

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2020 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 3 members of the public.

19/144 Public Discussion and Public Questions

A parishioner who lives on Back Way spoke regarding the deterioration of Back Way and to request that the Parish Council consider what actions it might take.

The parishioner gave a short history of Back Way. The last time any major repair had been undertaken was in June 2010 at a cost of £7,500. A committee of residents was formed to raise the money, contributions were also received from the Nursery School, the Pumpkin Show, the Horticultural Society and the Parish Council.

Following the repairs it was planned for residents of Back Way to continue to raise funds (to be held by the Parish Council) in order to carry out regular maintenance work. However, this did not happen. For the first few years a few residents did continue to fill the pot holes.

Back Way has deteriorated badly over the last six years and is not safe to walk or drive along. The main reason for the deterioration is the HGV traffic associated with the new building and development work that has taken place. Poor drainage adds to the problem together with the water leak. The installation of French drains may help elevate the drainage issues.

Back Way is not just used by the residents that live along it, it is also used by visitors to the windmill, glebe farm, millennium wood, the allotments, Miss Cross Field, the Chapel and refuse trucks emptying the bins of residents in Lewington Close.

Cllr Sheppard thanked the parishioner and said a member of the County Council's Highways team been asked to visit Back Way who confirmed that from the Council's perspective, with its designation as a footpath the surface was considered adequate and safe to use. The Parish Council had written to the various developers on different occasions and had not received any response.

It was agreed Back Way would be put on the agenda for discussion at the Parish Council meeting in February.

A member of The Haseleys editorial team addressed the Parish Council regarding the proposed separation of The Haseleys finances from the Parish Council accounts. A charity account will be opened by the team which will allow them to access all financial information related to The Haseleys more easily and quickly. Removing finances associated with The Haseleys will also reduce the Parish Council's annual Income / Expenditure below £25k which is the threshold over which Parish Council's are required by law to undergo an annual external audit which can prove costly. The Haseleys will not be registered for VAT and so invoices will not include a VAT element so reducing the cost of advertising to those end users not registered for VAT.

The proposal is for the Parish Council to transfer the money received from advertisements, less expenditure incurred, to The Haseleys new bank account on 31 March 2020. The editorial team will then apply to the Parish Council for a grant of £300 to cover additional costs, such as colour for village events and other content which has proved popular.

19/145 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

19/146 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Sheppard declared an interest in item 19/152 – Budget & Precept for 2020-21 related to The Haseleys and did not take part in discussion of this particular budget line.

Cllr Woodrow declared an interest in item 19/152 – Budget & Precept for 2020-21 related to the Village Hall and did not take part in discussion of this particular budget line.

19/147 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19/148 Matters Arising

The Chair reported the County Council had raised a Notice of Modification Order, the next formal step to be taken towards adding the footpath between Back Way and Rectory Road to the Definitive Map.

The Chair had circulated the recent letter from Robert Jenrick, MP, Secretary to State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to the Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council regarding the Local Plan 2034.

The Appeals related to the proposed traveller site at Tetsworth had been dismissed by the Planning Inspector mainly on issues related to landscaping and noise.

Cllr Pickett and the Clerk had submitted separate applications for funding from the District Councillor fund to purchase adult exercise equipment and additional dog waste bins for the village.

The Chair reminded all new Councillors to complete the identification checks required for them to be added as signatories to the Parish Council bank accounts.

Cllrs Spencer and Lindsay report a number of quotations had been obtained for replacement play equipment in Miss Cross Field.

Cllr Spencer reported the owner of the track up to the Playing Fields had agreed to fill some of the larger pot holes once the weather improved.

19/149 Planning Applications

P19/S4439/FUL - Barn at North Weston Farm, Shabbington Road, North Weston

Change of use of part of building to self-storage (B8) with external alterations via recladding and doors.

Resolved that the Parish Council fully support this application.

