

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY 13 MAY 2019 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllrs A Sheppard (Chair), A Gheissari, D Lindsay, C McGuirk, C Pickett, E Spencer, P Woodrow, A Oughton (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

**19/01 Election of the Chairman**

Cllr Sheppard called for nominations for the position of Chairman. It was proposed and duly seconded that Cllr Sheppard be elected Chairman. On being put to the vote it was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Sheppard signed the Declaration of Office of Chairman.

**19/02 Election of the Vice Chairman**

Cllr Sheppard called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. It was proposed and duly seconded that Cllr Lindsay be elected Vice Chairman. On put to the vote it was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Lindsay duly signed the Declaration of Office of Vice Chairman.

**19/03 Councillor Representatives**

Discussion took place on current and possible new Committees.

**Resolved that the Committees and Representatives be agreed as follows:**

Planning – Cllr Lindsay  
Footpaths – Cllr Gheissari  
Allotments – Cllr Pickett  
Millennium Wood – Cllrs Pickett & Spencer  
Cross Field – Cllrs Pickett & Spencer  
Playing Fields – Cllrs Pickett & Spencer  
Village Hall – Cllr Woodrow  
Communication – Cllr McGuirk

**19/04 Public Discussion and Public Questions**

Mr David Simcox congratulated all the Councillors on their election to the Parish Council and wished them success. He thanked the Council and Councillors for their kind gifts and good wishes following his retirement from the Parish Council.

Mr Simcox presented the Parish Council with a 'Board of Chairman' on which all the Chairman of the Parish Council were listed from the beginning to the present day. Cllr Woodrow confirmed he would speak with the Village Hall Committee to agree the most appropriate place to display the Board in the Village Hall.

Whilst a Councillor David Simcox had worked hard on the draft Village Emergency Plan. He and Cllr Sheppard were due to meet with the County Council officer responsible for Emergency Plans in June. David Simcox will email the current version of the Plan to newly appointed Councillors and requested that a member of the Council take on the responsibility of keeping the information contained in the Plan up to date. Once finalised the Plan will be published on the Council's website (with information redacted where appropriate), a full version will be kept on file and also sent to the Emergency Planning departments at the

District and County Council. Cllr McGuirk agreed to keep the information contained in the plan updated.

David Simcox reported Scottish & Southern Electricity provided opportunities to apply for grant funding towards equipment which may be used in an emergency e.g. high-vis jackets, wind up torches, generators and generator sockets.

Mr Andrew Troup, Director of Stratera Energy Ltd addressed the Council regarding planning application P18/S2996/FUL – Lobb Farm – Proposed development for a Gas Fired Electricity Generating facility.

Since Mr Troup last addressed the Parish Council in August 2018, various changes had been made to the plan; one application had been withdrawn leaving one remaining application for the southern part of the site. The footprint of the facility had been reduced and planting significantly increased. The site next to the M40 was one of only six places in the country suitable for this type of facility. When deployed on the National Grid this facility will provide savings in Co2 emissions compared with current facilities. The facility will be flexible and build resilience for the national grid. South Oxfordshire District Council had declared a 'Climate Emergency' at the meeting held in April. Mr Troup had provided carbon calculations and a copy of the District Council's minutes to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

Councillors questioned whether this was an appropriate site for such a facility and why brownfield sites, such as Didcot Power Station were not considered in the first instance. Also, the efficiency of existing sites and why these sites could not be upgraded. As the technology was moving so fast, what was the life expectancy of the proposed facility and what would happen to the site if the facility was decommissioned? Concerned was also expressed at the level of noise produced and emissions from the chimneys.

After answering a number of questions, Cllr Sheppard thanked Mr Troup for addressing the meeting.

#### **19/05 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies.

#### **19/06 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **19/07 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **19/08 Matters Arising**

Cllr Sheppard thanked David Simcox for his kind gift of the 'Board of Chairman of Great Haseley Parish Council' and the hard work and commitment he has given to the Parish Council over many years. Thanks were also expressed for the work undertaken on the Village Emergency Plan.

