

Appendix 58/19

Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Report of the Parish Council

Annual Report from the District Councillor

Annual Report from the County Councillor

Parish Council Accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2019

Parish Council observations on its finances

Annual Report and Financial Statements from:

Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee

Old Field Charity

Kent and Couling Charity

Sheppard Charitable Trust

The Hard Surface Play Area Committee

Neighbours Hall Committee

Great Milton Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report 2019

- Planning
 - Milton Lodge planning application including the use of the lane outside the Coach House is causing some consternation but will no doubt reach an amenable conclusion.
 - Plans for extending the pub dining area onto external decking have likewise raised objections from neighbours and this will also be resolved in due course hopefully
- Parking, traffic and roads
 - The condition of most roads in the area has improved somewhat during the year and the County Council is investing considerable sums of money into a countywide improvement scheme.
 - Residents are encouraged to make use of the fixmystreet.com website to report any issues.
 - The private road around Pitts Green is still waiting to be repaired and resurfaced by local residents.
- Manoir
 - Le Manoir continues to thrive and provides both employment opportunities and revenue generation for the Parish.
- The Bull
 - Ankit and Vinay have been doing a great job as the new tenants of the Bull, with the assistance of their team headed by Sarah Davies.
 - Plans are afoot to extend the dining area onto an external patio area, as well as provide separate access to the first floor accommodation.
- The Bulletin
 - The Bulletin is now published online, via the Parish Council website, as well as in printed format.
 - Residents were asked to indicate their preference for online or hard copy, and were resoundingly in favour of continuing the hard copy distribution.
 - Advertising revenue has improved significantly under the auspices of Parish Clerk, Tim Darch.
- Footpaths
 - Footpaths have been well maintained, by and large, though stiles are needed to improve access along the footpath to Waterperry from Pitts Green
 - Dog bins have been installed at strategic locations around the footpath network and are being fully utilised.
 - Occasional complaints of dog fouling still occur, in spite of this.
- Crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour
 - Litter and fly-tipping continue to be a problem and we encourage all walkers to continue their efforts in picking up litter during their wanderings.
- Strategic issues
 - Chalgrove Airfield proposals are still in play, although staunch resistance from Martin Baker is preventing further development at this stage.
 - The updated SODC Local Plan presents fewer threats to the local area, with much of the proposed development closer to Oxford City.
 - The Oxford-Cambridge Expressway is a cause for some concern and the proposed routes within the preferred corridors will be announced by Highways England later this summer, following which there will be a public consultation. Various bodies, including OCC, are lobbying government to conduct a public enquiry into the viability of the scheme, prior to selection of routes.
- Parish Clerk
 - Our Parish Clerk, Tim Darch, continues to perform in his role and provides strong and invaluable support to the Council.

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

Stephen Harrod

Chairman

15 April 2019

**CLLR CAROLINE NEWTON
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR, HASELEY BROOK WARD
SODC ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2019**

I'm sure many of us were gratified to see South Oxfordshire ranked in the top six best places to live in the country - and the best in the South East - by the latest Halifax Quality of Life Survey. Gratified, though maybe not surprised: we all know this is a great place to live. But of course we know that does not happen by accident. It's a combination of many factors including our geography and environment; committed individuals working and playing together in so many ways to enrich our communities; a vibrant job market; good schools etc.

Of course our public services also play their part in that. And councillors and officers at South Oxfordshire District Council have continued to work hard over the year to meet the interests of residents - aiming to provide high quality, responsive services as efficiently as possible.

The financial environment remains challenging for the District Council with funding from central government reducing, and with limited scope for us raise our own income. To meet these pressures, Council agreed in February to increase the SODC element of Council Tax by £5 in the current band 'D' council tax to £121.24.

Our revenue budget for 2019/20 is £16,643,702, a reduction in around £270,000 from last year.

Planning

Much of the last year has been occupied with the drafting of and public consultation on SODC's Local Plan, our vision for how South Oxfordshire should develop over the next 15 years and, particularly, where housing, retail and employment land should be located. Our plan, which includes the allocation of land around Oxford, at Chalgrove, Culham and Berinsfield, was submitted to Government on 29 March for independent examination, and we anticipate the publishing of the Inspector's report later this year.

