

# GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council meeting held on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009** at **7.30pm** in the **Pavilion**.

Present: Mr. Ken Rogers (Chairman), Mr. Stephen Harrod (Vice Chairman), Mr. Phil Ashworth, Mr. Ian Bradley, Mr. Doug Colley, Mr. Peter Fewell, Mrs. Christine Pepperell

In Attendance: Joanna Botha (Clerk)  
David Turner (County Councillor)  
Pat Cox (Bulletin reporter)  
9 members of the public

## 96/09 Apologies for Absence

John Nowell-Smith (District Councillor)

## 97/09 Register of Interests for this Meeting

Stephen Harrod registered an interest in the Holland's Farm Planning Application in the form of a business relationship with the Aldens.

## 98/09 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009

**Action:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed as a true and accurate record. This was proposed by Stephen Harrod (SH), seconded by Doug Colley (DC) and agreed upon unanimously.

## 99/09 Matters to report

A The Clerk updated the meeting on actions she has taken on ongoing matters since the last meeting including the speed survey, sunken road at Lower End, Church Road flooding, second occurrence of damage to the Village Green, Recreation Ground access way and invasive weed Himalayan Balsam in the village.

B County Councillor David Turner delivered a report to the meeting. He warned of budget cuts ahead, with a substantial amount being taken from the Youth Service Budget e.g. Youth Offending Teams and Mentoring Services which he feels would be counter-productive as these are investments in the future. Also from the public transport budget which will impact rural areas. He also spoke about the Maple Tree Children's Centre which he feels will bring benefits to young mums and dads in the village and, putting the parking situation to one side, should be welcomed. It is a benefit for people in rural areas not available in the past. It would help with what good parenting and therefore the well-being of the community in the future and will also bring benefits to the school. He recognises the dilemma around parking matters and also the proximity to some properties, but hopes that the village can find some kind of compromise.

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## 100/09 Correspondence and Public Discussion

The following correspondence was outlined to the meeting:

- A Notification from SODC Planning Service about an Appeal Hearing on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 for Planning Applications P09/W0983/DA, P09/W0985/DA, P09/W0986/DA – Carrying out of engineering operations to form an earth bund along the western boundary of the land.
- B Letter and e-mail from Le Manoir aux Quat’Saisons responding to the Parish Council’s suggestion that staff who walk to work be issued with high visibility vests. These have been issued. Clerk to send a letter of thanks. JB
- C Letter from Abbey Netball Club requesting a donation towards the development of six floodlit netball courts at a site at Court Place Farm, Marston for the use of players across Oxfordshire. This would become a future agenda item. JB
- D Email from the Oxfordshire Woodland Project requesting a donation. This would become an agenda item in the future. JB
- E Letter from Oxfordshire Association for the Blind. This would become a future agenda item. JB

## 101/09 Planning Applications

The following Planning Applications were considered at this meeting:

- A **Great Milton CE Primary School, CC ref. R3.0188/09 DC ref. P09/W0843/CC**  
Demolition of detached temporary classroom and brick built store and erection of detached single storey children’s centre, an extension to provide a replacement classroom, reading room and replacement store extensions, plus associated works.
- SH read out a response to the additional information that had been sent regarding this planning application. This was drafted following various meetings, discussions, presentations and opinions from neighbours. There was considerable discussion following the delivery of the report and it was agreed to once again **reject** the application and to send the written response directly to John Hamilton, Team Leader, Development Control, OCC Environment and Planning. This was proposed by SH, seconded by PF with unanimous agreement. It was also agreed that GMPC would take advantage of the opportunity to present to the Planning and Regulation Committee, scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010. SH
- B **P09/W1156/RET Views Farm, Windmill Hill, Great Milton, OX44 7NW**  
Change of use of land and buildings to use for storage, manufacture and ancillary sale of stone products.
- It was agreed to **approve** this application but that the processing of soil on an adjacent site should cease. JB

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- C **P09/W1095/RET Hollands Farm, Great Milton, Oxfordshire, OX44 7NR**  
New replacement agricultural dwelling on site of existing barn.

It was agreed to **approve** this application.

JB

- D **P09/W1185 Isca House, Lower End, Great Milton, OX44 7NJ**  
Replacement dwelling.

It was agreed to **approve** this application, subject to there being no objection from a neighbour whom had not yet been consulted.

KR

## 102/09 **Footpath between Fullers Field and Recreation Ground**

- A Ian Bradley (IB) had met with Martin Wilbery, Estates Manager for SOHA Housing and Tree Surgeon Paul Jenks to discuss a solution to the problem of the overhanging and overgrown hedge on the South Side of the Recreation Ground from No.14 Fullers Field right up to the top end of Fullers Field. The proposal is to take the height of the hedge down to one metre, the idea being that it will mean minimal maintenance in the future. GMPC would be required to contribute half the cost which would be £600 plus VAT to cut and remove waste, or £500 plus VAT, if the waste were chipped back into the ground. IB had discussed this with Andy Noble who is in support of the proposal. There is £400 in the budget for Recreation Ground maintenance for this financial year.