The Deep Cleanse team had cleaned the footpath along Thame Road from Rectory Road. Cllr Spencer reported the extra posts at Millennium Wood were due to be installed on Thursday.

Cllr Sheppard reported that any footpaths not listed on the Definitive County map by 2026 will be lost. Cllr Sheppard had submitted an application, some time ago, to add the footpath between Lewington Close and Backway and this had been agreed and added to the map. The definitive map can be viewed via the District Council website.

Speed surveys in Great and Little Haseley were currently being undertaken and will track the speed and volume of traffic for seven days.

## **19/09 Annual Parish Meeting**

The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 8 April 2019 were noted.

## **19/10 Planning Applications**

### **P19/S1228/HH & P19/S1233/LB - The Cottage, Rectory Road, Great Haseley**

Front entrance door to be installed into existing front window opening with proposed timber framed front porch with pitched roof, in replacement of previously approved P18/S1153/FUL. **Resolved to Fully Support this application.**

### **P18/S2996/FUL – Lobb Farm, Tetsworth Amendment No. 3 dated 26 April 2019**

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 about trees received 16 November 2018, ecology received 19 November 2018, archaeology received 30 November 2018, trees received 14 March 2019, and supporting documents received 5 February 2019 and 19 February 2019. As amended by plans received 19 February 2019. As amplified by additional information received 26 April 2019).

**Resolved that the changes to the planning application and additional information submitted did not alter the Parish Council's recommendation to Refuse this application for reasons as set out in the letter dated 19 March 2019 sent to the District Council.**

Members noted the following applications had been withdrawn:

### **P19/S1306/LB & P19/S1304/HH – Beehive Cottage, 9 Road Running through Little Haseley**

Over clad existing garage with horizontal timber boarding (including Amendment No. 1 – drawing no 1902.100A to correct red line error received 29 April 2019).

### **P19/S0054/HH – Four Corners, Thame Road, Great Haseley**

Proposal: 1) The removal of an existing leylandii hedge that runs along the southern perimeter of the property. 2) The erection of a new wall to replace the hedge.

## **19/11 Payments**

The following cheques were written as notified on the agenda: Stamps for The Haseleys (April edition) £29.28, Envelopes for The Haseleys £19.67, ColourpluS £447.76, HMRC £183.40, VAT (4<sup>th</sup> Qtr) £121.29, Insurance Renewal £398.84, SODC (Village Hall Waste Collection) £75.51, OALC £32.00, A Sheppard (gifts for long serving retiring Councillors) £81.00.

The following cheques were written at the meeting: LCR £17.00, Nicholsons Nurseries £60.00.

## **19/12 General Power of Competence**

The General Power of Competence was brought into force through the Localism Act 2011 as part of the Government's move towards the decentralisation of powers down to town and parish councils. The Power gives local councils the power to do anything that individuals generally may do as long as it is legal.

To be eligible to act under the General Power of Competence a council must pass a resolution at which time at least two thirds of the members of the council must hold office as a result of being elected and the Clerk must hold the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

**Resolved that the Parish Council met the eligibility for the General Power of Competence.**

## **19/13 Financial Report**

The balance on the Current Account was £8,998.22 (not £2,517.01 as the written report which was the balance at 29 March 2019) and the Business Reserve Account £22,875.51. The income for the month of £10,355.71 had been received made up as follows: £7,500.00 Precept, £125.00 Allotment Rents, £262.00 Advertisements in The Haseleys and £2,468.71 Community Infrastructure Levy Payment.

## **19/14 Standing Orders & Financial Regulations**

The Clerk had reviewed the Standing Orders and copies with suggested changes highlighted in red were circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting. It was agreed that the summons, agenda and papers for future meetings will be distributed electronically.

**Resolved to accept the proposed changes and approve the Standing Orders for 2019.**

## **19/15 Schedule of Meetings**

The Schedule of Meetings for 2019-2020 was approved.

