

GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20th April 2009 at 7.00pm in the Pavilion.

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

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

28/09 Apologies for Absence

Action:

Peter Fewell

29/09 Register of Interests for this Meeting

30/09 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on Monday 9th March 2009

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

31/09 Matters arising from the meeting held on Monday 9th March 2009

A Resignation of Councillor

Ken Rogers (KR) announced that, with regret, Richard Pearce had tendered his resignation from the Parish Council due to work pressures. KR thanked Mr Pearce for all his hard work over the past couple of years, and said that he would be greatly missed. The Clerk confirmed that she would advertise the vacancy on the PC noticeboard.

MB

B Boundary Potts Close/Backlands

KR opened the discussion on the boundary issues at 'Backlands' by giving a brief background on the issues currently facing Richard Keal (RK), who owns the property.

RK lives next to Potts Close in Lower End in 'Backlands', formerly known as 'Eunice'. The owner was given planning permission by SODC to convert an old bungalow originally on the site into a house. RK took more of the original building down than originally stated on the planning application due to safety. The front wall of the house was without support and dangerous, plus a building inspector from SODC visited the site and stated that he should knock the front wall down and lay new foundations. SODC has now written retrospectively to him stating that he did not have permission to rebuild such a large proportion of his house.

Secondly, a local ex-Parish Councillor complained to the Parish Council that the stone wall to the front of the house had been built in the wrong place. The Parish Council has inspected the site and feel that the wall is in the same place as the original.

Action:

RK then applied for permission from both SOHA and Oxfordshire Highways to put a drop down kerb at the rear of his property's garden. All parties agreed and RK was given the go-ahead to have the work carried out and signed a contract drawn up by SOHA. Contractors for Oxfordshire Highways completed the job and were paid by RK. RK also paid SOHA for the permission. However, the permission for the drop down kerb has now been withdrawn by SOHA, who failed to sign the original agreement and it has now stated that the kerb needs to be reinstated to its full height.

RK had also confirmed to SOHA that he would erect a fence along the length of his adjacent boundary with Potts Close, at his cost. However, since the issues with kerb, SOHA has now said that it will erect the fence. However, this is deemed to be a problem, as RK's boundary extends to the kerb edge!

When these issues were raised (between meetings), KR had asked RK for written evidence of all the correspondence/payments between himself, SOHA and Oxfordshire Highways, but to date KR has not heard anything back from RK.

The Parish Council need all of the information and evidence, in writing, before they can proceed with helping and supporting RK. John Nowell-Smith (JNS) also confirmed that he was happy to help in any way and get all of the parties around the table, however, he would also need written evidence from RK first.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to send a letter to RK chasing him for the information.

MB

C Temporary 'Vehicle Activated Sign' (VAS)

The Clerk had circulated an email at the end of March from Steve Wood (Oxfordshire Council Council) with the results of the speed survey recently carried out on Thame Road. The data showed that vehicles leaving the village (towards the A329) were on average travelling at 35mph, which is obviously far too high.

Steve Wood has stated that Thame Road would be a good place for the VAS, and that the Parish Council, in conjunction with his OCC team, would need to discuss proposed sites. However, OCC is still proposing to do a speed survey in Lower End, and now that building work is complete at Potts Close, it was agreed by the Parish Council (PC) that this survey should go ahead before it chooses a site for the VAS bracket. The PC only has a budget for one permanent VAS bracket (£400), therefore, it is crucial that it is placed in the area deemed to be most at risk from speeding traffic.

The Clerk confirmed that she would contact Steve Wood at OCC.

MB

D Village Litter Pick

Action:

Councillors discussed the annual village Litter Pick and confirmed that this year's gathering should take place on Saturday 9th May 2009, meeting at the Old Garage Forecourt at 2pm (to 4pm).

The Clerk did state that, due to a prior commitment, she was not available on this date, however, she would organise the collection of the bags, gloves, pickers etc from SODC and deliver them to the Chairman prior to the 9th May. It was agreed, as in previous years, that each Councillor should be in charge of their own Ward.

MB

E Clearing Ditches – Thame Road

Doug Colley (DC) confirmed that he had met with Ian Whales (IW) regarding clearing out the ditches at Old Field/Thame Road and also clearing the ditch/scrub land outside 1 Oxen Piece.

IW did state that accessing the ditch with the digger on the Old Field bend in Thame Road was going to be more of a problem than the work itself. DC confirmed that the quote had come in at £220 for both jobs at Oxen Piece and Old Field.

The Clerk did mention that she had spoken to Les Preston on a different matter and that he was concerned that it was the wrong time of year to clear the vegetation from the land adjacent to 1 Oxen Piece, as there would now be birds nesting in the trees and bushes.

Councillors discussed the matter and agreed that the ditch clearing in both areas could wait until the Autumn.

It was also agreed that the Clerk should forward all of the information and correspondence regarding riparian ownership on the land adjacent to 1 Oxen Piece to David Turner (DT), so that he could discuss the matter with Tim Wilde at Oxfordshire Highways. It would appear that Vale Housing Association (owner of 1 Oxen Piece) has been given the wrong information from OCC regarding ownership/responsibility of ditches. DT to update the Clerk on any further developments.

