

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

Present: D Simcox (Chairman); J Andrews; H Harvey; D Mann; A Sheppard; E Spencer; C Newton – District Councillor, A Oughton, Clerk; J Simcox, Clerk and one member of the public.

17/172 Public Discussion

L Bird spoke on behalf of the Great Haseley & District Horticultural Society asking the Parish Council's view on a possible road closure of part of Rectory Road. The Horticultural Society were planning a scaled down version of the Show for 2018 due to lack of people prepared to help put on the show. It had been suggested that they hire the Village Hall for the Show and close the road outside the hall in order to have teas etc. The Parish Council had no objection to this plan and L Bird said she would take their decision back to the Society.

The Parish Councillors presented the outgoing clerk, J Simcox with retirement presents and thanked her for all her work over the last 29 years. J Simcox thanked the Council and said that she had enjoyed her time and hoped that A Oughton would also.

17/173 Apologies for absence – D Lindsay; S Harrod, County Councillor;

17/174 The following Councillors all declared an interest in Item 17/180 and had signed dispensation requests in order that they could vote on the issue: D Simcox, H Harvey, J Andrews, D Mann, A Sheppard.

17/175 The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2018 were confirmed and signed.

17/ 176 Matters arising

The Chairman reported that P Lee had agreed to act as Internal Auditor for the Parish Council and he was thanked accordingly. J Simcox had received a quotation from Kew Binding in Thame to bind the Parish Council minutes from April 2013 through to March 2018. For a basic binding it would be £45 and for leather bound approximately £100. It was agreed that the leather bound version should be done as all other minute books were in that format.

The clerk had been in touch with SODC regarding the bins in Back Way and had received a reply stating that some of the residents had difficulty with steps in their gardens. SODC is looking at the status of the road to see if there is any further action they can take.

17/177 Planning

P18/S0608/LB 42 Thame Road, Great Haseley

Replacement of kitchen door and fixed sidelight, to the rear of the property, with a pair of French doors

The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

P17/S4398/FUL The Farmhouse, Rycote Lane Farm, Rycote Lane, Milton Common

Change of use from residential to commercial. No other changes internally or externally to be made. Property to be used as office space only.

The Parish Council felt there was insufficient information to make a decision on this application but were concerned about the loss of a house.

17/178 Responsible Financial Officer's report

The current account currently stands at £13,038.02 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,390.22. The following cheques were written: Colourplus £332.94; Stamps for The Haseleys £26.88; OALC Subscription £135.06; OPFA Subscription £42.00. A cheque for Community First for £35.00 was written at the meeting and would appear on the agenda for April. The following cheques had been written during the month: OALC Training Course £96.00; Sovereign Play Equipment £1,251.80. No other cheques were written. Income during the month of February was advertising in The Haseleys £455.78 and Thames Water £100.

17/179 Discuss a possible expenditure for the new clerk of a laptop computer

A Oughton said that due to the new legislation regarding data protection, it had been advised that a clerk should have a dedicated computer for the Parish Council. She felt also for her personally a laptop would be convenient in that she could take it to her place of work and undertake jobs on behalf of the Parish Council in her lunch break. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea and she was asked to get a couple of quotes for the computer and inform the Parish Council accordingly.

17/180 Possible donation to the Haseley Pub Co for Brown Signs

A request had been received from the Haseley Pub. Co asking if the Parish Council would make a contribution to "brown signs" for the Pub. This had first be discussed in 2013-14 but at that time there was not sufficient funds available. After discussion, it was agreed that £250 should be donated and this would go on the agenda for the next meeting.

17/181 Discuss possible extension of lease on the School Garden

After discussion with OCC, they had come back and asked for a business plan from the Parish Council as to how the land would be used and what benefits there would be to the community as there was another party interested in taking the lease. J Simcox had drafted a business plan on behalf of the Great Haseley History Group which was unanimously accepted by the Parish Council. This would be sent to OCC for their consideration.

17/182 Grass cutting contract for 2018

The clerk (J Simcox) had received communication from Mears stating that they were no longer undertaking grass cutting for small parish councils. As a result she sent out an enquiry to four contractors (having already received one). Only one of these had replied stating they were unable to undertake the work at present. E Spencer said that she had received a quotation from someone who cuts for Aston Rowant and on comparison the prices were slightly less than the quote received by the clerk. It was agreed that she would contact Aston Rowant Parish Council to get their views on the contractor. She would contact the clerk in a couple of days in order to get something in place ready for the current cutting season.

