

Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr T Darch

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Website: www.great-milton.co.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council

held on Monday 16th October 2017 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion:

Present: Cllrs. S Harrod (Chair and County Councillor), P Fewell, P Allen, C Deacon, G Bennet, G Harris

In Attendance: Mr T Darch (Clerk), no members of the public.

115/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bill Fox.

116/17 Variation of order of business

None

117/17 Co-option of new Councillor

Cllr George Bennet's Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed. Cllr George Bennet's Register of Interests was signed and will be sent to the District Council's Monitoring Officer as required.

118/17 Declarations of Members' Interest (if any)

None received.

119/17 Matters to Report

Reports from the Police, South Oxfordshire District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils were received. It was RESOLVED to inform the new District Councillor for Great Milton (Cllr. Caroline Newton) of future meeting dates.

120/17 Correspondence and Public Discussion

A report has been received that the bus shelter opposite the Oxford Belfry Hotel in Milton Common is in poor condition. The village handyman has quoted £60 to clean it: it was RESOLVED to advise him to go ahead with this work.

121/17 Planning Applications

A To give consideration to the following planning applications received from SODC: P17/S3260/HH (Stonham, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NP). Loft conversion with rear dormer construction to create a bedroom and en suite. It was RESOLVED that there were no strong views on this application, and to respond to the consultation accordingly.

P17/S3223/FUL (Swarebrook, Lower End, Great Milton OX44 7NJ). Amendment to existing planning application P16/S3466/FUL to include a small cellar for storage purposes only. The above ground development that was previously approved is not to change: 'Building and erection of a single storey dwelling; provision of garden and parking.'

It was RESOLVED to support this application, and to respond to the consultation accordingly.

- B** To review the following planning decisions received and any outstanding planning matters:
South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that consent is GRANTED for the execution of the works referred to below:
P17/S2773/LB (Unit 9 Ashurst Court, London Road, Wheatley OX33 1ER). Form new doorway between existing offices (Units 8 & 9), with double doors incorporating glass vision panels.
No further comments were made on this application.
- P17/S2459/LB (The Old School and Pettit's House The Green Great Milton OX44 7NT). Replacement windows, remedial and restorative works and repair works to outer retaining wall. Pettits House: replacement windows.
No further comments were made on this application.
- P17/S0576/FUL (Ramada Hotel Welcome Break Oxford Thame Road near Wheatley OX33 1LJ). Two-storey extension of existing hotel to provide 34 new bedrooms and additional restaurant seating space (As amplified by Transport Statement May 2017 and Travel Plan May 2017 accompanying e-mail from agent received 29 May 2017 and 6 July 2017).
No further comments were made on this application, other than to note that Tiddington Parish Council and the CPRE objected to it but that permission has been granted regardless.

122/17 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on September 18th were approved and signed following minor changes to Minute 101/17 (Declaration of Members' Interest).
With reference to Item 104/7A, Cllr Bill Fox also wished to record his connection with the applicant, a shareholder of The Bull Community Pub Company of which Cllr Fox is a Committee member. There was no pecuniary interest to place on record. The Minutes were amended accordingly.

123/17 Financial Resolutions

A To authorise cheques for payment:

Timothy Darch: Salary, Tax and Expenses. £496.72
Jonathan Dudley: Bulletin production. £258.80
Castle Water (allotment supply): £17.60
BDO (External Audit): £120
History Society: £150
Green and Growing grass cutting contractor: £822 (September)
Dog Bin emptying (SODC) July-September 2017: £62.80

B A full bank reconciliation, the council's quarterly accounts and recent bank statements were received and signed. The reconciled bank balance at 4 October 2017 was £28,739.36.

124/17 Requests for funding

A request for support received from BeFreeYoungCarers (for which consideration was deferred at September meeting) was declined on the grounds of no specific benefit to Great Milton residents.

A cheque of £150 was signed for presentation to the History Society as a contribution towards the production cost of the re-printed 'Blakeston Survey'.

125/17 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand (taken from Action Monitoring Sheet)



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The Clerk reported that discussions are under way with a local IT company with a view to sourcing a dedicated laptop, printer and scanner for Parish Council use.

An update was received on the bus service. The free trial from Oxfordshire County Council has ended, and the Parish Council will fund the service until at least the end of November depending on usage. There has been interest from two residents in response to requests to head up the necessary 'user group' should the service continue beyond November (after which fares will be charged).

The hedge between the Recreation Ground and the rear of the houses on Fullers Field may require trimming: if so the Clerk will seek a price for this from the village handyman.

Oxfordshire Highways have assessed the condition of surfacing on Thame Road and agree that it requires repair in places: this will be added to the programme of works. Road markings are renewed in the warmer months so the request to renew the 'No Entry' markings at the junction of The Green and Thame Road will be considered in the maintenance programme for 2018-19.

It was suggested that additional fencing be investigated in the vicinity of the southbound M40 slip road at Milton Common to discourage parking, and to seek a quote from the village handyman for this provision.

126/17 Clerk's wages

The Clerk reported that his contract states an annual salary of £4,408 per annum, but that an increment due in April 2017 has not been applied to the contract. The actual entitlement is £4,472 per annum: it was agreed that this was the appropriate salary that should be claimed for the post.

127/17 Bulletin advertising

The Clerk updated councillors on progress with chasing outstanding advertising revenue. All but one significant debtor has now settled outstanding sums: it was RESOLVED to write off this debt given the time required to chase it and the 'grey area' resulting from invoices apparently not being sent for some of the period concerned.

128/17 Budget 2018-19 preparation: consideration of objectives for next financial year

It was agreed to look to increase the budget for 2018-19 by no more than 5% to 10% relative to 2017-18. Cllr Harris asked if there were any larger items of expenditure anticipated in the next financial year, but nothing significant was raised at this stage. The Clerk will meet with Cllr Peter Allen before the next Council meeting for an initial discussion on the budget for the next financial year.

129/17 External audit: completion/discussion of recommendations

The External Audit was noted as completed. The significant recommendations were to ensure in future years that the electors' rights inspection period commences after the accounting statements are approved, and to write off or replace an outstanding cheque more than six months old that has not been cashed. It was agreed to write off the amount and to remove the amount from the bank reconciliation and the accounts.

130/17 South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan 2033: publicity period

It was noted that the key issues affecting Great Milton will be potential development at Harrington (though this is not currently allocated as a strategic site in the Local Plan 2033) and Chalgrove (though there are various unresolved issues here, including MOD flying rights and the tenancy of Martin-Baker Ltd at the site). Wider issues also remain over the relevance of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, questions over potential development in the Green Belt and the lack of references to the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. The Chairman stated that he will submit comments on behalf of his electoral division, but that the Parish Council will also need to respond.

Local Plan drop-in sessions are being held at:

Chalgrove Village Hall - Mon 23 October, 4pm – 8pm

Wheatley, Merry Bells - Thurs 9 November, 3pm – 7pm

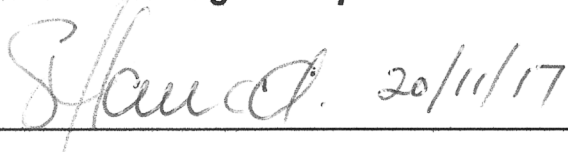
Thame Town Hall - Mon 13 November, 3pm – 7pm

Chalgrove Village Hall - Fri 17 November, 3pm – 7pm

The meeting concluded at 8.25pm.

The next meeting of the Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 20th November 2017 starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Signed

 20/11/17
