

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: D Simcox (Chairman); J Andrews; H Harvey; D Lindsay; A Sheppard; E Spencer; J Simcox, Clerk and one member of the public.

17/155 Public Discussion

There was no discussion.

17/156 Apologies for absence – D Mann; S Harrod, County Councillor; C Newton – District Councillor.

17/157 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

17/158 The minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2018 were confirmed and signed.

17/ 159 Matters arising

The Chairman reported that after several visits by OCC, most of the drainage problems in Great Haseley were now sorted out. The clerk had put a note in The Haseleys asking if anyone knew of an internal auditor but had received no response. She would ask the adjoining parishes who they use to see if they would be prepared to undertake the job for Great Haseley.

The residents of Back Way had been contacted by SODC regarding leaving their bins on Back Way and not returning them to their gardens. SODC would liaise with them again in a few weeks time. The dead tree had been cut down on the allotments by the Chairman. The clerk had written to Soha about the unfinished work on the affordable housing. They replied that they had done all they could on the ditch fronting the properties and urged the Parish Council to contact SSE regarding reinstatement of Back Way. The clerk would write to SSE about this.

17/160 Planning

P18/S0401/FUL North Weston Farm, North Weston

Re-clad of old cattle shed and fitting of two roller shutter doors and two pedestrian doors
The Parish Council had no strong views on this application.

The following applications had been dealt with outside the Parish Council meeting and were therefore ratified.

P17/S4441/O Land north of Rycote Lane, near Thame

The erection of up to 180,000 square feet (up to 16,722 square metres) of B2/B8 with ancillary B1(a) and B1(c) together with parking, drainage, landscaping (structural and incidental) and highway works

Great Haseley Parish Council strongly recommends that this application is refused for the following reasons:

1. This site is not included in the current Local Plan, the Core Strategy or the draft Local Plan as an employment site and the applicant has failed to make a convincing case that there is sufficient need to override this. Indeed, there are empty commercial units all around Thame including Thame itself, Long Crendon,

Haddenham and North Weston. The loss of the Angus offices to residential was only permitted because there was no one who wanted the building. Thame and the rest of South Oxfordshire has effectively zero unemployment and so the Parish Council cannot see why more employment land is required.

2. The site fails the sustainability test because there is no prospect of any of the workforce being able to use public transport to get there and it is too far for the majority of residents of Thame to walk there. While the proposal includes for extending into the site the path that currently stops at the turning to Moreton, this path is not suitable for bicycles and pedestrians as it is too narrow.
3. Even if the foul drainage from the site could be accommodated by a connection to the sewer network, the Parish Council does not believe that sufficient consideration has been given to the condition of the water course between the site and the River Thame and its ability to accept the run-off from the site even allowing for the attenuation effect of the swales. The Parish Council has seen evidence that shows that it is struggling to cope with the current demand and that there is frequently localised floodings, after even modest rain fall. If the water course has to deal with treated foul drainage the problem gets substantially worse.
4. As a result of the lack of any alternative all those working at or visiting the site will have to arrive by car. There is simply insufficient parking available on the site and the Parish Council strongly suspects that the result will be parking on verges as is already occurring opposite the nearby ASM site and down Morton Lane.
5. The Parish Council has major concerns with the junction of the access road with the A329. There are no up-to-date traffic analyses and with the prospective vehicular moves into and out of the site the Parish Council fears that neither the junction to the site nor the wider A329 can cope. In addition, while the sight lines might appear to meet the required standard there is no account made of the vertical profile of the A329 near the site that reduces visibility in all directions. There are also concerns with how the two other applications for access onto the same section of road (P17/S4415/FUL and P18/S0084/FUL) will interact with this access. There is no acknowledgement of the impact of the additional traffic for this site on the existing businesses along the A329 and those trying to exit Moreton Lane.

Finally, the traffic island for the pedestrian crossing will also impact on the visibility and safety both for this access road and for the secondary access to the Gregory's site.

If permission were to be granted for this application, the Parish Council asks that conditions be included to prevent the site subsequently being used for housing and that the on-going maintenance of water courses all the way to the River Thame is made the responsibility of the owner of the site.

P18/S0084/FUL Land South of Rycote Lane, Thame

Closure of existing access on to Rycote Lane and formation of new access together with access track

Great Haseley Parish Council reluctantly recommends that this application should be refused. If this were the only application seeking a new access onto this section of the A329 then the Parish Council would have no strong views but when viewed in conjunction with P17/S4415/FUL and P17/S4441/O this access does not work and while it would remove the problems with access off Moreton Lane, these three applications, if all are approved in their current format will impact adversely on each other.

17/160 Responsible Financial Officer's report

The current account currently stands at £15,582.61 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,389.63. The following cheques were written: Colourplus £264.49; Stamps for The Haseleys £26.88; SODC (Dog Bins) £62.80 Woodrow Joinery (Stage construction) £458.40. The following cheques were written at the meeting and will appear on the March agenda: CPRE £36.00; Mears Estate Ltd £864 (replacement cheque for one that got lost in the post). £100 had been received from Thames Water following complaints about the road closed signs over the Christmas break. The clerk thanked Mel Wheatley for checking the Parish Council accounts. She found that the clerk was owed £0.40p due to typo on her salary claim; this will be added on the next claim. No other cheques were written. Income during the month of January was advertising in The Haseleys was £680.40.

