

# Great Milton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr C Ashworth

Email: [contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)

Website: [www.great-milton.co.uk](http://www.great-milton.co.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held at The Pavilion on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Present: Cllrs S Harrod (Chair), B Fox (Vice-chair), P Allen, D Harms, M Horsley, S MacMahon and S Illingworth.

In Attendance: Chris Ashworth (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

## **89/23 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received in advance from Cllrs F Van Mierlo (OCC) and G Heritage (SODC).

## **90/23 Variation of order of business**

94/23 C was discussed before 92/23

Mr Hutton attended the meeting and handed out his proposals for The Bull to the Councillors and members of the public in attendance.

Mr Hutton reassured Councillors that his plans would not involve any changes to the external appearance of the original building. The lean-to garage on the west elevation, which currently accommodates the History Society, will come down and be replaced by a new WC block. At the back of The Bull, the current flat-roof extensions will come down to be replaced by a new 2-storey pitched roof extension, which will be located more centrally, thus creating a buffer with the neighbours to the east. There will be a single-storey extension to the side of this, which will house the kitchen, an accessible WC, and a staircase to the first-floor flat. The plan also includes reducing the car park level as it is currently artificially high.

Mr Hutton confirmed that he held a consultation at The Bull on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with 10 people attending; 9 out of the 10 were supportive of the plans. Cllr Horsley asked what the time frame to complete these works would be. Mr Hutton said it would be a phased process to keep the pub open as much as possible during the works. Subject to obtaining all necessary consents, Phase One would start on 2 January 2024 and would include the demolition of the lean-to garage, building the new WC block, demolishing the current WC block and restoring the original back wall of the pub. He would also aim to reduce the car park level and re-route overhead cables and BT cables. Phase Two, beginning January 2025, would involve the completion of all remaining works, including the demolition of the existing 2-storey flat-roof extension and the construction of its replacement.

Cllr Harms asked what the outside materials would consist of. Mr Hutton said it would be a slate roof and timber cladding.

Cllr Harrod asked about parking. Mr Hutton said that the planners were looking to increase the number of spaces to 15, but this would involve the loss of garden space, and he is hoping to get them to agree that there be no increase in the current parking provision.

Cllr Horsley asked whether the plans would mean an increase in capacity for restaurant dining. Mr Hutton said that there would be a minimal increase in the number of covers.

Cllr Illingworth asked about a baby change within the pub: this will be included in the accessible toilet. Mr Hutton reiterated his desire to make the pub fully accessible to all.



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The Parish Council have asked the Parish Clerk to contact the planning officer to ask for an extension to the need for a reply, which was the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. This has since been granted, so the planning proposal will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting in October.

**91/23 Declarations of members' interest**

No declarations of members' interests were made.

**92/23 Matters to report**

The County Councillor and District Councillor's reports were received, reviewed, and are available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Harrod noted about the EV charging consultation in Cllr F Van Mierlo's report the date for registering interest had passed, but the Clerk was asked to see if we could still apply. Potential places for the EV charging hubs were discussed, with Neighbours Hall being the most likely possible place.

**93/23 Correspondence and public discussion**

There was no correspondence or public discussion.

**94/23 Planning applications**

A

The following planning applications were received from SODC and discussed by the Council:

**P23/S2616/FUL** (Land adjacent to The Yard Thame Road Great Milton) Erection of a new dwelling. The Parish Council agreed to support this application once the neighbours had been spoken to.

**P23/S2668/DIS** (Byeways The Green Great Milton OX44 7NT) Related Applications:P23/S0214/LB

Discharge of condition 3 (Trial Area) under application reference number P23/S0214/LB.(Renovation works, to include removal of incompatible external masonry paint, re-render and associated repairs to right elevation, replacement floor slab, insulation upgrades. Provision of new utility room and cloakroom to include taking down modern internal wall to revise layout. Lowering path).

**P23/S2902/FUL** (Milton Pools Fishery Great Milton Oxford) Retention of single storey extension and its use for storage.

**P23/S2905/FUL** (Milton Pools Fishery Great Milton Oxford) Continued use of single storey building as storage without compliance with condition 3 of P02/N0682.

**P23/S2906/FUL** (Milton Pools Fishery Milton Pools Fishery Great Milton Oxford) The retention of the existing building and continued use as offices (mail order company)

**P23/S2907/FUL** (Great Milton Fishery Great Milton Oxford) Retention of single storey building and continued use as two office units.