Vital to the successful growth of this district is the provision of infrastructure - roads, schools, utilities and health services - and the District Council has worked closely with other local authorities, particularly Oxfordshire County Council and Vale of the White Horse District Council, to secure additional funding from central Government to meet this need. In the last year we have been allocated a large share of £218 million from the Housing and Infrastructure Fund (HIF) and of the £215 million Growth Deal for Oxfordshire.

Housing

One of the important elements of the Local Plan is its focus on the need for affordable housing for our residents, and through it we will be requiring all medium and large-scale developments to ensure at least 40% of the dwellings are 'affordable'. It is the Government which decides the definition of 'affordable', and we continue to lobby for a definition which makes homes in this expensive area genuinely accessible.

The joint SODC-Vale of the White Horse Housing Allocations Policy - the process through which the council allocates social housing fairly, objectively and systematically - was updated in February after a long process of consultation and scrutiny. It can be found on the SODC website. The council will be revising its Homelessness Strategy over the next year.

Waste and Recycling

South Oxfordshire remains one of the best local authorities in the country for recycling, compost and managing our household waste.

Fully 63% of all our waste (by weight) is either recycled or composted, the second highest figure in the UK. Of the remaining waste, almost all is incinerated in the new 'Energy from Waste' facility at Ardley near Banbury which generates power for the equivalent of 53,000 homes.

There are a number of factors behind our success, amongst them: the comprehensive, simple recycling programme, close monitoring of our contractor, Biffa, and the diligence of our residents. To help you keep track of your bin collections, and what can go in which bin, we have created a smartphone App (BinZone) and a pinwheel which is available from parish councils, council offices and libraries.

This year we started collecting used cooking oil (in plastic bottles 1 litre or smaller); crisp packets (at the council office at SODC); and we also collect fabric/clothes and small electrical items with your household waste.

We continue to urge government to work with manufacturers to reduce the amount of non-recyclable plastics they produce, and to encourage residents to reduce and re-use packaging.

This year's compost give-away will be taking place at Milton Park overflow carpark on 11 May.

Community Safety

South Oxfordshire experiences low rates of crime, and remains a safe place to live. That's partly because a range of agencies work very well together here to tackle community safety problems that can't be resolved by one organisation working alone.

SODC, together with our partner district council, Vale of the White Horse, is responsible for heading up this Community Safety Partnership (CSP) with the aim of cutting crime, reducing the fear of crime and reassuring communities, protecting the most vulnerable members of our community, and supporting victims and witnesses. The CSP includes representatives from Oxfordshire County Council (Adult and Children Social Services), public health services, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue, Thames Valley Police, Thames Valley Probation Service, and the main housing associations in our area.

This year we have introduced a variety of schemes across the district to increase the sense of public confidence and safety both in relation to the 'night-time economy' (Ask for Angela, Nightsafe), and for vulnerable people more generally (Safe Places). More information about all these can be found on the SODC website.

Public Health Funerals

One of the less well-known duties of the District Council is to arrange funerals ('Bona Vacantia') for deceased people for whom suitable arrangements have not been made, and who have no identifiable next-of-kin to make them.

Over the last few months the Environmental Health team at SODC, responsible for these burials have been required to arrange an unusually high number: a total of 8 in 2018-19 - double that of the previous year.

SODC Offices - Crowmarsh

Work has begun on the re-development of the SODC premises at Crowmarsh. Demolition of the existing structure - badly damaged by an arson attack in 2015 - took place last summer, and contractors are in the process of designing the new building.

Annual Report from Steve Harrod, County Councillor for Chalgrove and Watlington division

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 a number of related committees.

Unitary Government

A proposal for Unitary Government for Oxfordshire was submitted to DCLG in the Spring of 2017 by OCC, SODC and The Vale. Cherwell, WODC and the City of Oxford did not take part. There is no update on the situation.

Council Budget Passed on 12th February

1. COMMUNITIES TO BE OFFERED HELP WITH YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Provision across Oxfordshire was given a £1 million boost by the Conservative Independent Alliance at the budget-setting meeting on February 12th. Young people and their families in Oxfordshire will now benefit from improved community-run youth services. Youth groups will be invited to bid in to a £1m fund over two years, with encouragement to find match-funding from their local communities. Details of the application process will be published shortly.

