

MINUTES OF THE GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
13 JULY 2015 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: D Simcox (Chairman); J Andrews; H Harvey; K Sentance; A Sheppard. J Simcox, Clerk; S Harrod (County and District Councillor) and one member of the public.

15/44 Public Discussion

P Woodrow presented the Parish Council with a set of accounts for the Village Hall and asked if the donation that the Parish Council made annually to the Village Hall could be increased to £2,000 from £1,500 as the amount had not been increased for about 10 years. He explained that the Village Hall Committee were concerned that the money given by the Parish Council now no longer covered the basic running costs of the village hall and it was now a necessity to earn other income in order to keep it going.

The Parish Council said that the budget for this year showed that they had allocated £1,500 but that they were all in agreement that for the next financial year this amount should be increased to £2,000. The Parish Council thanked the Village Hall Committee for all their hard work of keeping the Hall in good condition and wished them success in their new work being undertaken on the hall.

Discussion took place regarding websites and it was agreed that H Harvey would talk to P Lee to try to find a way forward so that all interested groups could have access to a website.

15/45 Apologies for absence were received from D Mann; E Spencer

15/46 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

15/47 The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2015 were confirmed and signed.

15/48 Matters arising

Discussion took place regarding building work being undertaken in Back Way and the issue of parking. It was agreed that perhaps there should be a place where contractors can park but the Parish Council was unsure where that could be as there was limited places available. However the important recommendation to come out was that the lane cannot be blocked as it is a footpath and it was used by a number of children and their safety was paramount.

15/49 Planning

P15/S1938/RM Farol Ltd, Rycote Lane Farm, Rycote Lane, Milton Common
Reserved Matter application (landscaping) for the erection of an open fronted store
The Parish Council has no strong views on this application.

P15/S1975/FUL Building at North Weston Farm Road from North Weston to Shabbington, North Weston

Change of use of existing agricultural building and associated alterations to its appearance to provide 5x small business units (Use Classes B1c, B2 or B8) and associated works including laying out of parking/ turning area

The Parish Council recommends refusal of this application as they feel that the site is very restricted for HGVs turning and that this farm building was only granted permission in 2008 and now being turned into industrial units. Is the farmer continuing farming or turning all buildings over to industrial and living off the income?

P15/S2106/HH 25A Horse Close Cottages, Great Haseley

Part double, part single storey rear extension.

The Parish Council had no strong views regarding this application although they felt that the fanlight window which faced Clematis Cottage was not very neighbourly.

The clerk had received notification that permission had been granted for the conservatory at Hillbrow, Rectory Road and also that permission had been granted on appeal for a new property at Milton Common.

15/50 Responsible Financial Officer's report

The current account currently stands at £14,382.55 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,375.84. The following cheques were written: Colourplus £313.34; J Simcox £ 339.28 comprising of: Clerk's salary (April, May, & June) £313.36 and Stamps for The Haseleys £25.92; HMRC Tax £78.20; Windmill Landscapes £42.00; Mears Estates Ltd £161.62. Cheques written at the June meeting but not on the agenda: Mears Estates £469.98. A cheque had been written between the June and July meetings but had not appeared on the agenda. This was for Carmella Media £50.00. No other cheques were written. The clerk received £210.68 income from *The Haseley* during the month of June.

The clerk had received notification from the bank that the two new members of the Parish Council had been added to the mandate and the two former one removed. The clerk had received a query from BDO Auditors regarding the Annual return which she had answered but had not had the Annual Return back from them.

15/51 Update on affordable housing

The clerk had received an email from SoHa stating that as it was more than 5 years since the housing survey had been undertaken, it was now necessary to do another one. The Parish Council was extremely upset about this because they had been pushing to get things moving and now there was to be a further delay. In further correspondence with SoHa and ORCC it was pointed out that to undertake a survey during the summer period would not get a very good response. It was therefore thought that this should happen in September and that the Parish Council should organize a meeting to correspond with the survey to encourage people to complete it and return it speedily. Once the clerk had some firm dates when the survey would be ready, a public meeting would be arranged in the Village Hall.

15/52 Use of the Playing Fields by the Model Aircraft Club

Discussion took place regarding the use of the Playing Fields by the Club and H Harvey said that he had canvassed the Cricket Club who would like them to continue as the money was useful for the Playing Fields. It was agreed however that guidelines should be drawn up for the Club and if they break these, they will not be allowed back.

