

Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr T Darch

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Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held at the Pavilion, Great Milton on Monday 21st June 2021

Present: Cllrs Steve Harrod (Chair), W Fox (Vice-Chair), P Allen, C Deacon, G Bennet, M Horsley and D Harms (after formal co-option).

In Attendance: Tim Darch (Clerk), Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo (County Councillor, Chalgrove division) and Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC, Haseley Brook ward).

81/21 Apologies for Absence

All councillors were present at the meeting.

82/21 Variation of order of business

Item 95/21 was brought forward for earlier discussion for the convenience of those present.

83/21 Co-option of new Councillor

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr David Harms should be co-opted onto Great Milton Parish Council. Cllr Harms signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and his Register of Interests was signed and received in advance of sending to South Oxfordshire District Council.

84/21 Declarations of member's Interest (if any)

No declarations of interest were received in matters on the agenda.

85/21 Matters to Report

Reports were received from Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (County Councillor, Chalgrove division) and Cllr Caroline Newton (District Councillor, Haseley Brook Ward). These are available on the parish council website. Cllr Van Mierlo introduced himself and reported that Tim Bearder, County Councillor for Wheatley is now Cabinet Member for Highways. Additionally, Cllr Van Mierlo reported that councillor priority funds are available, who welcomes suggestions for their use. Councillors are also looking to streamline the process to create 20mph zones.

Cllr Newton reported that consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 was about to begin. Between 25k and 70k houses are likely to be committed from 2020-2050, in addition to those already included in local plans. The Plan will include the 'Oxford/Cambridge arc', and it is likely that carbon neutral growth on brownfield sites will be the focus for development.

86/21 Correspondence and Public Discussion

No correspondence was received and there were no items for public discussion.

87/21 Planning Applications

A The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P21/S2201/HH (Colletts View Thame Road Great Milton). Erection of a single storey front extension to provide an annexe for a family member.

Cllr Fox reviewed this application. Local consultation revealed no objections, and councillors agreed unanimously to accept Cllr Fox's recommendation of SUPPORT for the proposed development.

P21/S2170/AG (Lower Chilworth Farm London Road Milton Common OX9 2JS). General purpose agricultural storage building. The development is not visible and there are no neighbouring properties, therefore the Parish Council has expressed its support for the proposed development.

P21/S1841/HH (Priors Gate Church Road Great Milton OX44 7PB). Roof over outside dining area. To enable a timely response given SODC's deadline and the long gap between receipt of the application documentation and the June meeting, neighbouring householders were consulted on the proposal. No adverse comments were received and the development site is barely visible from outside of the property: as a result the Parish Council was happy to support the proposal with an informal response between meetings.

P21/S2397/HH (Yew Cottage Lower End Great Milton Oxford). New first floor extension to replace current box dormer + two storey in fill extension. Replace all windows and doors. Cllr Deacon reviewed this application. Local consultation revealed no objections aside from mild concerns about the location of solar panels, and councillors agreed unanimously to accept Cllr Deacon's recommendation of SUPPORT for the proposed development.

B To review the following planning decisions received and any outstanding planning matters.

P21/S1059/LB (The Priory Church Road Great Milton), Internal Alterations and repairs (as amplified by email from agent and amended by drwgn0 153-2-10a received on 27 April 2021). Permission is GRANTED for the development described above.

The initial contact from the applicant for a solar farm at the Dodwells Farm site opposite the houses on London Road/Lobb Hill at Milton Common was considered and discussed. Cllr Newton advised that there may be significant issues with connection to the National Grid, which appears to be 10km away: this is likely to raise concerns with planners. The smaller Harlesford and Cornwell solar farms are also having to provide additional information to the planning authority: it is likely that three solar farms in a relatively small area will provide further cause for concern. Cllr Horsley asked whether the three farms encroach on Harrington: Cllr Newton advised that they do not.

Chalgrove update

Homes England has withdrawn the outline planning application for the Chalgrove Airfield application so they can amend it to resolve the Civil Aviation Authority's objections. They will then submit an amended application later this year or early next year.