The Parish Council agreed to no strong views on the Milton Pools Fishery planning applications.



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**P23/S2384/O** (Land east of Junction 8a, M40 Waterstock OX33 1HT) The demolition and clearance of existing buildings and structures to allow for the construction of up to 120,000sqm of Use Class E employment floorspace comprising Research and Development units, Light Industrial units, ancillary Offices, ancillary Amenity Buildings (up to 2,400sqm), Creche (up to 600sqm), Forest School (up to 150sqm), along with new site accesses, internal roads and footpaths, surface and multi-storey car parking, open space, landscaping, biodiversity enhancements, drainage features including SUDs and other engineering operations, infrastructure and associated works. All matters of detail reserved.

The planning application P23/S2384/O was seen by all councillors via email, and a response was sent in before the closing date (1st September 2023). GMPC unanimously agreed to **OBJECT** to the proposal.

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

**P21/S3915/FUL** (Dodwells Solar Farm Land north of the A40 near Milton Common) Installation and operation of a Solar Farm together with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure (as amended & amplified by information received 8 July 2022, 21 December 2022, 28 February 2023, 28 April 2023 and 27 June 2023). South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is **GRANTED**.

**P22/S2220/FUL** (Dodwells Solar Farm Land north of the A40 near Cuddesdon) Underground cable route to connect Dodwells solar farm to Cowley substation. South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is **GRANTED**.

**P23/S1067/FUL** (Double Tree by Hilton Oxford Belfry Milton Common) A temporary fixed period retention of the existing eight staff accommodation caravans in the same location within the hotel grounds (As amplified by information received 18 May 2023) South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is **GRANTED**.

- C To preview of plans for the Bull pub  
Please see 90/23

**95/23 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the July meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

**96/23 Financial resolutions**

- A The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:  
Chris Ashworth. Salary, Tax and Expenses September: £562.72  
Shield Maintenance Dog Waste July: £62.40



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Shield Maintenance Dog Waste August: £62.40

McCracken and Sons (To carry out Cuts No. 4 to main Verges and Thame Road. To carry out Cut No. 4 to Recreation Ground. To carry out Cut to Chilworth Road): £567.60

J M Dudley Bulletin: £335.20

BT Office/e-mail package: £10.80 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

BT Office/e-mail package: £10.80 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

Hugo Fox: web support: £23.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

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- B The bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements for July and August were received, reviewed and approved.

## **97/23 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand**

- With an agreed budget of £500, the Parish Clerk is continuing the search for a suitable laptop which will be efficient and future-proof for the next five-plus years. The Parish Clerk has listed four potential laptops listed below, with more details about the laptops sent to all Parish Councillors.
  - ✓ Vostro 15 – 3520 Laptop - £474.00
  - ✓ Inspiron 14 – 5406 2 in 1 laptop - £516.00
  - ✓ Inspiron 16 – 5620 Laptop - £426.00
  - ✓ Vostro 14 – 3420 Laptop - £516.00

The Parish Councillors agreed on the Vostro 14 – 3420 Laptop at £516.00. The Parish Clerk will purchase the laptop this week.

- The Parish Clerk is currently looking through and working out the best and most cost-effective way to get all the Parish Councillors onto Gov.uk email address. There is a pilot scheme run by SLCC over the summer, which, once completed, will give more guidance to Local Parish Councils about moving over to .GOV.UK email address.

The Parish agreed to review this again once the findings from the pilot scheme have been released.

- Precept remittance for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Precept has been received.
- The bus service 275 will no longer serve Great Milton. The introduction of service 46 means that the diversion of the 275 is no longer necessary.

## **98/23 Security in the village**

Neighbourhood Watch Rod Snowdon joined the meeting and gave the Councillors an update on security in the village. He mentioned that the Village is quiet at the moment with only a few instances of note, one being a small amount of anti-social behaviour, which Neighbourhood Watch is aware of and involved with the parties and one other instance of someone being seen with a pen trying to get into the Pavilion building. All were reminded to never confront anyone in these situations and to get somewhere safe, then contact 101/999 or Neighbourhood Watch.

Signs for Neighbourhood Watch will be put up on the village gateway features, but at this time, Neighbourhood Watch is in the process of changing its logos.