It was noted that the District Planning Authority had granted permission for planning application P19/S3260/FUL - Building adjoining Sands Farm, Rectory Road, Great Haseley - Replacement of existing building with new build dwelling with associated garden and new garage port (alternative to planning permission P19/S2211/FUL).

It was further noted that the new residential dwellings on Weston Lane, North Weston will be known as Water Meadow Cottage, Curlew Cottage and Pond View.

19/150 Payments

The following cheques were written as notified on the agenda: Postage (The Haseleys) £29.28, Colourplus £433.68, Citizens Advice £36.00, 3yr Service Agreement for the Church Clock £638.40, Parish Administration £499.56, HMRC £124.80, Postage (Parish Council) £20.00.

19/151 Financial Report

The balance on the Current Account was £16,625.23 and the Business Reserve Account £22,906.25. Income for the month of £792.37 had been received from advertisements in The Haseleys.

19/152 Budget & Precept 2020-21

The Clerk referred to the report circulated to Councillors. The draft budget had been discussed at the December meeting. Following which amendments had been made. Consideration was given to the three options set out in the report in relation to setting the Precept for 2020-21. Each line of expenditure and income was discussed and agreed.

Resolved that the 2020-21 Budget of £16,086 be approved.

For the last three years the Precept had been set against a deficit budget. For the current financial year this will result in a draw down on reserves of just over £3k. All agreed this was not sustainable in the long term and that this year a balanced budget at least must be agreed, meaning a spending budget less than last year, resulting in considerable debate about where savings could be made.

After discussion it was agreed to raise the Precept to £16,000, which equated to £62.97 per year for a Band D dwelling. In doing so this would result in a very small surplus for the year.

Resolved that £16,000 be raised for the Precept for 2020-21.

19/153 Community Infrastructure Levy

It was agreed to hold a consultation event at the Village Hall on Saturday 21 March 2020 to gather resident's views on the proposed infrastructure projects for the village to be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy.

19/154 Village Hall

Cllr Woodrow reported that the recent repairs to one of the dormer windows at the village hall had cost £920 (exc VAT). The Village Hall Committee had asked if the Parish Council would consider paying for the repairs.

Following discussion of the budget in item 19/152 above it was clear the Parish Council did not have surplus funds to pay for items of unplanned expenditure. After discussion it was agreed the funds to pay for the repairs will be taken from the £2,000 set aside for the village hall in the budget for 2019-20.

Resolved to pay for the repairs to a dormer window at the Village Hall at a cost of £920.00 exc VAT.

19/155 Emergency Plan

Consideration of the Emergency Plan was deferred to the next meeting.

19/156 Reports from Committees

Footpaths

Cllr Gheissari had the forms to add the footpath up to the Church to the Definitive Map and was gathering the information and signatories required for the application.

Village Hall

Cllr Woodrow reported there will be a pop-up pub and quiz night on 31st January 2020.

Playing Fields – nothing to report.

Miss Cross Field – nothing to report.

Millennium Wood – nothing to report.

Allotments – nothing to report.

Communications – nothing to report.

Environment

Cllr Gheissari reported she had chased up Biffa regarding the removal of the rubbish that had been fly tipped by the bus stop and will report the fly tipping just off the Thame Road.

19/157 Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Newton had given her apologies.

County Councillor Harrod had circulated his report in advance of the meeting. Work continued in preparation for setting the budget for 2020-21. Cllr Harrod confirmed the County Councillor Priority Fund will continue. The County Council, was waiting to see what South Oxfordshire District Council will do regarding the Local Plan.

19/158 Correspondence

The Correspondence Bag was circulated.

19/159 Information Exchange

Cllr Spencer reported the funeral of Pat Phillips will take place next week.

It was agreed to put an article in The Haseleys asking residents to be vigilant as people were knocking on doors requesting money. The police have been informed.

19/160 Next meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on 10 February 2020 and the following meeting on 9 March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm

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Chairman
10 February 2020