

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 18th November 2019 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

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

In Attendance: Tim Darch (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

144/19 Apologies for Absence

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

145/19 Variation of order of business

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

146/19 Declarations of member's Interest (if any)

Cllr Peter Fewell declared an interest in his absence in Item 149/19, 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.

147/19 Matters to Report

There are no reports from the County Councillor or District Councillor this month as a result of the purdah period in advance of the General Election.

148/19 Correspondence and Public Discussion

An e-mail has been received by a resident regarding thefts at his property, and expressing dissatisfaction at the apparent lack of police response. The Parish Council will write to the Commissioner for Thames Valley Police to outline its concerns.

149/19 Planning Applications

A

To consider the following planning applications received from SODC:

P19/S0677/FUL (Coach House, Milton Lodge, Lower End, Great Milton OX44 7NJ).
Amendment : No. 2 - dated 18th October 2019 as amended by plan 22b removing the parking space and proposing a 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).

Following consultation most residents are broadly supportive of this amendment, though some have commented on the proposal to fence off the parking space in its current form while the grass is allowed to re-establish itself: the applicant confirmed that this was a figurative reference, rather than referring to an actual fence. It was agreed (again after clarification from the applicant that the door adjacent to the proposed footpath was a front door and has always been designated as such) that a path to the front door was entirely necessary and appropriate, and the Parish Council duly agreed that it FULLY SUPPORTED this amendment. The previous iteration of this application had been considered at the Parish Council's September meeting, and the applicant expressed concerns about the conduct of attendees at that meeting, and what he believed to be inaccurate and unfair comments posted on SODC's planning portal. His concerns were noted.

P19/S2605/FUL (Mount Pleasant Farm Thame Road Great Milton). Erection of two x 4 bedroom dwellings with double garages. As amended by revised drawing nos MPF01-PL2, MPF02-PL2, MPF03-PL1, MPF04E-PL2, MPF04P-PL2, MPF05, MPF06E- PL1, MPF06P-PL1 and MPF07-PL addressing highways concerns.

The current amendment does not address the concerns raised by neighbours or the Parish Council when this application was last considered. The Parish Council therefore agreed that it had NO OBJECTIONS to the proposed technical changes, all of which address the concerns of the highway authority with regard to parking bay/garage dimensions and vision splays. Further amendments have been received: these will be considered at the December meeting of the Parish Council.

B To review the following planning decisions received and any outstanding planning matters. P19/S2743/LB and P19/S2475/LB (The Old Stores, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NT). Replace cracked and damaged single glazing with slim/heritage glazing in two bay windows (P19/S2743/LB) and repaint in Sage Green (P19/S2745LB). Planning permission is GRANTED for the works detailed above.

150/19 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21st October 2019 were signed and approved as a full and accurate record of proceedings.

151/19 Financial Resolutions

A The following payments were authorised and cheques signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses November. £451.25

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production November. £264.50

Green and Growing. Additional grass cutting tasks June/October mowing. £270/£450

B The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received and approved. The reconciled bank balance as at 5 November 2019 was £30,469.62.

152/19 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

- Red Rose Buses has considered the suggestion to divert an inward and return trip to/from Oxford on service 275 on a trial 'use it or lose it' basis. At the time of the meeting the bus company had not yet confirmed its intentions.
- Contact has been established with the police regarding the accident at the Forties/Windmill Hill junction in September. However, as an investigation is ongoing little additional information can be disclosed, other than to confirm that as is already widely known a fatality did result.
- 'Give Way' and 'SLOW' markings on Windmill Hill between Little Milton and April Cottage have been repainted.
- The request for signage at Little Milton directing vehicles away from Windmill Hill for access to the northbound M40 has been passed on to OCC. In response to comments about near-misses with lorries on Sworford Lane an officer advises that a 7.5 tonne limit is in place in this area, and that infringements can be reported online (search 'Oxfordshire County Council weight limit enforcement').
- The request for flashing 20mph signage in the vicinity of the school pick-up/drop-off times has also been passed on to OCC.

153/19 School parking update

So far two households have offered driveway space for parking at the beginning and the end of the school day. Any similar offers would be gratefully received. It is hoped that the school will take steps to ensure that the spaces offered can be used in the very near future.

154/19 Path along Sworford Lane from Great Milton to Wheatley

Contact has been made with Sustrans with regard to an initial meeting to discuss the potential for a path from the village to Wheatley. This is expected to take place in December.

155/19 Budget 2020-21 and precept request

The first draft of the Parish Council's budget and precept request for the next financial year was received and considered. A 4% increase in the precept to be requested was proposed, and it was agreed that a budget based upon this figure will be formally submitted for approval by the Parish Council at December's meeting. There is little or no change necessary for the major items of expense, but an increase in the village maintenance budget is suggested.

156/19 Data Protection Policy/ICO Model Publication Scheme and Published Information list

The Parish Council's Data Protection and Freedom of Information Policies and Model Publication list and scheme were considered and duly approved.

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157/19 Carols around the Christmas tree

It was agreed to that the annual singing of carols around the village Christmas tree was should take place on Wednesday 18th December, starting at 6.30pm and followed by mince pies and mulled wine at The Bull.

158/19 Honorary Freeman or Freewoman

The suggestion that the title of 'Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of Great Milton' is awarded to recognise significant and valued contributions to village life was discussed. The suggestion was fully supported by the Parish Council, and as is required by local government legislation a special meeting will be convened shortly to formally confirm the award or awards. As usual the date of this meeting will be formally confirmed by the placing of notices on the village noticeboards.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

The next scheduled meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 16 December starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

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