

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 8 JUNE 2020 AT 8PM VIA ZOOM

Present: Cllrs A Sheppard (Chair), A Gheissari, D Lindsay, C McGuirk, C Pickett, E Spencer, P Woodrow, A Oughton (Clerk) and 10 members of the public.

20/15 Public Discussion and Public Questions

A member of the public asked what CIL projects were under consideration.

20/16 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

20/17 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Spencer declared an interest in Item 20/26 – Back Way and did not take part in discussion or vote on this item.

20/18 Minutes

The following amendment was made to the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 May 2020: Item 20/05 – Matters Arising – District Footpath Officer to be amended to Rights of Way Officer, SODC to be amended to OCC.

There being no further amendments the minutes of the meeting were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

20/19 Matters Arising

Residents should have received notification that the pre-application community consultation on proposals for the Cornwell and Harlesford Solar Farms commenced on Monday 8 June 2020 and will run for four weeks, ending Monday 6 July 2020.

Cllr Gheissari reported she had met with residents of Back Way. The specification of work had been agreed by residents of Back Way and three quotations obtained. These had been circulated to Councillors, the third being shared just before the meeting.

Cllr Gheissari and Jen Webster are to meet with the Rights of Way Officer tomorrow to discuss the further deterioration of Back Way since the Officer's last visit, possible funding opportunities, the specification of work and to seek further recommendations for contractors.

20/20 Planning Applications

**P19/S2503/O - Haseley End, Rectory Road, Great Haseley
Amendment No. 6 dated 21 May 2020**

Demolition of existing building and garages. Construction of 4 new residential attached dwellings, car parking and new vehicle crossover with access, appearance, layout and scale to be determined at this stage. (as amended by plan 103 Rev A (landscaping) and plans received 24 October 2019 reducing the number of units from 4 to 3. Reduction in number of parking spaces, alteration to design and materials of dwellings, by Heritage Statement dated December 2019 and by plans C781 100C, 102B and 101B which reduces the size of the development to 2 x 3 bed units and 1 x 1 bed units and removes the proposed new access. As amplified by tree protection details received on 3 April, 2020).

As amended by plans received on 21 May showing Chestnut Tree T11 plotted, removal of existing trees to the north of the site and replaced with alternative species and rotation of building slightly anticlockwise to allow greater scope for landscaping to be submitted via Reserved Matters application.

Resolved to continue to Object to this application.

Planning Decisions:

It was noted that South Oxfordshire District Council had refused planning permission for the following application:

P19/S2685/FUL - Lobb Farm, Access Road to Lobb Farm, Tetsworth

The proposed development is for a Gas Fired Electricity Generating Facility with the ability to generate up to 49.99 MW of electricity. A low carbon flexible generating facility using gas reciprocating engines. The facility will generate electricity principally for the regional distribution network in times of generation shortfall and/or high demand. (As clarified by additional information submitted 10 September 2019, 12 September 2019 and 22 October 2019, 30 October 2019, 19 November 2019, 21 November 2019 and 12 February 2020, and amended by ownership certificate B received 5 February 2020).

It was further noted that South Oxfordshire District Council had granted planning permission for the following applications:

P20/S1119/HH - Walnut Cottage, 22 Little Haseley

Single storey rear extension.

P20/S1097/HH - Old School House, Back Way, Great Haseley

Rear and side single storey link extension

20/21 Local Plan 2034

The link the Parish Council's response to the Local Plan 2034 public consultation had been circulated together with information received on the Examination in Public (EIP) due to commence on 14 July 2020.

At the last consultation the Parish Council expressed a wish to speak at the EIP. The Inspector has reviewed all the written submissions and it is clear he does not want to hear repetition of submitted comments, only new information.

Cllr Sheppard reported she is attending a meeting tomorrow with representatives of Haseley Brook Action Group, Chalgrove Shield, the Chair of Chalgrove Parish Council, District Councillor Turner and County Councillor Harrod. There will be an update on the Local Plan and hopefully information on speculation that Government sources are promoting Harrington as a means of regeneration post the COVID-19 pandemic.

Post Meeting Note: Cllr Sheppard has registered to speak on behalf of the Parish Council at the EIP, to keep the Parish Council's options open, on the basis that Cllr Sheppard will withdraw if that is felt to be the right thing to do. In any event Cllr Sheppard will submit a written document before the deadline of 26 June 2020.

20/22 Payments

The following cheques were written as notified on the agenda: £948.00 Ridgeway Rural Services. The following payment was approved at the meeting £73.07 SODC (Village Hall Annual Waste Collection).

20/23 Financial Report

The balance on the Current Account was £20,676.10 and the Business Reserve Account £31,376.82. The income for the month of £3,933.12 included allotment rents, grant funding for installation of the adult exercise equipment, VAT reclaim and advertisements placed in The Haseleys.

20/24 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

At the Parish Council meeting in March the format of the Village Consultation on CIL was discussed and agreed. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the consultation had been deferred.

