suggestion was that parents dropping off children to school could use the recreation ground, however, DT is aware that this could also cause problems.

KR then raised the matter of the Children's Centre Playbus and Toy Library, which had requested parking in the Recreation Ground once a week. KR informed Councillors that Andy Noble had felt it necessary to say no because these two vehicles would drive in and park on the recreation ground grass, which over time would just turn into mud. KR did state that these visiting buses would increase the parking issues in the village and asked whether the higher bodies at OCC think of village infrastructure before committing to centres such as these.

DT did add that, eventually, the finished Children's Centre will replace the touring Playbus. Therefore, the Playbus will not be around indefinitely and it is simply there to amuse children whilst parents get the advice and information they need.

DT then touched on the County's Music Service. There is a National Music Festival to be held in Birmingham over five days at the Birmingham Symphony Hall and several Oxfordshire Orchestra's have been invited to play and have also received quite a few awards. DT confirmed that he will email the full details to the Clerk for inclusion

in the Bulletin.

Action:
DT

DT reported that Cogges Museum is trying to get back on a steady economic footing, as it has been losing money for the past few years. It is a great place and now there is a virtual Cogges Museum on its website, which you can visit and have a look around.

Finally, DT informed Councillors that this week was Foster Care Week and that in the UK there are 72,000 young people in foster care. DT stated that there is a shortage of foster families and that people should be encouraged to help if they can.

G The Forties – Birch Trees

The Chairman was asked if he knew who had planted the Birch Trees along the Forties as they are now almost overhanging the road. The Clerk was able to confirm that they were planted by Charles Peers and that Oxfordshire Highways was looking into the matter, as they also have an issue with the position of the trees.

The Chairman was also asked about the water that always lies on the road between Lower End and the white railings in Sworford Lane, as it was very dangerous in winter when frozen over. The Chairman said that it was most likely to be a Spring. Also, it was felt that when there was heavy rainfall, the drain may be similar to the one at the top of Church Road, ie designed so that excess water comes back up out of the drain. KR felt that the outlet that goes under the road could be blocked and asked the Clerk to contact Oxfordshire Highways regarding this matter, and also asked for her to put them in touch with KR about some further outstanding drainage issues in Church Road..

MB

47/09 **Planning Applications**

Great Milton Parish Council considers that the following planning applications should be approved by South Oxford District Council

- A Grooms Farm, Thame Road, Wheatley. P09/W0330
Change of use from dwelling to special day school for secondary age children in connection with Chilworth House School.

Whilst on the agenda, KR asked John Nowell-Smith (JNS) to look into the previous planning application from Chilworth House School for a new classroom to be built on the old site of a swimming pool. This was turned down by SODC because it was felt that it would impact on the openness of the Greenbelt. However, having viewed the site, KR felt that the proposed building would only be visible from inside the school. JNS agreed to look into the matter.

JNS

48/09 **Financial Resolutions**

Action:

- A The following payments were agreed; proposed by Phil Ashworth, seconded by Steve Harrod and agreed upon unanimously.

Michele Block. Clerk's Salary - £303.43
Manny Stone. Editorial Services (May) - £50.00
ORCC. Subscription - £20.00
GMRGMC. Rec Ground Insurance - £1148.14
Windmill Landscapes. Grass Cutting Verges - £429.42
AON Limited. Parish Council Insurance - £399.18

B **Year End Accounts / Approval and Sign Off of Annual Return**

The Clerk had circulated the year-end receipt and payments accounts to Councillor and these figures had then been transferred on to Section 1 of the Annual Return – Statement of Accounts. It was proposed by Stephen Harrod that these figures were true and correct and that Section 1 should be approved, this was seconded by Doug Colley and agreed upon unanimously.

The Clerk then read out Section 2 of the Annual Return – Annual Governance Statement. Councillors went through each point and agreed that all answers should read 'yes', with the exception of number 9, which is not applicable to Great Milton Parish Council. It was proposed by Phil Ashworth that the Annual Governance Statement be approved by the Parish Council, this was seconded by Stephen Harrod and agreed upon unanimously.

The Clerk then confirmed that the relevant accounts and paperwork would be sent to Andrew Subramaniam, in order for him to carry out the Internal Audit for the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that she would present his findings when his report was finished.

MB

49/09 **Items for Discussion**

A **CPRE AGM**

The Clerk informed Councillors that the Campaign to Protect Rural England Oxford Branch is to hold its AGM on Tuesday 2nd June 2009 at 8pm at the Punches Barn, Waterperry Road, Holton.

B **Calor Village of the Year Competition.**

The Clerk informed Councillors that an invitation had arrived to enter the Calor Village of the Year Competition. After some discussion on the matter, it was decided not to enter this year.

C **Review of Conservation Area**

Phil Ashworth proposed that the Parish Council review the Conservation Area within Great Milton to ensure that any historic buildings or green spaces thought worthy of preserving are protected in the proper manner. The Clerk confirmed that she had enquired about the process of reviewing the Great Milton Conservation Area with the

Planning Department at SODC, and had been given the names of several publications to obtain from English Heritage. She confirmed that she would endeavour to progress this matter.

Action:

MB

D Councillor Vacancy

Councillors were introduced to Christine Pepperell (CP), who had been observing the meeting before formerly putting herself forward for the vacant seat on the Parish Council to cover the Milton Common Ward. CP has lived in Milton Common for 24 years, and therefore would be an ideal representative for that Parish Council Ward. Councillors received and asked several questions, before it was proposed by Stephen Harrod that CP be formerly co-opted on to the Parish Council, this was seconded by Peter Fewell and agreed upon unanimously. The Clerk confirmed that she would take care of all of the necessary paperwork before the next meeting.

MB

50/09 Any Other Business

A Phil Ashworth (PA) reported the sad news that the Clerk had resigned due to increasing pressures on her time. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for all her efforts over the last 6 years. It was agreed by Councillors that an advert should be placed in the Post Office window and also in the Bulletin for her replacement. PA also asked Councillors to consider, if necessary, the role being split between two people, one to take over the Clerk's role and one for the Financial Officer. KR did mention that he had a few people in mind, however, he had yet to approach them to see if they were interested. The Clerk agreed to place the advert.

MB

B Doug Colley reported that there was a big dog fouling problem again in Thame Road. The Clerk also confirmed that she had seen an increase in dog fouling both in Old Field and along Grove Lane. Pat Cox confirmed that she would put another note in the Bulletin on the matter.

PC

C Finally KR informed the meeting that should Councillors wish to form a separate committee to deal with the parking issues in and around the village, then Charles Peers would be willing to serve on that committee.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 8th June 2009 at 7.30pm** in the Pavilion.

Signed: _____

Date: _____