2. COUNTY COUNCIL TO INVEST IN SCHOOLS, TRANSPORT AND STREETLIGHTING

Other measures that form part of the approved Budget include highway improvements, new school buildings and energy-efficient street-lighting thanks to a £1 billion investment over the next ten years. However, the county council is also warning that funding pressure on services remains as demand for social care for vulnerable children and adults continues grow and continued financial prudence is required to meet those demands.

Transport schemes across the county will improve journeys for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. Nearly £20m will be invested to increase the provision of school places for children with special needs in the county, including rebuilding Northfield School in Oxford with more pupil places.

Capital funding is for large one-off projects such as highway repairs or building work to assist the council meet its obligations, such as creating extra school places – as opposed to the normal revenue budget which covers funding for the costs of day-to-day services. Most of the funding for capital programme is made up of government funding and developer contributions, which cannot be used for any other purpose.

The capital programme includes a £41m street-lighting improvement programme with traditional lanterns being replaced with more energy efficient LED lighting, saving money in the long-run.

Pressure on funding for day-to-day council services continues as the council increases funding to support of Oxfordshire's most vulnerable children and adults. To make sure the growing number of children at risk of abuse and neglect are protected, the children's social care budget has increased annually. It was £46m in 2011 and is forecast to be £95m in 2022/23 – more than doubling in ten years. The council's budget for adult social care will increase by £5m in 2019/20, with further annual increases reaching nearly £6m by 2022/23.

The planned redesign of the council around the changing needs of residents and communities will maintain or improve services, with investment in digital technology enabling us to save money in the process – OCC is now reviewing the digital technology

needed to make the council run more effectively and efficiently, including improving customer service by making it easier to access services online. The council has identified savings of £50m from changing the way services are delivered and has already started implementing these changes, including improving online 'self-service' HR and finance systems used by staff. As part of the partnership with Cherwell District Council, legal services for the two councils are being joined up.

Investment in Repairing Oxfordshire's Roads Continues

OCC will be spending an extra £13m on capital funding on road maintenance in the coming financial year. This is on top of its existing £18.5m programme of work and follows last year's additional £12m boost which saw more than 37 extra miles of road being resurfaced through a range of methods including surface dressing and micro-asphalting – both of which make road surfaces waterproof and extend their life. This year's additional money will be spent across Oxfordshire on resurfacing, drainage, bridge repairs and footways. One of the major projects confirmed for later this year will see the A40 from Thornhill to Headington Roundabout (inbound) resurfaced, benefitting thousands of road users every day.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire Publishes Findings of Daytime Support Review

OCC's Adult Social Care department asked the health and social care watchdog to undertake an independent review of the services after major changes in how they were delivered in October 2017. On that date, OCC's Health and Wellbeing Centres and Learning Disability Daytime Support Services were replaced with a new Community Support Service as planned, securing the services for the future. The services are located in Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Didcot, Oxford, Wallingford, Wantage and Witney. They provide daytime support for both older people and those with learning disabilities. The review focused specifically on user experiences during the process of change to help evaluate the impact it had on people. The service has been working hard since the launch to ensure that people are at the centre of all service developments. The review found that people said that daytime support made a difference to their lives and they valued it for: social connection and friendships; meaningful activity; independence; reducing isolation and loneliness; and supporting carers to continue caring.

Delayed Transfer Of Care Improvements

The latest published figures on people who are unnecessarily in hospital while they await care have been published. The figures for December 2018 show that on average 85 Oxfordshire residents had their hospital discharge delayed. This is five fewer than in November and 20 less than the same time last year. Oxfordshire's improvement remains better than nationally. In the last 12 months delays have dropped by 19% locally compared to 11% nationally.

Response to Announcement on The Oxford-Cambridge Expressway

OCC welcomes the announcement of a preferred Corridor for part of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway as it offers a degree of clarity on where the final scheme would go but is very disappointed that access to the M40 through Oxfordshire is still unclear. Highways England, who are leading on this national project, have identified Corridor B as their proposal, the central corridor from the three broad corridors being considered. However, there is still no indication on which of the sub-options around Oxford would be taken forward. OCC will now carefully study the Corridor put forward, including the justification and technical detail which has led to this choice, and how it would affect already stretched roads, such as the A34 and interface with other schemes including East West Rail. OCC has set three tests to assess the decision-making process for that corridor and, eventually, the final route choice:

- Impact on the A34: it should provide relief to congestion on the A34 and function as a separate strategic route, allowing the A34 around Oxford to work better for local traffic
- Pressure on existing roads: It should not increase pressure on overstretched roads
- Conflation with other schemes: It should be developed separately but alongside other local schemes, to ensure the highway network works for Oxfordshire overall

Invariably, a project of this magnitude and ambition will have an impact, which OCC will need to ensure is mitigated. OCC will seek clarity on how the corridor choice is developed so that a decision can be made on the best route for the scheme.

Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme

The Oxfordshire Growth Board has published details of the infrastructure projects to receive funding in Year 1 and Years 2-5 of the Oxfordshire Housing & Growth Deal, signed in April 2018. The total £150 million of Growth Deal funding has been earmarked for specific projects. This forward funding is helping unlock projects that will benefit from developer contributions, delivering schemes valued at over £480 million in total, excluding costs of the major rail projects, which are still to be confirmed.

Councils Join Up to Produce a Spatial Plan For Oxfordshire up to 2050

Oxfordshire's councils are working jointly on a countywide strategic plan which integrates planning for growth and infrastructure, with a focus on quality of life and health and wellbeing. At the September meeting, Cabinet approved a scoping document for the creation of the joint strategic spatial plan (JSSP), which will be considered by the districts and city council in the coming weeks. The JSSP will address the strategic and cumulative implications of growth and set out a long-term framework covering the whole of Oxfordshire up to 2050. It will set out future housing requirements and identify strategic locations or broad areas for future growth. The JSSP will not allocate specific sites for development (any such decision to do this would require the explicit agreement of all the local authorities). Detailed local policies will be covered by future Local Plan reviews as necessary. OCC's role as highways and education authority, and as a provider of many essential services to the communities and businesses, makes it particularly relevant as a key player in the JSSP preparation process. Sustainable transport that create places where people can walk and cycle will underpin the JSSP. The six Oxfordshire Councils and the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OXLEP) under the Oxfordshire Growth Board agreed the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal with Government in March 2018. Under the terms of the Deal the local authorities have committed to producing the JSSP for submission to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination by 31 March 2020 and adoption by 31 March 2021. Early stakeholder engagement starts this Autumn and a public consultation is due in 2019 first on preferred options and then a proposed draft of the joint plan.

OCC Best Performing County Council in England for its Recycling Rates

Oxfordshire has been named the best performing county council waste disposal authority in England for its recycling rates during 2017/18. The success reflects OCC's commitment to work with districts to protect the environment. Figures published on Tuesday 11 December by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) show that Oxfordshire is the highest performing disposal authority, ahead of Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire.

Oxfordshire is 'top of the pops' in two categories:

- The highest proportion of waste which is reused, recycled and composted (57.2%)
- The lowest amount of general waste (non-recyclable waste) produced per household (430kg).

All Oxfordshire Councils recycled over 50% in 2017/18, (the national recycling rate is 45%). The county has seven Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) that provide recycling facilities for a wide range of items, from batteries to clothes, fridges to plastic garden furniture. They accept over 350 different waste streams, recycling around 60% of the waste accepted.

For further information about Oxfordshire County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres, visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste

