

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY
PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 8 MAY 2017 AT 7.30 PM IN THE
VILLAGE HALL**

Present: D Simcox (Chairman); J Andrews; H Harvey; D Mann; E Spencer J Simcox, Clerk; S Harrod, District and County Councillor and no members of the public.

17/16 Election of Officers:

Chairman – D Simcox; Proposer: D Mann; Seconder: H Harvey, unanimous decision
Vice Chairman – H Harvey; Proposer: D Mann; Seconder: E Spencer, unanimous decision

Election of Representatives:

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

Election of Liaison Officers:

Planning - A Sheppard; Proposer: H Harvey ; Seconder : D Mann
Footpaths – E Spencer (temporary; Proposer: D Mann; Seconder: D Simcox
Allotments – J Andrews; Proposer:D Simcox; Seconder: E Spencer
Millennium Wood - J Andrews, E Spencer and H Harvey
Transport - J Andrews

The Chairman announced that this is the last time that he is prepared to stand as Chairman and will not be standing again for the Parish Council at the next elections in 2019. The clerk also announced that she wished to retire both from the post of clerk and Editor of the Haseleys but was prepared to work for another year until the Parish Council had found replacements for both positions.

17/17 Declaration of Casual Vacancy

Due to the relocation to Thame of K Sentance, there was now a vacancy on the Parish Council. SODC Electoral Services had been informed and the official notice will be in place until 22 May. If there are no calls for an election (which would cost the Parish Council probably about £2,000) then a vacancy can be advertised. A draft copy of an advertisement was circulated to the Parish Council and with an amendment will go into the June issue of The Haseleys if there is no call for an election.

17/18 Public Discussion

There was no public discussion.

17/19 Apologies for absence – A Sheppard

17/20 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

17/21 The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2017 were confirmed and signed after a slight amendment.

17/22 Matters arising

Discussion took place regarding the event at the Cross Field and a timetable was agreed. The clerk would write to those invited and organise tea and cake in the Village Hall. The

clerk said she also had second thoughts about the new bench for the Cross Field and felt that one with separate seats would make it more usable by disabled people. It was agreed that it should be purchased at a cost of £155 +delivery charge in time for the opening event. This would go on the agenda for the June meeting. The Chairman said that a reply had been received regarding the removal and lowering of the wall around the Old Institute. This was circulated for the Parish Council to read. He also put out for circulation the reply received regarding the Parish Council's concerns with One Oxfordshire.

17/23 Planning

P17/S1495/HH Rose Cottage, Rectory Road, Great Haseley

First floor rear extension to existing 3 bedroom cottage

The Parish Council Approved this planning application but commented that it should be local stone not Cotswold stone for the extension.

Abbey Farm, North Weston (1.5 extension) and Sands Farm, Great Haseley (Grain Store building) as agreed at April meeting were both no strong views and were ratified. It was subsequently deemed by SODC that planning permission was not required for the Grain Store at Sands Farm.

17/24 Responsible Financial Officer's report

The current account currently stands at £18,051.79 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,387.00 The following cheques were written: Windmill Landscapes (posts in Back Way) £648.00; AON (Insurance) £426.93; A S Mobbs & Co (material for footpath) £106.00; Reimbursement to D Simcox for padlock £13.99; Reimbursement to J Simcox for Domain name for Parish Council Website for two years 19.18; Mears Estates £348.00; Colourplus £330.33; Smarts Signs & Graphics £131.13 (50% of total). A cheque for Playdale for £4,037.94 was written between meetings and will appear on the agenda for June 2017.

It should be noted that the reimbursement to the clerk for the Parish Council Website appeared on the agenda as £15.98 but this should have been £19.18 as there was VAT on this invoice. There was no income during the month of April 2017.

17/25 To approve accounts and annual return for 2016-17

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 although there is some VAT to claim back as a result of the billing system undertaken by Allan Janes. The next VAT return will reflect this difference. It was also noted that a cheque that the Parish Council had written for the Village Hall had not been presented and D Mann said she would follow this up. The cheque would now be out of date and if the Village Hall wished to have the money they would have to ask again.

The Parish Council then agreed the accounts and the Annual Return and these will be ratified at the June meeting. Enormous thanks go to P Cawdron for his work on behalf of the Parish Council.

17/26 Response to the consultation for changes to the 30mph speed limit in Rectory Road, Great Haseley and London Road , Milton Common

The Parish Council were being consulted about the move of the 30mph speed limit in Rectory Road to take account of the affordable housing and the two new housing plots. It also was moving the speed limit at Milton Common to take account of the new house to be built there. The Parish Council had no problems with either of these changes.