- B It was agreed to carry the decision on expenditure over to January providing IB time to enquire whether the fruit tree can be pruned as well.

IB

## 103/09 **Sign to Village Shop / Post Office**

- A Christine Donnelly will apply for an Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council (ORCC) grant for the sign for the shop, the cost of which has been estimated at £450. Councillors discussed whether to authorise the expenditure on the sign if a grant is not forthcoming. It was agreed that it is right for the PC to help protect the shop which is fundamental to the village. There is a line in the budget for sundries which can be used. SH proposed this and PF seconded with unanimous agreement.

## 104/09 **Parish Plan**

- A Ken Rogers (KR) and SH circulated the published information and reported on their meeting with Anton Nath of ORCC about progressing a Parish Plan. He is available as a consultant to support the Parish Plan which should be launched at a public event with refreshments. The potential members of a Steering Committee should be invited who should be people with ideas and a vision representing all groups within the Parish. Anton Nath would present at the event and there would be a list of topics which might become a framework for the plan for attendees to comment on so that the ideas that become the framework would come from the 'bottom up'. The plan should be led by a Steering Group of around 8 people. The aim of the event

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would be to develop a questionnaire that is published and distributed to every household in the Parish, providing a democratic basis for a plan. The average response rate for such a questionnaire is 80% because of the process.

B A provisional date of 25<sup>th</sup> January had been set for the event. It was decided to agree the details at the next meeting. KR/JB

## 105/09 Parking on Common Land and Village Green

A To discuss and agree any action to be taken on persistent parking of vehicles on Common Land and Village Green. Due to the late running of the meeting it was agreed to carry this Agenda item over to the next meeting. JB

## 106/09 Tree for Thelma Blake

A To discuss and agree on any action to be taken to obtain and plant a replacement tree in Thelma Blake's memory. Due to the late running of the meeting it was agreed to carry this Agenda item over to the next meeting. JB

## 107/09 Posts and boulders

A To discuss the suggestion that these might be a hazard to drivers and should be painted white and to agree any action. Due to the late running of the meeting it was agreed to carry this Agenda item over to the next meeting. JB

## 108/09 Unauthorised Coach Parking

A To agree any action to be taken with regard to the persistent unauthorised parking of a coach on the grass verge on Thame Road. Due to the late running of the meeting it was agreed to carry this Agenda item over to the next meeting. JB

## 109/09 Financial Resolutions

A The following payments were authorised; proposed by PA, seconded by DC and agreed upon unanimously:

- Manny Stone. Editorial costs (Dec) - £50
- Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin Production (Sep £239.10, Oct £239.10, Nov £266.40)
- Joanna Botha. Clerk's Salary (Nov) - £307.33
- Les Preston. Repair to Grass verge (Nov) - £20.00
- South & Vale Carers Centre. Donation - £35
- Sue Ryder Care, Nettlebed Hospice. Donation - £30
- MH-P. Web site hosting and domain registration - £87.38

## 110/09 Draft budget and precept for 2010/11

A Councillors reviewed the second draft budget and precept for 2010/11 which proposed an increase of £380 to the precept, representing a rise in Council Tax of approximately £1 per dwelling.

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B Taking the financial climate into consideration it was agreed to amend the draft budget and precept for 2010/11 by reducing the budget for the pavilion refurbishment to £300, the budget for sundries to £300 and donations to £250 to achieve a reduction in the precept to £12,980. The Clerk would put these changes into a final draft and circulate. JB

## 111/09 Authorisation for Clerk's Expenditure

A To discuss whether to give the Clerk power to initiate limited expenditure on village maintenance and web site maintenance. Due to the late running of the meeting it was agreed to carry this Agenda item over to the next meeting. JB

## 112/09 Grass Cutting Tender

A Councillors reviewed the quotations and references  
B It was unanimously agreed to award the contract for April 2010 to November 2011 to Berinsfield Community Business. This was proposed by SH and seconded by IB. JB

## 113/09 Any Other Business

A With regret, KR announced the resignation of Pat Cox from her role as Bulletin Reporter. Pat said that she was happy to continue until a replacement reporter could be found. KR/JB

B SH requested an Agenda item for next time – "A signpost encouraging traffic to bypass the village" (as suggested in a recent letter in The Bulletin). JB

The meeting closed at 10.22pm.

The next Great Milton Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.30pm** in the Pavilion.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_