17/161 Discuss quotation for children's play equipment on the Cross Field

J Andrews, E Spencer and J Simcox had been in correspondence with Sovereign, the play equipment providers chosen for the new "thumper". After several emails the final quotation came through as £5,632.51. It was decided that it was not necessary to have the independent post installation inspection as RoSPA would be inspecting the equipment in June/July. It was also agreed that removal of spoil from the site could be disposed of locally. It was therefore agreed to accept this quotation and the clerk was asked to contact Sovereign accordingly.

17/162 To agree payment of Subscription to Society of Local Council Clerks for the new clerk

The new clerk, Andrea Oughton, requested that the Parish Council pay for the annual subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). This is currently £67.00 p.a. and this was agreed.

17/163 Binding of Parish Council Minutes

It had been agreed five years ago, when the Parish Council went to loose leaf minutes that they would be officially bound every five years. The clerk reported that the five years would end in March 2018. It was therefore agreed that these should be bound and the clerk would arrange this.

17/164 Discuss possible extension of lease on the School Garden

A draft lease had been circulated to the Parish Council and it was pointed out that £100p.a. was a large amount when the use was so restricted due to the terms of the lease. It was also noted that every five years there would be a rent review and there would be an increase to RPI. The clerk was asked to contact OCC to try to get the annual rent reduced and also to get the rent review taken out of the lease.

17/165 Annual spring clean and litterblitz

A date of 7 April was agreed. H Harvey agreed to produce some flyers for each household to try and encourage more people to get involved. The clerk agreed to provide a light lunch for those helpers who wished it. A list of jobs was being produced and the Chairman asked Parish Councillors to let him know if there were things they felt needed to be undertaken.

17/166 Update on the SODC Local Plan

Homes England had said that as they were unable to reach agreement with Martin Baker on the Chalgrove Airfield site, they were looking into possible compulsory purchase of the site.

17/167 Reports from Committees

Footpaths – D Lindsay had received notification of a broken stile near Latchford House. The clerk would send contact details to him in order that he could get it fixed. He had also been in contact with The Ramblers but they had not come back with any problems with footpaths in the parish.

Village Hall – D Mann was not present but said little had happened during the month.

Playing Fields – E Spencer asked whether the Parish Council would be tendering for grass cutting this year as Scion did not perform very well last year. The Chairman said that normally we only do it every 3 years and it was done last year. A Oughton was asked what they did in Thame and she said they had their own maintenance team who did do work outside Thame itself. She would ask whether they would be interested in taking on the grass cutting.

Cross Field – Dealt with under 17/161

Allotments – J Andrews said that no one had approached him about the new allotments tenancy agreement so he would put a reminder in the March issue of The Haseleys.

17/168 Report from the District Councillor

As neither Councillor were present there was nothing to report.

17/169 Correspondence

The clerk had received the final version of the footpaths diversion across The Oxfordshire Golf Course which had been wrong for the last 20 years. The clerk had received an email stating that there was an OALC Training Session for Responsible Financial Officers. A Oughton agreed to attend and the clerk would book her on it. OCC were consulting of the Local List of Information Requirements for Planning Applications. The Chairman said that he had looked through it and felt that there was little the Parish Council could comment on. The usual bag of correspondence was given to the Parish Councillors.

17/170 Any other business

D Lindsay and J Andrews raised the issue of the new legislation that is coming into force in May regarding Data Protection. A Oughton had been on a one day training session with the Thame Town Council and said that currently no agreement had been reached on the detail so there was nothing for the Parish Council to do at the present time. It was

agreed that the Clerk would send out an email to the Great Haseley email alert members to ask if they were happy to continue to have their names on the list.

A Sheppard asked whether D Simcox was prepared to stand as Chairman at the AGM in May. D Simcox said that he had told the Parish Council at the 2017 AGM that he would not stand again and he had not changed his mind. He said that it was up one of the Parish Councillors to come forward and take on the role. The Parish Council cannot operate without a Chairman and it is the first item on the agenda for the AGM.

H Harvey asked if the Parish Council had noted that the hedge that Farol had said they would plant along the road edge had now been removed. It was felt that the Parish Council had supported Farol in their planning applications and they should be asked to put it back.

The Chairman reported that he had complained about the low flying helicopters recently and had been informed that they try to avoid flying over Great Haseley but always keeping to a minimum height of 500ft above ground level.

The new clerk, A Oughton would start on 1 March and the present clerk, J Simcox would work together for the month of March. J Simcox was thanked for her 30 years of service to the Parish Council.

17/171 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 12 March and the following one on 9 April 2018, which would include the Annual Parish Meeting, both at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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