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

Kind regards

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 2019**

Receipts	Actual to 31/03/19 £	Budget for the year £	Variance £
Precept	16,990.00	16,990.00	
Landfill grant from SODC			
Interest	6.04	50.00	-43.96
Bulletin Advertisements	2,870.00	1,000.00	1,870.00
Access/Rental agreements	400.00	100.00	300.00
Allotment rentals	220.00	230.00	-10.00
OCC Grass Verge Maintenance	356.39	360.00	-3.61
VAT Claim	1,379.60	800.00	579.60
BT Direct Debit - Council Email	10.00		10.00
BT Direct Debit - Council Email - Reimbursement of Transparency Grant			
Total receipts	22,232.03	19,530.00	2,702.03
Payments:			
Expenses	174.90	250.00	75.10
Salary	4,103.24	4,750.00	646.76
Staff training	85.00	200.00	115.00
Audit Commission	240.00	200.00	-40.00
Parish Council Insurance	354.90	350.00	-4.90
Website		500.00	500.00
Bulletin DTP and Printing	3,192.25	2,000.00	-1,192.25
Rec Grd Maintenance	400.00	400.00	
Rec Grd Insurance	939.45	900.00	-39.45
Sundry	35.00	200.00	165.00
Handyman & materials / Village Maintenance	600.00	1,000.00	400.00
Water Allotments	72.86	40.00	-32.86
Grass Cutting	4,530.00	5,000.00	470.00
SODC Dog Hygiene	259.24	360.00	100.76
Doctor and Hospital service		50.00	50.00
Church Clock service	206.40	210.00	3.60
Subscriptions	367.57	200.00	-167.57
Donations	240.00	500.00	260.00
PCC Grass Maintenance grant	600.00	600.00	
Tree Management		1,000.00	1,000.00
BT Direct Debit - Council Email	129.60	120.00	-9.60
Archive Room overheads - History/GMPC		200.00	200.00
Grants - Replacement bus service/Childrens Centre	500.00	500.00	
BT Sponsorship of Red Telephone Kiosk	-179.00		179.00
Neighbours Hall Funding Direct Cost			
Land Registry Fees			
Old Field Insurance			
Courtesy			
Revenues			
Donation from reserves			
Election Fees			
Transparency Fund			
Total payments	16,851.41	19,530.00	2,678.59
General reserve			
Neighbours Hall refurbishment	4,000.00	2,500.00	-1,500.00
Net receipts/payments	1,380.62	-2,500.00	3,880.62
Balance brought forward	19,660.88		
Balance carried forward	21,041.50		
VAT to claim	952.63		
S137 expenditure			

Great Milton Parish Council

Observations on Accounts

Financial Year 2018-19

15 April 2019

Tim Darch

Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer, Great Milton Parish Council

Observations on Great Milton Parish Council's accounts Financial year ending 31st March 2019

Receipts

Receipts for the 2018/19 financial year amounted to £22,232.
(The opening cashbook balance was £19,660.88)

Interest

Interest accrued on the Santander savings account further reduced during 2017-18: just £6 was received for the year ending 31st March 2019 as the savings account was closed (as a result of minimal benefit resulting from low interest rates).

Bulletin Advertisements

Receipts from bulletin advertisements amounted to £2,870 (£1,870 over the budgeted amount for the year). The increase is the result of new advertisers from 2017-18 continuing their commitment, plus other new additions. There is no debt outstanding from advertisers.

Access Rental/Agreements

£400 has been received from access/rental agreements relative to the budgeted amount of £100. Funds from access agreements and wayleaves have historically been expected from BT and SSE. After investigation it transpired that BT's automatic payment arrangement for the access agreement for the telephone exchange had ceased: this has now been restored and will be paid annually going forward (currently £50 per annum). A review of this sum is due. Arrears of £200 have been paid. Further income has resulted from the leasing of former allotment land to Oxfordshire County Council for a new classroom at the school (£100 per annum). The SSE payment continues to be routinely received: relatively trivial sums due from two domestic residences will be sought this year.

OCC Grass Verge Maintenance

£356 received (budget £350).

VAT reclaim from 2017-18

The estimated budget was £800, while the amount received from the reclaim for 2017-18 was £1379.60

The larger figure is the result of an increased number of grass cuts due to mild, damp weather in the growing season. Grass cutting provision is the main generator of VAT-able expenditure. Additionally the Council purchased a dedicated laptop in 2017-18 to comply with the Transparency Code and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations): the VAT reclaimed on this also contributed to the larger sum reclaimed. It is expected that the reclaim for 2018-19 will be significantly closer to the budgeted amount of £800.

Allotment rentals

One plot was not rented in 2018-19, hence income was reduced by £10 relative to full occupancy (£230 budgeted).

Transparency Grant

The Transparency Grant was applied for to enable compliance with the Transparency Code. £2265 was awarded in 2016-17, of which £400 was spent on a PC-specific laptop in the same financial year. Many of the other requirements of the Code involve the display of information on the website: the Clerk has actioned this at no cost. At present the Clerk uses the printer/scanner already in his possession, but eventually it may be necessary to replace this: if so this will be funded from the Transparency Fund and the item will become Council property. A sum has been set aside for website training: so far the Clerk has successfully trained himself to do the necessary tasks without formal training being necessary. It has been confirmed by OALC that the sum granted will not be reclaimed if not spent, but these funds are ring-fenced within the Parish Council budget and expenditure from them will only be incurred on items pertaining to the Transparency Code.