MB/DT

32/09 **Correspondence and Public Discussion**

A Thanks you letter from South Oxfordshire Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers (SORCV)

The Clerk read out a letter from the SORCV thanking the Parish Council for its recent donation of £50.00.

B Car Parking in the Village

Following last month's meeting, David Turner (DT) had agreed to investigate if there were any recommendations regarding parking in Great Milton in the 'Better Ways to School' report issued by Oxfordshire County Council.

DT has found out that since Great Milton School got the funding for the Maple Tree Children's Centre, Fran Hill (Headteacher of Great Milton School) is intending to replace some of the old school buildings with new, which, whilst the work is being carried out, will cause even more of a parking problem in and around the school.

Action:

DT has confirmed that David Early at OCC is going to speak directly with Fran Hill regarding the on-going parking problems in Great Milton, and also the additional problems that the new proposed building work will cause.

DT

C A329/B480 – Heavy Goods Vehicle Count

DT reported that he had recently been approached by both Little Milton and Stadhampton Parish Councils as both felt that there was an increase in HGV's using the A329 over recent months.

However, DT circulated the statistics from several HGV counts, taken over a 12 hour period on the A329, south of Little Milton, between 2001 and 2008. The results showed that total movements on the road had been reduced from 354 in 2001 to 222 in 2008, which proves what a beneficial effect the 'Hamburger' roundabout has had on reducing the amount of HGV traffic on the A329.

33/09 Planning Applications

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

- A Old Cottage, Lower End, Great Milton . OX44 7NF. P08/W1257
Rear 1 ½ storey extension to incorporate bedroom and bathroom within roof cavity and kitchen, dining/living room and cloakroom downstairs. Additional four support timbers and trellis work on porch canopy to front of property.
- B Romeyns Court, Church Road, Great Milton. P09/W0231 and P09/W0232/LB
Alterations and repairs to Romeyns Court Cottage.
Alterations to adjoining outbuildings stores to include raising of single storey slate roof and replacement timber doors and windows.
- C The Oxford Belfry, Milton Common. P07/W1416 (Courtesy Copy only)
In the Parish of Tiddington with Albury and Milton Common.
Minor Amendments to already approved scheme.

South Oxfordshire District Council has granted planning permission on the following planning application:

- D Hayesmoor Farm Barn, Lower End, Great Milton. P09/W0023
Erection of two storey rear extension – as amended by email and drawings 0502/201H dated 3rd March 2009.

South Oxfordshire District Council has refused planning permission on the following planning application:

Action:

- E ASDA Stores Ltd, London Road, Wheatley. P09/W0029
Single storey storage building for use in connection with internet homeshopping and proposed pedestrian footpath.

F **Yew Tree Cottage, Lower End, Great Milton**

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated a note from Kim Gould, Planning Officer at SODC, stating that despite the Parish Council's objections, the District Council would be issuing a Certificate of Lawful Development to Mr & Mrs Richards regarding opening up a part of their garden wall, adjacent to Tanners Cottage, as a new proposed vehicular access. SH confirmed that having spoken to Mrs Gould, there is no appeal process for Lawful Development Certificates, so the Parish Council cannot object to the decision.

However, the Certificate will carry the proviso that Mr & Mrs Richards will need to seek permission from the Parish Council to drive across the Common Land. Councillors all confirmed that they would not grant access in this location.

KR asked DT if Oxfordshire Highways would grant permission for a drop kerb, even if the land adjacent to the kerb is common land. DT confirmed that he would look into this matter and report back.

DT

34/09 **Financial Resolutions**

- 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
Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin Production (April) – £243.30
Manny Stone. Editorial Services (April) - £50.00
OALC. Subscription - £126.34
Thames Water. Allotment water supply - £11.45
Gillett & Johnston. St Mary's Annual Clock Service - £171.35
Michele Block. Clerk's Expenses – £82.13

- B Quarterly bank reconciliation and analysis of actual receipts/payments vs budget

The Clerk circulated the final quarter bank reconciliation and accounts. These were reviewed by Councillors and it was proposed by Ian Bradley that they should be approved, this was seconded by Doug Colley and agreed upon unanimously.

35/09 **Items for Discussion**

- A **SODC Core Strategy – Preferred Options**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the consultation period for the SODC Core Strategy ended on 1st May 2009.

It was agreed by all that the proposed sites for additional housing at both Wheatley and Berinsfield should not be made exception sites, as this would just be the start of the erosion and redefining of the Green Belt.

Action:

All Councillors agreed that they would reply individually on-line to the consultation.

ALL

B Memorial Tree for Thelma Blake

It was proposed by Stephen Harrod that a native tree be planted in Lower End in memory of the Parish Council's former Chairman, Thelma Blake. Thelma Blake was an ardent historian of the village, so it was agreed that a suitable site would be sought. Stephen Harrod to co-ordinate.

SH

36/09 Any Other Business

A Steve Harrod asked if Pegswell Lane could be added to the Agenda for May's meeting.

MB

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting to be held on **Monday 11th May 2009 at 7.30pm** in the Pavilion.

Signed: _____

Date: _____