

**MINUTES OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 9  
FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** D Simcox (Chairman); J Andrews; T Coles; E Spencer; D Mann; N Nixey; K Sentance; J Simcox, Clerk; and one member of the public.

**14/130 Public Discussion**

There was no public discussion.

14/131 There was an apology for absence from S Harrod, District and County Councillor.

14/132 There were no declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

14/133 The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2015 were confirmed and signed.

**14/134 Matters arising**

The Chairman said he was sure that all knew about the fire at SODC and went on to congratulate them for getting everything up and running so well after such a traumatic event. There had been a reported break-in at an office in Great Haseley and a van had tools stolen from it. The posts had been put in place at the end of Back Way and on the Playing Fields. The clerk had received notification that the Annual Legal event modification order to the Definitive map and Statement of Public Rights of Way would be taking place. It was noted that the new footpath near Countax had been included in this order. E Spencer said that she had been notified that there was an appropriate piece of local stone which would be donated for a memorial for Dale Gostick and once she had acquired this, she could then think about the plaque.

**14/135 Planning**

There was no new planning in part due to the fire at SODC. However the clerk had received decisions on the following applications: Warren Barn, Little Haseley and outline planning at Rycote Lane Farm – permission granted. The earth berm at Manor Farm, Tetsworth had been refused by OCC.

The lights at the Golf course were again mentioned as nothing had happened. N Nixey had been in touch with S Harrod and the clerk would also send something through to him to get the Enforcement Officer to look at the site. A letter had been sent to the applicants of land at the Orchard informing them of no parking in Back Way once the work started, particularly on the common land.

**14/136 Responsible Financial Officer's report**

The current account currently stands at £14,660.50 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,372.67. The following cheques were written: Colourplus £313.34; Stamps for The Haseleys £26.06; Heating for meeting £6.00. A cheque was written for Windmill Landscapes (posts on Playing Field & Millennium Wood) for £78.00, this will appear on the March agenda. No other cheques were written. The clerk received £1,322.91 in income from *The Haseleys* and £6.00 for Book of Walks during the month of January.

**14/137 Annual Spring clean and litterblitz**

A provisional date of 11 April was set for this event; it needs to be checked with Village Hall bookings before confirmation. The clerk agreed to provide lunch for volunteers and D Mann agreed to arrange for litterblitz bags plus she would contact those who normally undertake the work. The clerk would put something in *The Haseleys* to try to get more people involved. Discussion took place as to what “big job” could be undertaken provided sufficient volunteers were available. The footpath between The School House and 1 Lewington Close was discussed and unless as a result of someone coming up with a better idea, this would be cleared. It would need a skip but once the date had been finalised, the clerk would make arrangements for this.

#### 14/138 **Retirement of Revd. V Story**

As had been agreed at the January meeting, an amount of £50 would be put forward for a gift for Revd Story, this amount was then ratified. Discussion took place and it was suggested that a tree be purchased and planted in the churchyard as a permanent reminder of his time in the parish. N Nixey agreed to talk to Nicholsons about this and inform the Parish Council what they suggest by way of species.

#### 14/139 **Reports from Committees**

**Footpaths** – N Nixey asked if anything had been done about the footpaths that had not been cleared and was informed they were still the same. The clerk agreed to pass on details of the landowner so that it could contact him direct.

**Village Hall** – D Mann reported the village fete would take place on 16 May at the Manor Gardens. She was asked to report back to the Village Hall Committee that the outside light was faulty as is the one in the foyer. She was also asked about the child gate which had been mentioned before and she said she would raise the issue at the next meeting.

**Playing Fields** – E Spencer said that a quotation had been received for painting the inside of the Pavilion and this would take place shortly. She also said that a place for the practise net for the cricket club had been agreed but that the Playing Fields Committee would not be able to pay for the work to be done and it was up to the cricket team to raise the funds for the work necessary.

The clerk was putting out to tender the grass cutting in the parish to three companies and would report back to the Parish Council at the March meeting so there was time to get the selected company in place for the beginning of the growing season.

**Allotments** – K Sentance said that she had started to get money in for rent. She said the problems with the boundaries was being sorted out once the ground had thawed. She asked for the rent book and the clerk agreed to let her have it. It was confirmed that the year for the allotments ran from November to October.

**Transport** - J Andrews said he had written to the two bus companies regarding speeding through the village but had not received any acknowledgement. D Mann said that she had spoken with the drivers of the 103 bus about the problem.

#### 14/140 **Report from the District and County Councillor**

As S Harrod was not present, no report was received.

**14/141 Correspondence**

The usual correspondence was distributed to the Parish Councillors.

**14/142 Any other business**

N Nixey said that he had attended a NAGs meeting and was impressed by the commitment of the local police force to trying to help keep everyone safe. He was informed that as Thames Valley Police had to make a further £40M savings, it was inevitable that some staff would have to go so people should not be complacent as although crime was low in our area, it may not stay that way. They were encouraging all communities to use Smartwater and set up Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

Neighbourhood Watch had been tried in the past but it needs someone who is prepared to put a lot of time and effort into it. He went on to say that he had asked about training and whether the Parish Council could borrow a SID (Speed Indicating Device). This requires a minimum of two people, one to read the car number plate and make of car and one to write it down. D Simcox said he wondered whether the three parishes might like to consider purchasing mobile flashing signs and asked N Nixey to find out what the police thought of this idea before it was taken any further.

It was asked if the contractors at the new house in Rectory Road could be told to wash the road more frequently as it was now in a very bad state. The clerk agreed to do this.

14/143 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 9 March and the following one on 13 April 2015 at 7.30pm. There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

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