

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY
PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18 MAY 2015 AT 7.50 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.

15/13 Public Discussion

There was no public discussion.

15/14 Apologies for absence were received from S Harrod.

The Chairman welcomed the new Parish Councillors and all signed their Acceptance of Office forms.

15/15 Election of Officers:

Chairman: D W Simcox; Proposer: E Spencer; Seconder: D Mann. Vote unanimous. The Chairman signed the acceptance of office form.

Vice Chairman: H Harvey; Proposer: A Sheppard; Seconder: E Spencer

Election of Representatives:

Village Hall – D Mann; Playing Fields E Spencer & H Harvey; Cross Field/School Garden E Spencer & J Andrews

Election of Liaison Officers:

Planning – A Sheppard; Footpaths: - A Sheppard; Allotments - K Sentance, Millennium Wood J Andrews, E Spencer & H Harvey; Transport: J Andrews; NAGs: as this does not have to be a Parish Councillor and N Nixey was happy to continue in this role, it was agreed that at present he should continue to represent the Parish.

15/16 K Sentance declared a personal interest in Item 15/19 on the agenda.

15/17 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2015 were confirmed and signed.

15/18 Matters arising

The clerk reported that a letter of thanks had been received from Victor Story with regard to the tree planting in St Peter's and also a letter of thanks from J Alexander for the donation towards the Haseley Windmill Trust. It was reported that the rubbish at the bottom of Arns Hill had been removed and CCTV signs put in place in a hope of deterring further problems of flytipping.

15/19 Planning

P15/S1376/HH Hillbrow, Rectory Road, Great Haseley

Conservatory

The Parish Council recommends refusal of this application on the grounds that this building sits in a prominent position surrounded on three sides by the conservation area and the new conservatory has UPVC windows. The Parish Council in principle does not have a problem with a conservatory on this site, just the construction material.

15/20 Responsible Financial Officer's report

The current account currently stands at £18,670.50 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,374.56. The following cheques were written: Colourplus £313.34; Stamps for The Haseleys £25.92; Heating for meeting £6.00; LCR subscription £17.00; Scion Estates Ltd £484.85; Grass cutting and tree work at St Peter's Church £2,480. A cheque was written, this will appear on the June agenda: R Mead Skip Hire £216.00; AON Insurance £404.06. No other cheques were written. The clerk received £490.87 income from *The Haseley* during the month of April.

As there are two new Councillors, the clerk had given them mandate forms for the Parish Council bank accounts. New regulations made it necessary for a resolution to be put in place that the two retiring members be removed from the mandate and two new ones added. The clerk would prepare this for ratification at the June meeting.

15/21 AON Insurance

The clerk had received the Insurance renewal from AON with an offer of a saving of 5% if the Parish Council agrees to enter into a three-year Long Term Agreement. Although it did not appear to be much of a saving on the current quotation, there was no guarantee that this would stay at this rate for three years. It was therefore agreed to take up this offer and a cheque was duly written.

15/22 Approval of accounts and annual return for 2014-15

P Cawdron had now undertaken the internal audit of the Parish Council accounts and produced a balance sheet for the year. This had been circulated to Parish Councillors and was discussed in detail. The Parish Council had received a clean bill of health.

The annual governance statement for the Annual Return together with the accounts for 2014-15 were then approved and ratified by the Parish Council. P Cawdron was thanked for all his hard work on producing the accounts over the years. These would now be sent to the Audit Commission for their audit once they had been on display for the parish to view.

15/23 Financial Regulations

Draft financial regulations had been distributed to the Parish Council prior to the meeting. These were then discussed in detail. The clerk was instructed to ascertain what the three policy documents mentioned under 1.1 were and to form a resolution for the next meeting. These new regulations were required to comply with the new Transparency code for Parish Councils.

15/24 New website

The clerk had been in touch with HugoFox who had been mentioned in an OALC newsletter as producing a template free of charge for Parish Council to produce their own website. This website is needed to put on all Parish Council documents in order to comply with the Transparency code. The clerk had also found out about a new domain name for this site and it was agreed that this should be GreatHaseleyPC.co.uk and the clerk was instructed to go ahead with this. This new website would be linked to the current one (thehaseleys.co.uk) but would be purely for Parish Council use only.

15/25 Reports from Committees

Footpaths – A Sheppard was given the information from N Nixey on footpaths and informed of a number of issues in the parish.

Village Hall – A very successful combined church and village hall committee had taken place and about £3,500 had been raised for the village hall. The windows are waiting to be painted.

Playing Fields – These had been cut recently but the area between the tennis courts and the fence was still not being cut by Scion. Scion to be informed of this.

Cross Field – The pedestrian gate is causing a problem as it is extremely stiff. The Chairman also said that the catch needed adjusting as it had been flagged up as a problem by RoSPA. This to be dealt with.

Transport – J Andrews reported that there is to be a Transport Reps meeting on 17 June. He also reported that that the dial-a-ride transport will no longer be funded by OCC in 2016 which probably means that it will stop. He said that the 124 service currently is Arriva but will be changing to Vale Travel.

15/26 Report from the District and County Councillor

As S Harrod was not present no reports were received from OCC or SODC.

15/27 Correspondence

A letter had been received from Ann Walker regarding the problem of cars in Great Milton near the Manoir. It was agreed to contact Great Milton Parish Council about this. The usual correspondence was distributed to the Parish Councillors.

15/28 Any other business

A Sheppard asked if she could attend the OALC training course for new Councillors and was informed that there was money in the budget for this. A request was made to have a map of the footpaths in the village put into The Haseleys. The clerk said that when it was put in previously, The Haseleys was A4 size, now it is A5 it will be more difficult but she would see if it is possible.

The Chairman said that he was concerned about the hawthorn bush that was hanging over the road, the bus stop timetable and sign at Hazelwood. He said that the clerk had spoken with contractors working on the site who had said they would pass it on to the owners but nothing to date had been done. If it was not dealt with shortly, the Parish Council would write to the owners as it is a hazard to pedestrians and road users.

The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting with the OCC Steward for the area along with other local Parish Councillors and was informed that the budget to repair small potholes was down from £2.5M to £1.5M. Budget to repair large potholes down from £1.5m to £0.5m. The Budget for grass cutting halved to £792k. This will mean that there will only be 2 cuts per year. Some Parish Councils have already taken responsibility for grass cutting; they get a grant from OCC based on the value of what OCC would have spent. There is no money in the budget for cutting back vegetation obscuring signs except at the specific request of the Police.

OCC are looking to make a 'Parish Offer' later in the year that will invite Parish Councils to take over responsibility for certain operations that OCC have undertaken in the past. The content of the offer has not been agreed upon yet but is likely to include grass cutting, sign cleaning and dealing with the owners of overgrown hedges. If successful, there could be further offers at a later date. Parishes might consider working with their neighbours to undertake various works more cost effectively. OCC will be offer advice, training and where there is money in OCC's budget for the item, there will be a grant to the Parish.

15/29 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 8 June and the following one on 13 July 2015 at 7.30pm. There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

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