

MINUTES OF THE GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
11 JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

15/126 Public Discussion

There was no public discussion.

15/127 Apologies for absence were received from A Sheppard

15/128 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

15/129 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2015 were confirmed and signed.

15/130 Matters arising

The overgrowth had been cut back along Mill Lane so that it was now passable. J Andrews reported that it he had written to OCC on behalf of the Parish Council regarding the retention of bus subsidies but it was looking increasing like this was unlikely to happen.

15/131 Planning

P15/S3936 Land adjacent London Road Tetsworth Oxon OX9 7BB

Change of use from agricultural land to provide; Proposed traveller site with provision for twelve individual plots with individual parking, individual amenity, shared paddock / amenity space and bin storage areas.

The Chairman had attended a meeting with Tetsworth Parish Council and had put together a response to this application which had been circulated to the Parish Council. As the deadline for submission had been extended to 21 January, it was agreed that this would be posted by the clerk a couple of days before that date.

15/132 Responsible Financial Officer's report

The current account currently stands at £11,843.44 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,379.71 The following cheques were written: Clerk's salary (October – December 2015) £313.36; HMRC Tax on clerk's salary £78.20; Stamps for The Haseleys £32.40; Heating £6.00; J Gostick £20.00; SODC election costs £1,081.99. Cheques written at the December meeting but not on the agenda: Help for Heroes (in memory of D Pickett) £50. The following cheques were written and would appear on the February agenda: Colourplus £313.34; J Green (hedge cutting) £45.00; Woodrow Joinery (Christmas tree) £25.00. No other cheques were written. The clerk received £1,048.27 income from *The Haseleys* during the months of December and had also received a cheque from Towergate Insurance regarding the refund on the playing fields insurance.

After further consultation, the clerk had found that under the new transparency code the Parish Council did not need an external auditor. However they had to complete an Annual Return but as yet the clerk had not received information on where the Annual Return would come from and where it should go to. She was awaiting a reply from OALC regarding this point.

The clerk confirmed that the precept form had been returned to SODC as agreed at the December meeting. She also informed the Parish Council that D Hamblin of 63 Latchford Lane had checked all invoices against cheques written and is happy to continue to act in this capacity. She was thanked for her generous offer.

15/133 Ratification of the Budget and setting of the precept

The clerk had made the changes suggested by the Parish Council at its December meeting. The budget was then ratified and the precept set at £11,000.

15/134 Purchase of a defibrillator

The clerk had been in contact with Great Milton who do not have a defibrillator and Little Milton who are in the process of funding raising to buy three. The clerk spoke with the Clerk from Little Milton who said that the village as a whole had instigated the need for defibrillators and a group of people were funding raising for these, not the Parish Council. He said it was felt that this is the best way forward to ensure that the parish was involved with them and therefore took responsibility for them. The clerk offered to put something in The Haseleys asking if people wanted a defibrillator in Great Haseley and she would also produce some flyers which she would try to get round to various groups of people to get opinions.

15/135 Reports from Committees

Footpaths – As A Sheppard was absent, the Chairman reported that notification had been received from OCC to regularise the footpaths across The Oxfordshire Golf Course. He also said that he had received a telephone call from J Hayward suggesting that he may remove the fence between the two fields which has the footpath from Latchford Lane to the Church crossing them. The Chairman pointed out that he did not think this would be a good idea as there would be no marker to show where the footpath went off at an angle and he would have walkers tramping all over his field. He also said he was unhappy with the removal of this as although there was no hedge as such, it was a green corridor for small mammals and others to use which would be lost if he made the two fields into one.

Village Hall –The Village Hall Committee had agreed to take on the Queen's 90th Birthday street party but asked if the Parish Council would be willing to make a donation towards tea/coffee, milk and sugar. The Chairman said that there was an item in the budget so this should not be a problem.

Playing Fields – The Parish Council was concerned that after the Pavilion had been shut up for the winter with the water switched off, someone had been in, switched it back on and left it on. As a result, the Playing Fields Committee was looking at changing the lock so that this could not happen again. The Chairman suggested that they get a digital lock which would be better as people could not then borrow a key and then have it copied. The Chairman asked the two members of the Parish Council whether a Playing Fields Committee meeting had been set up yet but E Spencer said it had not but would take place soon.

Transport – As things were now worse at OCC as they had been informed that a further £20M would be cut from their government funding, it was highly improbable that bus subsidies would remain. J Andrews had received a number of communications about it

and would be attending a meeting at Horspath and also one with OCC and a representative of the bus company. After much discussion, it was agreed that should he be asked at the meeting with OCC whether the parish was prepared to give a donation towards a subsidy to retain at least the 103 service, the Parish Council would allocate £,1000.

Cross Field – J Andrews reported that at the weekend he had seen a family with two dogs on the Cross Field even though there is a sign saying no dogs. By the time he had reached the field they had gone. It was agreed that a new sign, a little larger, should be purchased to try to discourage people taking their dogs into this area.

The clerk reported that she had received a telephone call from Mrs Pickett saying that it had been David's wish that a fence be installed between the Cross Field and the allotments to stop dogs entering this way paid for by the Pumpkin Show money. This was discussed but it was felt that as the lease was up this year it was felt that it would not be a good idea to invest more money in the site until the field belonged to the village. The clerk would talk to Mrs Pickett about this.

Millennium Wood – E Spencer said that four stakes for the young trees had been broken. It was agreed that she should get new ones and the Parish Council would reimburse her for them.

15/136 Report from the District and County Councillor

S Harrod said that most of the items that he was going to discuss ie the extra £20M less fund for OCC had ready been discussed. It also reported that South and Vale were top in the country for recycling and everyone should be congratulated. His reports were circulated along with the usual magazines.

The Chairman then asked if something could be done about the lighting on the bridge over the M40. These lights had now been out for a considerable amount of time and they have been reported on fixmystreet twice and nothing has happened. S Harrod said he would see what he could do.

The Chairman said that he was concerned about the invoice received from SODC for the parish elections. It amounted to 10% of the parish precept and seemed that it was very undemocratic as in future parishes would be tempted to make sure no election took place to save money. S Harrod suggested that he write to the Chief Executive about this and he agreed to do so.

15/137 Correspondence

The clerk had received a request from the Pickett family to have David's ashes scattered on the Millennium Wood and also to put a seat in memory of David facing the Windmill. This was discussed and decided that it would not be a problem.

15/138 Any other business

The Chairman reported that the floodlighting at the Golf Club had now been resolved but there are a lot of floodlights at Farol which they do not have planning consent for. It was agreed to be even handed with all and this should be reported to the Enforcement team.

15/139 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 8 February and the following one on 14 March 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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