17/27 Update on the SODC Local Plan

A Public Meeting had taken place organised by Haseley Brook Action Group and about 150 people attended. This was an excellent meeting and the organisers should be commended for their professionalism. The clerk had received a copy of the cut down version of the reply form to SODC and would circulate to the Great Haseley email alert members.

The Chairman circulated a draft of the Parish Council reply to the Local Plan and as it was six pages long, it was agreed that the Councillors should read it and inform the Chairman by Friday 12th in the evening what their comments are. These would then be taken into account and the reply sent off before the deadline.

17/28 Reports from Committees

Footpaths – It had been reported to the clerk that the footpath from the road from Little Haseley to Ditchend Farm towards Great Milton was in a very bad state due to dog faeces. The clerk agreed that she would contact the landowners and ask if a temporary sign could be put up. She also reported that dogs had been chasing sheep and the owner was unaware that farmers can shoot dogs if they are caught sheep (or cows) worrying. A note would be put in The Haseleys to draw this to people's attention.

Village Hall – It was reported that the heater in the Ladies toilet was lying on the floor but it was still connected to the electricity. D Mann would talk to the Village Hall Committee.

Playing Fields – It was noted that after the first cut of the Playing Fields four posts had been broken off. The clerk was asked to get new one put in place and also to ask Windmill Landscapes to straighten up a post that they had put in recently. E Spencer said that it had been asked if there could be new swings on the Playing Fields. This would be looked at but it was a matter of cost.

Cross Field – The new swings were now in place and much appreciated by the local children. A request to hold a fund raising fun day on the Cross Field was received to raise money for The Orchard preschool at Little Milton. The Parish Council discussed this and felt that this was not appropriate due to a number of reasons particularly as there are no parking facilities or toilet facilities.

Millennium Wood – The paths had been cut through but not in the correct places. The clerk agreed to send a copy to E Spencer who would ensure that Mears knew what they should be cutting.

Allotments – The clerk gave a folder of information to J Andrews regarding the allotments. It was agreed that arrangements should be made to safely dispose of the asbestos from the old shed and that a skip should be hired to get rid of all the remaining

accumulated rubbish from around the shed. J Andrews agreed to talk to the clerk regarding the allotments once he had gone through the folder of information.

17/29 Broadband speed in Little Haseley

The Chairman had received an email regard the poor broadband speed in Little Haseley and after discussion with S Harrod it was agreed that the Chairman would contact the resident with some information.

17/30 Report from the District and County Councillor

S Harrod said little had happened during the month due to the County Council elections. He said that due to the elections and the General Election, the decision regarding One Oxfordshire would be delayed by at least two months. The Chairman once again raised the issue of the lights on the bridge over the M40 at Milton Common and was told at OCC had still not appointed anyone to undertake this work. The Chairman also reported that there was a faulty manhole which could be dangerous if anyone stepped on it and had received various responses from OCC but it was still fixed. S Harrod asked the Chairman to forward the information to him and he would find out why nothing was being done about it.

17/31 Correspondence

The usual bag of correspondence was given to the Parish Councillors. The clerk had received an email from the Clerk of Cuddesdon and Denton Parish Council very concerned about the possibility of the Oxford-Cambridge expressway taking a southern route past Oxford which would run near our villages. It was agreed to pass this to Hbag to see whether they were aware of this and to ensure that all replied took this into consideration.

17/32 Any other business

H Harvey asked about the lights at Ariens (Countax) as there appeared to be on very late at night. E Spencer agreed to talk to them about this. He also asked if a good write up could be put in The Haseleys regarding the Hbag meeting together with a photo that he would provide. It had been reported that Japanese Knotweed was growing in the garden of 1 Mill Lane. It was agreed that the clerk should contact the owner of the property and ask them to get a specialist in to remove it urgently.

H Harvey asked whether as a result of the Chairman's statement that he did not wish to stand as Chairman next year, did it mean that the Vice Chairman would be expected to take over as due to his job he would be unable to commit to taking on the role. He was informed that all positions are up for 'election' each year so it would be for whoever wished to take on the role.

D Mann had been asked to get the hedge cut back around the 30mph speed limit sign. She agreed to talk to the tenants in the adjoining house about this. She also asked whether the Parish Council would support her in trying to get a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in place again. This had been tried before but not got very far. The Parish Council said they were happy for her to make some enquiries about this. She also asked if there could be adult 'play equipment' put on the playing fields. This had been looked at before but the equipment is usually very expensive. The clerk pointed out that there was information in one of the publications that is being circulated so she should look at that.

17/15 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 12 June and the following one on 10 July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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