Payments

Total expenditure for the financial year 2018-19 amounted to £20,851.

Areas that were over budget:

Parish Council insurance

A negligible increase has led to the insurance premium being £5 over budget. A long-term arrangement with the insurer ceases in 2019-20: the Parish Council is seeking quotes from alternative providers in an attempt to ensure best value.

Bulletin DTP and printing

Expenditure was £3,192, £1,192 over the budgeted sum of £2,000. However, significantly increased advertising revenue has offset increased production costs. A proposed move to an 'online only' format (which was not well received by residents) has therefore been postponed. New advertisers continue to be added, and it is anticipated that the current level of income will at the very least be maintained going forward.

Recreation Ground insurance

An increase in the premium has led to the insurance being £39 over budget (budgeted sum £900). However this is broadly in line with expectations. A long-term arrangement with the insurer ceases in 2019-20: it is anticipated that the Recreation Ground Committee will seek quotes from alternative providers in an attempt to ensure best value.

BT Direct Debit Council e-mail

Marginally over budget by £10 (budgeted sum £120).

Allotment water supply

This was over budget by £33 (budgeted sum £40).

Subscriptions

Over budget by £168 (budgeted sum £200) due to increases in membership fees for OALC, SLCC, ALCC and the addition of the ICO 'Data Protection Fee'.

Areas that were under budget:

Expenses

Expenditure was £175, under budget by £75 (budgeted sum £250).

Salary

Expenditure was £4,103, under budget by £647 (budgeted sum £4,750). The Parish Clerk was due a tax refund from HMRC in 2017-18 totalling £890, having not earned more than the single persons tax allowance in 2016-17. This sum was held as a credit by HMRC and has been refunded to the Parish Council and added as a credit to the 'salary' payments line, which as a result comes in significantly under budget for 2018-19. This will stabilise in 2019-20.

Staff Training

Expenditure was £85, under budget by £115 (budgeted sum £200) due to reduced need for training now Clerk is established in post.

Website

No expenditure necessary (budgeted sum £500).

Sundry

Expenditure was £35, under budget by £165 (budgeted sum £200).

Village Maintenance

Expenditure was £600, under budget by £400 (budgeted sum £1,000). Expenditure was largely focused on trimming of hedges at the Recreation Ground.

Grass cutting

Expenditure was £4,530, under budget by £470 (budgeted sum £5,000). The 2018-19 budget was adjusted to account for milder winters and wetter growing seasons, both of which have attributed to increased mowing. Additionally a new area of coverage has been added (Chilworth Lane) though this will be part-funded by a local resident. The grass-cutting contract has been re-tendered for a further two years: the current contractor (Green and Growing) submitted the lowest price and will therefore continue to provide the service.

Dog hygiene

Expenditure was £259, under budget by £101 (budgeted sum £360). The final quarterly bill was not received until after the March meeting, so a further cheque for £62.80 will be written in the 2019-20 financial year.

Doctor and Hospital service

No expenditure (budgeted sum £50).

No contribution requested in 2018-19.

Church Clock Service

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

Donations

Expenditure was £240, under budget by £260 (budgeted sum £500). Fewer donation requests were received in 2018-19.

BT Sponsorship of Red Phone Kiosk

No sum budgeted, but a £180 refund was received after the Parish Council terminated its sponsorship of the kiosk having paid a year's rental in advance but requiring to give 6 months' notice. A cost of £1 incurred to purchase the telephone box. The telephone box has been refurbished and will eventually house a defibrillator, both of which have been generously funded by a local resident. Any future costs will come from other budget lines.

Archive room overheads

No expenditure (not claimed in 2018-19). Budgeted sum £200.

Tree management

No expenditure (work carried out in 2018-19 but invoice not received in time to enable payment in the same period). Budgeted sum £1000.

Earmarked reserves

£2,500 was earmarked in the 2018-19 budget for a contribution towards the Neighbours Hall refurbishment, to take the form of a loan. Given the healthy state of reserves this has been increased to £4,000, to be repaid by the end of the financial year 2019-20 as agreed by the Chairman of the Neighbours Hall Committee.

Section 137 expenditure: NIL

SUMMARY

Receipts exceeded expenditure by £1,381

Total receipts were £2,702 over budget.

Total expenditure was £1,179 under budget.