15/53 Management of trees within Great Haseley

There had been a number of boughs down from some of the trees in the village and two trees had been cut back on Thame Road on the road side and it was felt that a tree surgeon

should be asked to see if this would cause imbalance of the trees and whether they should have the appropriate branches removed from the other side. There were also some in Back Way that were causing problems. It was agreed to talk to SODC Tree Officer as to the best way forward with the problem.

H Harvey mentioned the willow trees on the Thame Road, one of which had shed a large branch across the road. As this was in the parish of Great Milton, the clerk agreed to contact S Harrod about the problem.

15/54 The possible purchase of a salt bin and the removal of the salt bag from the School grounds

As the School was now up for sale it was felt that the Parish Council needed to act to remove the salt bag that had been there for 3-4 years. It would not be safe to pick it up, it would be necessary to empty it into other bags. The Chairman asked where the Parish Council felt that if they purchased a salt bin where it should be placed. This would be on the agenda for the next meeting with suggestions.

15/39 Reports from Committees

Footpaths – A Sheppard had started getting information regarding formalising the footpath from Lewington Close to Back Way. The clerk agreed to provide a list of possible people who would complete the survey.

Playing Fields – The whole of the playing fields had now been cut. H Harvey said that the hedges had been cut and the nettles round the edge by the Cricket Club.

Cross Field – D Simcox had repaired the latch on the gate to stop the problem of trapped fingers and J Andrews said it was being well used.

Allotments – K Sentance said that although the lower branches of the trees had been pruned, the upper ones had not. She asked if the Parish Council could do something about this but it was down to the allotment holders to undertake this work.

Millennium Wood

Two wooden posts had now rotted off near the end of Mill Lane and the clerk was asked to contact Windmill Landscapes to replace them.

Transport – J Andrews reported that he had attended the Transport Reps meeting which was dominated by the fact that OCC was looking to save money and one of the options was to no subsidise any buses. It was agreed that J Andrews would reply on behalf of the Parish Council to the online survey.

15/56 Report from the District and County Councillor

S Harrod reported that SODC had now moved into their new offices and all seemed to be well. He said that there is to be a Neighbourhood Planning Seminar in September and asked whether the Parish of Great Haseley would be interested in undertaking a joint Neighbourhood plan with Great and Little Milton and Tetsworth. This was discussed and it was felt that it was a way of spreading the cost of undertaking this work and that they

gave their approval to go ahead and see whether the Miltons and Tetsworth were interested in this idea.

On OCC, he reported that as they had little money not much was being done. The Chairman said that he understood why they were only cutting the verges twice a year and it seemed to have worked this year but it had been a dry season. If another year it is wet, it would probably be necessary to cut verges earlier. There is a Giant Hogweed plant growing on the highway verge on the road towards Countax. The clerk had reported it but nothing seems to have happened to it and as there has been a lot of press about people being burned by them, the Parish Council hoped that S Harrod could get something done about it.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council had been concerned about speeding traffic through the village and had been looking at speed indicators. For mobile units that could be placed at different sites the cost is about £2,000 and he asked whether S Harrod would be interested in talking to both Great and Little Milton about this issue. S Harrod agreed to do this.

15/57 Correspondence

The usual correspondence was distributed to the Parish Councillors.

15/58 Any other business

Concern was shown regarding the building work that is being undertaken at 17 Little Haseley. It would appear that the builders park their vans on the road and are forcing other road users up into the bank opposite. The clerk agreed to look at the site and contact our local PCSO to see if they can do anything about it.

As the clerk and the Chairman would be away on holiday for a period of time, it was agreed that as A Sheppard is the Planning Rep. that she receive the mail. The clerk would talk to the postman and get it delivered to her house.

The Chairman said the high speed broadband is now live in the village for those that wish to use it. There are a number of hedges in the village that are now in desperate need to cutting back as they were causing cars to veer on to the wrong side of the road. The Chairman also reported that there had been a “drugs party” down Latchford Lane. It was agreed that if this should happen again that the local PCSO should be informed.

15/59 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 14 September 2015 at 7.30pm. It was agreed that there would not be a meeting during August except for planning and urgent business. There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

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