## **19/16 External Audit**

The Clerk explained the process of the External Audit and the challenges associated with the 2017-18 Audit. The Parish Council must decide whether to; a) Certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review and complete Part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19 or b) complete Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19 and submit it to Moore Stephens, the appointed External Auditor, for a limited assurance Review.

**Resolved that the Parish Council met the criteria to Certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review and will complete Part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018-19.**

## **19/17 Traffic Management**

The Chair introduced Mr Lee Turner and Mr Jason Sherwood from Oxfordshire County Council who had been invited to talk to the Parish Council regarding the impact of any development at Chalgrove Airfield.

Mr Sherwood is involved in highway infrastructure planning, adoption of new roads and planning for the potential development at Chalgrove in conjunction with Homes England. Mr Turner is traffic officer for South and Vale and responsible for operational traffic matters.

The Chair explained the roads through Great and Little Haseley were already being used as a 'cut through' to avoid Little Milton. The proposed development at Chalgrove Airfield and any planned changes between the site, Rofford Lane and the back of Little Milton will have a huge impact on Great and Little Haseley villages.

Mr Sherwood reported that the planning application for Chalgrove Airfield was expected to be submitted soon and will contain information on traffic mitigation. A lot of work has already been done to mitigate traffic impact. Included in the Local Plan 2034 are bypasses for Chislehampton, Stadhampton and Cuxham. An edge road is proposed for Watlington as part of the Growth deal. The Parish Council has made representations to Homes England and Cllr Sheppard has attended a number of meetings including the open day at Stadhampton to make further representations and highlight potential problems.

Mr Sherwood thanked the Council for making him aware of the problem and thought it would not prove too difficult to protect Great and Little Haseley villages. He will talk to Homes England tomorrow.

Mr Turner reported that once the data from traffic surveys in Great and Little Haseley is available, he will discuss the results with Jason Sherwood and the potential solutions. Mr Turner reported Great Haseley had an exemplary record with no recorded traffic incidents involving injury in the last five years.

## **19/18 Reports from Committees**

### **Footpaths**

Cllr Pickett reported a broken footpath sign and will send the details to Cllr Gheissari to progress.

### **Communication**

Cllr Lindsay reported he had set up generic parish council email addresses for the four new parish councillors and will send them the details and passwords.

**Village Hall, Playing Fields, Cross Field, Millennium Wood and Allotments** – nothing to report.

## **19/20 Reports from District and County Councillors**

County Councillor Harrod had given his apologies and submitted a report which had been circulated to Councillors.

District Councillor Newton congratulated and welcomed the newly appointed Councillors. Cllr Newton reported that following the local elections the make up of the District Council had changed a lot. It was expected the District would be governed by a 'rainbow coalition' of representatives from the Liberal and Green parties and independents. Cllr Sue Cooper was expected to be elected Leader at the Annual Meeting of the Council on Thursday 16 May.

Liberal and Green candidates fought the local elections on the promise to reduce housing development which may have huge implications on the Local Plan 2034, submitted to the Government Inspector on 29 March 2019. Cllr Newton urged everyone who was concerned at the prospect of a withdrawal of the Local Plan or the effect that massively reducing housing development might have to write to each District Councillor.

**19/21 Correspondence**

Cllr Sheppard had been contacted by a parishioner concerned at the unannounced work by BT Open Reach on Mill Lane. Cllr McGuirk will forward the contact details on the board by the works to Cllr Sheppard.

**19/22 Information Exchange**

Cllr Sheppard reported in May 2020 it will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day. It was agreed to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr Woodrow requested that provision for a small amount of parking at the allotments is added to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. This was agreed. Cllr Sheppard asked Cllr Woodrow to prepare a report for the meeting.

**19/23 Next meetings**

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on 10 June 2019 and the following meeting on 8 July 2019 in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.52pm

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Chairman  
10 June 2019