Total reserves to carry forward into 2019-20: £21,042

Great Milton Recreation Ground

Annual Report

31st March 2019

Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee

Great Milton Recreation Ground

Annual Report for the year to 31 March 2019

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 2018/19 comprised:

Chairman Mr Andrew Noble

Vice Chair Mrs Michele Block

Secretary not filled

Treasurer Mr Paul Dennis

Other members Ms Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Mr Michael Robinson, Dr Emily Johns, and Mrs Caroline Smith

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, Emily Johns, and Caroline Smith were co-opted to the committee.

7. **Representative Members** – the appointing body and number to be appointed were-

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

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, Football and Athletics Clubs, for a wide range of social and fund raising events and as the venue for Parish Council meetings and as the village Polling Station.

During the year we were delighted to welcome the Great Milton Singers as well as Drama and Yoga classes as regular users but sadly Junior Sports and the Holiday Club both closed due to a lack of support.

The Playing Field continues to be used extensively by lots of people for a wide range of informal activities and also more formally by the Cricket and Football Clubs, the Athletics Club and for diverse events such as the Church Fete, the School Sports Day and the Fireworks evening.

During the year we have spent a considerable amount of money on improving the grass surface of the recreation ground to try and give our sports teams as good a playing surface as possible, and we have also bought a new set of junior goalposts to make sure that the next generation of sporting heroes gets every opportunity to improve their skills. We have also significantly increased our spending on the Play Area to ensure it continues to offer a safe and enjoyable environment for all the children who use it and to ensure it continues to meet all the relevant safety legislation.

There has been discussion during the year about the recreation ground being used as a car park, particularly at school dropping off and picking up times. The Trustees have discussed this at length and whilst mindful of the issues caused by cars in the village have concluded that this is not an appropriate use of the facilities as specified by the Objectives laid down in the Charity's Constitution.

In addition the Trustees have consulted a Play Ground expert on the subject of parking on the recreation ground and his firm and unequivocal advice was that cars and children don't mix.

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 generously 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.

10. Financial Information - the Accounts for the Year ending 31st March 2019 show that the Charity held uncommitted cash reserves of £4,700.

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.

Signed
Andrew Noble
Chairman
31st March 2019

Allotment for Exercise and Recreation (Old Field)
Charity number 283269
Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 15th April 2019 &
Annual General Meeting to be held on TBA May 2019

Firstly I would like to thank all the trustees and committee members who have given up their valuable time to help with the activities of Old Field, it was very encouraging to see numerous new members this year.

We meet every second Saturday morning of the month and ALL are welcome.

Among the activities that occurred in the year are:

Our summer BBQ was once again held on the 15th July and this year the weather was superb lots of suntan cream required. Everyone had a great time tucking into sausages and burgers. We will again be holding the July BBQ watch out for the date in the Bulletin.

A huge thanks to David Mackrory, David Cartwright and Adrian Buckmaster for the brilliant steps up to the main road from the gate, no more slippery mud just before crossing the road. A very professional job, we are looking forward to their next project.

The pathways through the wood are rustically marked out and appear to being well used, giving access to the wonderful sounds of our woodland and views of the snowdrops and bluebells.

The pond continues to be a cause for concern due to low water levels. Vegetation was cleared from the centre and along with the winter rains the level of water is currently ok, we will continue to monitor the situation and decide if further measures are required.

More projects are in the pipeline, so we may be looking to the Shepard Trust for a small amount of funding to help support our work in enhancing Old Field for the Parish. So please take some time to walk through the field and enjoy the space on the edge of your village.

Niki Patrick
April 2019

Treasury Report to follow.

Kent and Couling Charity.

The Charity met on 15th November 2018 to discuss the distribution of gifts. There were nine beneficiaries each receiving £100-00.

Sadly, a long standing trustee of the Charity Mrs Cynthia D'Anger died last year. She did a great deal of work over the years for the Charity and was much loved in the Village.

We were pleased to be joined by Mrs Susan Denham who has agreed to become a new trustee. There are presently therefore three trustees. Rev Simon Cronk, Mrs Tricia Treanor and Mrs Sue Denham.

Simon Cronk - Chair

The Sheppard Charitable Trust

During the year, the Trustees met twice to discuss grant applications. Total income for the year was £10,457.70. Expenditure by way of grants totalled £9793.75, which reduced to £8293.75 following the return of the grant made to Great Milton Saturday Sports.