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## 99/23 Building work in the village and the impact

There is lots of building work going on in the village at this time, and issues have been raised. The general encroachment of the projects into the road, and the other concern is about the build with increased traffic levels, kids, cars, speed, etc.

Cllr Harrod noted that the current builders working in the village have tidied up the messes left so far and are now in a better state than previously.

Cllr Harrod suggested to the Council that all future planning applications should also take into account the potential of any building work spreading into common areas. All Councillors agreed with this suggestion, and Cllr Harms raised the point that with this, everyone should be receiving the same information from the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would draft a letter that would be sent to all approved planning applications in the village. This letter will be reviewed by all Councillors once completed.

## 100/23 Speeding in the Village – Speed indicator display update.

Speeding has again been raised as an issue throughout the Village. The Speed indicator devices have been enquired about, and Cllr F Van Mierlo Councillor priority fund has been applied for and approved.



← These signs can be permanently mounted on the poles.

These cannot be permanently mounted and therefore one unit could be regularly moved between the two poles →



Another option which some villages are working towards is to have the VAS signs permanently mounted near the entrances to the village and then support this with a mobile SID that moves around several poles within the village.

The Parish Clerk also did some research into the Community Speed Watch programme run by Thames Valley Police. This can be applied for and set up with the volunteer co-ordinator/s needing to complete online mandatory training.

Cllr Horsley has volunteered to undertake the online mandatory training to become the co-ordinator for the community speed watch programme.

The Parish Clerk will contact Jon Beale to arrange a date to meet on-site with Clerk and Councillors in the village to discuss places for SID poles to be erected.

## 101/23 Grass-cutting concerns

There have been a few complaints raised about the recent quality of the grass cutting by McCracken and Sons in the Village, with areas missed during the cuts and excessive amounts of grass cuttings left. The Parish Clerk has contacted

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McCracken about this and will hopefully have a full response by the meeting on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> September.

The Parish Clerk will contact Great Haseley Clerk to find out who undertakes their grass cutting as it was raised by multiple Councillors that the cutting in that Village is always of high quality.

The Parish Clerk will continue to try and make contact with McCracken regarding the collecting of grass cuttings in the village, and that they notify the Clerk in advance of the day they will attend to complete the grass cutting so local residents can be made aware. It was agreed that new providers will be looked into if McCracken doesn't improve or fail to respond.

## **102/23 Broadband in the Pavilion update**

The Recreation committee have given the go-ahead for the installation of mega-fast internet in the Pavilion.

Openreach has agreed to put all the cabling underground, and this will not cost the village a penny.

Here are a couple of things to consider now the installation has been given the go-ahead:

- Three years of free internet is being provided, but after three years, it will need to be paid for.
- We could join other Parish Councils in lobbying for a change in Parish Council legislation to allow some councillors to join remotely from time to time, and also the general public.

As the installation of broadband in the Pavilion will allow much more to be done at the Pavilion, Cllr Horsley would like to discuss the possibility of buying a large video screen with teleconferencing attachments for use in the Pavilion.

Cllr Horsley had a quick look into prices for a video screen, and they are not cheap but would allow a number of uses in the Pavilion, including allowing members of the public to join Parish Council meetings and, in the future, Councillors may be able to join virtually. Cllr Harms mentioned looking into the costings for a projector and projector screen as they can be more easily stored and are more secure.


Cllr Harrod would like a feature in the bulletin once the high-speed internet is up and running with things it could be used for, with this potentially coming from the Recreation Committee. Once the high-speed broadband is installed the Clerk will raise this with the Rec Committee.

## **103/23 Vacancy for Clerk/RFO**

Chris Ashworth, current Clerk/RFO to Great Milton Parish Council, has handed in his notice of resignation in advance of moving out of the area in May 2024. The post will be advertised shortly.

## **104/23 Approval of documentation for Clerk/RFO recruitment process**

The advertisement, application form and person and job specification for the Clerk/RFO vacancy were reviewed and approved.



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The current Clerk will advertise the vacancy in the Village as well as online through places including Indeed and Facebook.

Cllr MacMahon will advertise the vacancy on 'Next Door'

**Meeting ended 20:53**

***The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023, at 7.30 pm at the Pavilion.***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. L. for', with a horizontal line underneath the signature.

16.10.23