17/183 Update on the SODC Local Plan

There had been a leaflet drop to some villages in the area by the developers of Harrington inviting people to a public consultation at the Belfry Hotel, Shillingford Bridge and Oxford. However, at short notice all these consultations were postponed. SODC are to

have a Cabinet meeting in which the Local Plan was being discussed and A Sheppard said that she would be attending.

C Newton reported that the OCC would be informing the Public Inquiry that the Local Plan was unsafe as there was insufficient houses to meet the un-met need of Oxford City Council; Chalgrove was a now problem as it had emerged that Homes England had said that they would put all the necessary infrastructure in place ie by pass for Stadhampton etc but were now stating they would not be doing this. OCC stated that they did not have the money for this either. This would also be an issue were Harrington to be put in the Local Plan instead of Chalgrove.

17/184 Reports from Committees

Footpaths – As D Lindsay was not at the meeting there was nothing to report. He had however informed the Chairman that he had received favourable information from The Ramblers and would be letting the Councillors know what had been said.

Village Hall – D Mann said that there had been a very successful Pop up Evening and that the Church were putting on an eat in the street event to coincide with the opening of the Windmill of 12 May. She was applying for a road closure notice on their behalf.

Playing Fields – E Spencer said that there were two posts missing on the Playing Fields but perhaps it would be a good idea to delay having them replaced as I Wales was planning to clear some of the rubbish from the area. She was asked to include the removal of the lump of brickwork near the kissing gate.

Cross Field – Notification had been received from Sovereign that the new play equipment would be installed on 20 April. This gave plenty of time to remove the old tower on the annual clean up day. A skip had been arranged to be put on the Cross Field for the removal of the old tower. J Andrews asked the Parish Council and the new Clerk if it was acceptable for J Simcox to ensure that the new equipment was put in place as she had started the process and would like to see its completion. It was agreed that this was acceptable. The field would need to be closed while the work was taking place and a note would be put in The Haseleys to that effect.

Allotments –J Andrews said that he was now getting some people renewing their tenancy in the allotments.

17/185 Report from the District Councillor

C Newton gave her report under Item 17/183.

17/186 Correspondence

The usual bag of correspondence was given to the Parish Councillors. It was agreed that as it was difficult to get the correspondence bag back to A Oughton that should any of the Councillors have anything that they wished to be put on the agenda, that they contact her direct.

17/187 Any other business

H Harvey was thanked for his leaflet drop for the village spring clean. H Harvey reported that many people had tackled him about the mattresses that had been dumped near Ariens.

He informed them that this was not what the Parish Council should do, it was everyone's responsibility and the more people that reported it the better. He said he felt that there seemed to be the view in the parish that everything was the responsibility of the Parish Council whereas in fact it was not. Everyone has a responsibility to keep the village clean. The Chairman thanked those people that salted the road during the bad weather.

J Andrews asked what was to happen regarding the advice that councillors should not use their personal email addresses for council business. It was agreed to find out how many more email accounts can be set up from The Haseleys website and also whether there are any from Hugo Fox. H Harvey also asked whether there was the facility for using the "cloud" with Hugo Fox to store Parish Council information as a backup in case of problems with a computer. A Oughton agreed to look into this.

The Chairman reported that various white marks had appeared in Latchford Lane and Back Way where there were bad potholes. Unfortunately with the wet weather these have now all but disappeared. He also stated that SOHA were breaking the terms of their planning application for not stopping water coming onto the highway at the new affordable housing and was concerned about the exposed gas pipe.

H Harvey asked whether letters should be put through letter boxes regarding over hanging hedges in Back Way. A Oughton said that in Thame they had a general letter that they send out to residents and she would send it to H Harvey and he would put copies through letter boxes.

As the next meeting included the Annual Parish Meeting, J Simcox was asked to put something in The Haseleys to try to encourage residents to come to the meeting.

17/188 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 9 April which would include the Annual Parish Meeting and the following one on 14 May 2018, which would be the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, both at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

.....