Grants were made to the following organisations:

Great Milton Senior Citizens Party Fund Committee

£750 was granted to assist with the cost of providing the annual party and seaside trip for senior citizens

Great Milton Saturday Sports

£1500 was granted and subsequently returned following the demise of Saturday Sports

Great Milton Neighbours Club

£800 to be used towards offsetting the costs of outings and speakers

Great Milton Hard Surface Play Area

£700 granted to assist with the cost of providing a professional tennis coach for the Summer Fun Weeks programme.

Great Milton Charity Concert Choir

£250 to be used towards the cost of buying a key board for use at practices

Great Milton Methodist Chapel

£2000 which had been held as a commitment for several years was paid to assist with the cost of installing a kitchen and toilets in the Chapel

Great Milton Neighbours Hall

£3793.75 granted to assist with costs involved in renovating the hall

Great Milton Recreation Ground Committee

A grant of £1600 was agreed, to assist with the cost of renovating the playing surface of the football pitch and replacement of portable goals. This is currently held as a commitment, to be paid when the Committee's audited accounts have been filed with the Charities Commission.

As always, Trustees welcome applications from any new or established organisation within the parish of Great Milton, whose purpose is for the benefit of the inhabitants.

Jane Willis
March 2019

GREAT MILTON HARD SURFACE PLAY AREA
SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1st May 18 - 30th April 2019

RECEIPTS	30/4/2019	
Membership Fees	550	- Membership comprised 15 families @ £30 and 10 child memberships @ £10
Coaching	640	- Membership numbers were maintained from the previous year, after big effort by the committee
Summer Holiday Tennis	900	- Coaching fees are down again - adults aren't interested in the lessons, and it is becoming more difficult to interest children, not least because none of the committee have primary school age children
Interest (est)	2	- The summer fun weeks were popular as ever, class numbers averaged 18. and once again were made possible with the generous support of the Sheppard Trust.
Grants & Fundraising	700	
Court Fees/ sale of balls		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	2792	
EXPENSES		
Advertising	20	
Wages	2287	- Expenditure included power washing of the court surface, which improved play considerably
Snacks	50	- Expenditure next year should include possibly having the court surface cleaned and minor repairs to the perimeter boards.
Court Maintenance	440	
Court resurfacing		
Insurance		
New balls		
Loo hire for fun weeks	216	
TOTAL EXPENSES	3013	
 <i>Surplus/deficit</i>	 -221	
Opening bank balance	6364	
Closing bank balance	6152	
Cash in hand		
 check	 -9	

Oh, for the days when creating or refurbishing a Village amenity would involve assembling 20 or so handy individuals who would saw and hammer and paint and sew and do what was wanted by the village. When people aspired to be on Committee's possibly as a precursor to the ultimate committee - The Parish Council.

The 21st century is about permissions and grants and boxes for ticks and forms that would challenge the most erudite pedant. Luckily for The Neighbours Hall the saws and hammers have been replaced by keyboards. And a host of experienced help and advice has seen a combination of grants and donations of circa £150,000 gathered. The Parish Council have made a loan which has satisfied one Grant Bodies requirement for 3rd party funding. I can confirm that we will be able to repay this grant in full when the work is finished.

The work combines the essential task of replacing the windows and the rather exciting role of turning 2 back rooms (aka dumping areas) into one large room opening out onto a terrace via two pairs of French windows. This will give us an extra meeting room for smaller groups; a better green room; a safe area for play; a small exhibition space and a break out area. All of which will improve the letabiity of the Hall.

That's the big stuff of which grants are made but on the basis of 'whilst we are at it' we will also be insulating the roof space, improving the flexibility of the lighting, creating storage for tables and chairs in the front entrance, improving the rear entrance, rebuilding the bar area (a much loved Hall feature) and putting a sink in, putting in lots of new electric plug sockets, 'laying' the hedge.

The work is being done by a local Contractor.

Usage has been good this last year, regulars include The Neighbours Club, 2 Bingo sessions weekly, Yoga and Exercise, Toddler group. Then there are parties for children and adults. The Committee continue to organise events and I am pleased to say they are well supported. These events are important for three reasons: fund raising; exposing potential users to the Hall; but most of all **getting people together enjoying themselves and interacting**

Christine Donnelly
Treasurer