Although there has been a slight easing in Government Restrictions related to COVID-19 it is clear rules around gatherings and social distancing will be in place for the foreseeable future. With this in mind discussion took place on whether to further defer the consultation or find alternative means to carry it out.

After discussion it was agreed it was important to move forward and that residents will be consulted via a maildrop to every household and a central post box provided for replies. Further information on proposed projects will be displayed on the noticeboards outside the Village Hall.

20/25 Dog Bin Emptying

South Oxfordshire District Council has informed Parish Councils that the weekly cost of emptying dog waste bins will increase. For Great Haseley this will mean a rise from 77p to £3 per bin from 1 April 2020 and to £6 per bin from 1 April 2021.

Whilst the Parish Council could, to some extent understand the District Council's need to withdraw its subsidy, it was disgraceful that parishes had not been notified of the increase last December to enable them to give it due consideration when setting their expenditure budgets for 2020-21.

Some discussion took place on possible scenarios by which the cost may be reduced. It was agreed further investigation will take place and the Clerk will report back at a future meeting. In the meantime Cllr Gheissari will continue to liaise with SODC on the location of the new dog waste bins, without committing to purchase more at this stage.

In light of the increased charges Cllr Sheppard had spoken to District Councillor Newton about the possibility of diverting the grant money the Parish Council had received to purchase two new dog bins to other projects, should it wish to. District Councillor Newton confirmed the grant money could be spent on other capital projects (not revenue) that she and the SODC grant team are willing to support.

20/26 Back Way

The Parish Council had received a proposal from residents to reinstate Back Way which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The proposal had been circulated to

Back Way residents and landowners, to ask for their approval, at the time of the meeting, a good proportion of positive responses had been received.

Following discussion it was agreed the residents had done a good job in providing a unified response and that the vision to reinstate Back Way as a track be approved.

There would be a proposal on the CIL projects for consultation, to contribute to Back Way improvements.

20/27 Reports from Committees / County and District Councillors

District Councillor Newton sent her report which had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Newton stated she had raised the issue of the increased cost of emptying dog waste bins but officers were not about to go back on the decision. She added it was a disgraceful way for the District to treat parishes and that the impact, particularly on smaller parish budgets had just not been recognised. Cllr Newton will raise the problem at the Council meeting in July.

The constraints of COVID-19 meant for the time being changes to the system for the Planning Committee. There will be no public speaking, only written submissions will be considered during virtual meetings. In the past if a parish objected to a planning application and the district officer was minded to approve it the application would go to Committee, for now this will only happen if the application is 'Called In' by a Ward Councillor.

County Cllr Harrod reported Oxfordshire County Council have applied to Government for £600k, the first tranche of funding related to Active Travel intended to encourage people out of cars and to cycle or walk. OCC will know if they have been successful in four weeks and if successful must report back results in eight weeks from receipt of funding. There has been lots of interest from Parishes and Steve will report back in due course.

Footpaths

Cllr Gheissari reported it had been a busy month. She thanked Cllr Spencer and the volunteers for repairing both footpath bridges beyond Latchford House. The complaint regarding the tree across the footpath between Grove field and Little Haseley had been resolved. Oxfordshire County Council had trimmed all the vegetation on the footpath between the bus stop and Horse Close. Following a complaint about the irrigation pipes the farmer had cable tied the pipes to prevent them from being a trip hazard.

Village Hall

Cllr Woodrow reported he had been in contact with Community First Oxfordshire regarding grants available to the Village Hall to offset losses as a result of COVID-19.

Playing Fields – Nothing to report.

Miss Cross Field / Millennium Wood / Communications / Environment - Nothing to report.

Allotments

The allotments were looking good, it was nice to see all the plots being used.

20/28 Correspondence

The request for funding from the Oxfordshire Association of the Blind was considered but unfortunately due to budget constraints the Parish Council felt, on this occasion, unable to make a contribution.

The SODC Deep Cleansing team has requested areas of the village to be cleaned during their visit next month. The Clerk asked for suggestions to be emailed and she will collate a response to SODC.

20/29 Information Exchange

Cllr Woodrow had been asked why the grass in Millennium Wood had been cut whilst spring flowers were in bloom? Cllr Spencer reported it was necessary to keep the grass under control, if left for too long it fell over and was difficult to cut.

Cllr Woodrow asked what the criteria is for advertisers using the village noticeboard as it had become quite cluttered. Cllr Sheppard reported there was no set criteria but that old or out of date information could be removed.

20/30 Date of Next Meeting

To **confirm** that during the current pandemic the Parish Council will only meet virtually to discuss items which cannot be delayed until face to face meetings can resume.

It was agreed an additional meeting to that advertised on the Schedule of Meetings will take place on Monday 22 June 2020 at 8pm to discuss planning applications received since publication of the last agenda. The following meeting will be held on Monday 11 July 2020, commencing at 7.30pm.

The agenda for the meeting will be published on the Parish Council's website and will contain the link and information necessary for Councillors and Members of the Public to join the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed 9.12pm

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Chairman
11 July 2020