Homes England's reactive statement: "The outline planning application for the development of Chalgrove Airfield has been withdrawn to allow an amended application to be submitted to take account of comments from the Civil Aviation Authority's Airfield Advisory Team. This reflects Homes England's commitment to safeguarding Martin Baker's operations at Chalgrove."

"The site is allocated in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035, and the importance of creating a new diverse, connected and active community at Chalgrove to urgently meet the considerable housing shortfall and deliver significant investment for the area remains unchanged."

88/21 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the May meeting of the Parish Council, both held virtually on Wednesday 5th May 2021, were received, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

89/21 Financial Resolutions

A The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £514.85

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production May/June. £229.80/£229.80

Website hosting (reimbursement to Clerk). £19.99

McCracken and Son. May mowing. £894

Green and Growing. Verge 'gripps' clearance. £438

Community Heartbeat Trust. Annual defibrillator maintenance agreement. £162

Pet Waste Solutions. Emergency dog bin emptying May. £43.20

Castle Water. Allotment water supply Oct 20 – March 21. £23.16

B The monthly bank reconciliations, accounts and bank statements for May and June were received, approved and signed.

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- C Internal Audit Report
The internal audit report from Matthew Hale, Internal Auditor was received and considered. The report raises no issues requiring attention and concludes that 'the Council has again demonstrated that it has strong internal controls in place and is managing its activities and procedures efficiently and effectively'.
- D Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 2 for the year ending 31st March 2021. Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement) and subsequently Section 2 (Accounting Statements) were received and approved by the Parish Council, and the documents signed by the Chairman and Parish Clerk/RFO as required.
- E The commencement of the Exercise of Public Rights period was announced, during which the Parish Council's accounts can be freely examined. This period begins on Tuesday 22 June and concludes on Tuesday 3 August.

90/21 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

- Issues with the new contractor for emptying the village dog bins have unfortunately led to the Parish Council terminating its agreement after just two months, on the grounds of non-communication and failure to supply the service. Discussions are ongoing with the current temporary contractor over a possible longer-term arrangement, as well as with SODC about the potential to return to them for the service. Cllr Newton confirmed that after discussions with officers at SODC the opportunity to return to their dog hygiene service is not out of the question, though this may be only a short-term possibility.
- The process of investigating FTTP (Fibre to the Premises, or Ultrafast broadband) has begun. There will be a piece in the July Bulletin which will give full details.
- The Saturday bus service to Oxford was withdrawn as of Saturday 12 June due to the need for urgent financial support to facilitate continuation of the Monday to Friday service, which has suffered as a result of significantly reduced patronage during the pandemic.

91/21 COVID-19: update on village response/impacts

No significant local developments were reported (beyond national developments that all will be aware of) with regard to the current pandemic.

92/21 Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens' Advice: request for donation

A request for a donation from Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens' Advice was considered. It was agreed that a further donation of £100 would be made at the July meeting.

93/21 Litter pick: Sunday 13 June

The litter pick event held on Sunday 13th June was well attended, with 12 volunteers. Verges which were yet to be mowed proved a hindrance on the lanes leading to and from the village, but it is hoped that a 'task force' can cover these with the Parish Council's own litter picking equipment when mowing eventually takes place. 10 bags of litter were still filled: many thanks to those who turned out, and to the several people who litter pick around the village on an 'ad hoc' basis, which is generating a visible benefit.

94/21 Street Fayre

The Street Fayre held in aid of St Mary's Church on Saturday 12th June was very successful and enjoyed by all those in attendance as a welcome return to something very closely resembling 'normality'. Around £5,500 was raised, which is on a par with 'normal' fetes. It remains to be seen whether future Church Fetes will follow the new format in part or in full.

95/21 Milton Common speed mitigation scheme

A quote has been received from Oxfordshire County Council to provide electronic warning signs, improved other signage, gate features and road markings with a view to reducing average speeds on London Road in Milton Common. After discussion it was AGREED to proceed with the scheme as per the quote by securing the funding pots from SODC and advising OCC to start work.

The meeting concluded at 8.25pm.

The next scheduled meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 19th July 2021 at the Pavilion, starting at 7.30pm.

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