

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2017 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: D Simcox (Chairman); J Andrews; H Harvey; D Mann; K Sentance; A Sheppard; E Spencer J Simcox, Clerk and no members of the public.

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year

16/145 Public Discussion

There were no public present at the meeting.

16/146 There were no apologies for absence. Post meeting note: S Harrod arrived after the meeting had closed.

16/147 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

16/148 The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2016 were confirmed and signed.

16/149 Matters arising

The Chairman reported that the defibrillator training course had taken place with 22 people attending. It was felt it was very worthwhile and if necessary a further one would be organised. The representative from the Ambulance service recommended that a record be kept for a weekly check on the defibrillators and L Woodrow agreed to under the check at the Village Hall and D Simcox would do the one on the Playing Fields. The clerk would obtain two note books so entries could be recorded.

H Harvey was asked whether he had been able to find out about engraving the seat on the playing fields and he said that it could not be done in situ. It was therefore agreed that the clerk would arrange for a plaque to be made up.

The clerk had received the final paperwork through from the land registry regarding the ownership of the Cross Field. There was one item that should be taken into account when there is a change of clerk. As the Parish Council does not have an office, the land registry document is listed at the name and address of the clerk, this would need to be changed in future.

Notification had been received that Sylvatrees would be undertaking the work in Back Way shortly and also information had been received from the two quotes for pruning etc of the Millennium Wood. It was agreed to ask Nicholsons to undertake this work and the clerk would be in contact with them.

16/150 Planning

No new planning applications had been received but the ongoing problems with the affordable housing were mentioned. It was the lawyers who had not completed their work. It was noted that Ariens (Countax) had refurbished the old Forestry Building and appeared to be going to use it for storage. As this building only had permission for offices, the clerk was asked to find out whether change of use was necessary.

16/151 Responsible Financial Officer's report

The current account currently stands at £16,905.76 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,386.49 The following cheques were written: Clerk's salary (October to December) £323.36; HMRC Tax £80.80; Stamps for The Haseleys £26.40; Heating £12.00; A F Electrical (Fitting of defibrillators) £130; Cartridges for printer £154.02. The following cheques were also written and would appear on the agenda for February: Honorarium for P Woodrow £50; J Gostick (electricity for lights) £20; Colourplus £251.26; P Woodrow (Christmas tree) £25.00 No other cheques were written. The clerk said that she had put in an order for spares for the defibrillators but had received a telephone call from Andrew Deptford to say that it was not necessary unless they had been used as he had a turn round time of two days for replacements. The order was therefore cancelled.

The clerk had received the following income during the month: £943.98 (Advertising in The Haseleys) and £8,500.00 from the Pumpkin Show for children's play equipment.

16/152 Draft budget and precept 2017-18

A draft budget was circulated to members of the Parish Council during the month raising the precept to £13,500. This increase was necessary if the parish was to support the ongoing situation regarding the Chalgrove Airfield and Harrington Planning issues. The clerk would inform SODC of the precept required.

This budget and precept was agreed by a majority of the Parish Councillors. K Sentance wished it to go on record that she did not support the new budget as there was no financial support for a community bus. This issue had been discussed at length and the Parish Council does not have the funding or the capability to take this on. She passed a membership application form for Community Transport Association (CTA) to the Chairman who agreed to look into it to see if it is something that could be of interest.

16/153 Update on the SODC Local Plan

The Chairman and A Sheppard had attended a meeting which had been called by S Harrod to get together the various interested parties regarding the Chalgrove Airfield and Harrington sites. After much discussion, it had been agreed that whilst they were in no way in support of either site, it was felt that should the worst happen and one/or both become a reality, it was better to know what was being planned rather than to suddenly find that the community had no input into what was proposed. It was also said that it was probable that all the six sites that had been proposed by SODC would put in planning applications in the next few months.

16/154 Reports from Committees

Footpaths – The Chairman said that he had been reading through old minute books and had found where both paths (Mill Lane and Lewington Close) had been asked by the Parish Council to be put on the definitive list. This however, never seems to have taken place.

Village Hall – D Mann reported that a new clock was to be bought for the Village Hall and the current one was only temporary.

Playing Fields – E Spencer said she felt that the number of cuts may have to be increased each year as the grass seemed to grow for longer. It was agreed that the clerk would try to get three quotations for grass cutting for the 2017 season, she had already received one from Mears.

Cross Field – J Andrews, E Spencer and the clerk were meeting on Friday with someone to look at what can be done with the site and to get a quotation for replacement/repair of the current equipment. A figure of £13,500 is the amount that is available for equipment. There was also a possibility of a grant and J Andrews agreed to talk to C Pickett to see whether she would be prepared to put together an application.

Allotments – K Sentance had circulated the allotment agreement and a meeting had taken place with those interested in having an allotment. She asked if the end allotment could be rotated before being taken by a new tenant. It was agreed that provided it was less than £100 this was acceptable. She said that once she had got all the rents in, she wished to give up looking after the allotments.

Millennium Wood – The hedge had been cut recently. It was agreed that the clerk would get some quotes for posts to be put in along the edge of Back Way as it was being used for parking of cars. There was also concern regarding the area by the allotments which had and was being used for parking as the grass had been badly cut up.

16/155 Report from the District and County Councillor

As S Harrod was not present nothing was discussed although his reported had been circulated to the Parish Council in advance of the meeting.

16/156 Correspondence

The usual bag of correspondence was given to the Parish Councillors. The clerk had received notification of a meeting to discuss Neighbourhood Plans that was being organised by John Howell, MP. A Sheppard asked to have a copy and would try to attend this meeting.

The Chairman had received an email regarding the problem of the accident on the slip road off the M40. It had been suggested that rumble strips and/or flashing lights should be installed. The Parish felt that there should be something done to slow traffic down when leaving the motorway so would write to the Highways authorities to see if anything could be done. The email asked if a telephone tree could be set up rather than an email tree as not everyone would be using their computers to see there was a problem. The Chairman had replied to say that this had been discussed at a previous meeting and it had been agreed that a telephone tree was not very practical as it needed everyone to be near their telephone otherwise the whole system fell down.

16/157 Any other business

The Chairman thanked the “tree gang” for removing the tree, it was felt that this year’s tree was a very good one. The Chairman said that he would be away for a few days at the end of the month as would the Vice Chairman. However it was not necessary to ask for the mail to be sent to someone else as it was only for a short period.

16/158 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 13 February and the following one on 13 March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8.36pm.

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