

**MINUTES OF THE GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY**  
**14 DECEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 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 one member of the public.

**15/108 Public Discussion**

There was no public discussion.

15/109 Apologies for absence were received from S Harrod

15/110 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

15/111 The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2015 were confirmed and signed.

**15/112 Matters arising**

OCC had responded to the query from the Parish Council regarding the walls at the entrance to Hazelwood. They said that they did not have a problem with the encroachment on to the highway land.

**15/113 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 Parish Council discussed this application at length and recommended refusal on the following grounds: The site does not accord with a number of SODC's planning policies in both the Local Plan and the Core Strategy. The site is not one of the possible listed sites in the Local Plan 2031-Refined Options; it does not meet the criteria for siting of a new settlement on a number of grounds including not being part of an established community but set on its own with no real chance of integration; noise pollution from the M40 and the lack of spaces at Tetsworth School for children from the site.

**P15/S3222/HH Back Way, Great Haseley**

The temporary demolition of an existing stone boundary wall and refurbishment of an existing outbuilding (Part retrospective) – The Parish dealt with this application via email and telephone calls and had no strong views. However, they felt that the rebuilt wall must be constructed in such a manner and of materials so as to match the remaining wall to the site that also fronts onto Back Way. SODC have now granted permission.

**15/114 Responsible Financial Officer's report**

The current account currently stands at £11,005.76 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,379.06 The following cheques were written: Stamps for The Haseleys £25.92; Heating £6.00; Colourplus £355.11; Carmellamedia £70.00. Cheques written at the November meeting but not on the agenda: Oxford Oak Tree Surgery £300; Scoops for salt bins £4.98. Cheques written after the November meeting: AON (insurance for the playing fields) £88.96 and Help for Heroes £50.00 in memory of David Pickett. No other cheques were written. The clerk received £285.60 income from *The Haseleys* during the months of November.

The clerk provided a letter to the Parish Council stating that she wished to opt out of the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme.

The clerk reported that the Playing Fields insurance had been cancelled and added to the Parish Council insurance for £88.96 (part year). E Lowry had been in touch with Towergate and a cheque should be coming for the Parish Council for £364.58, although £203.79 had been deducted for recoupment of their commission.

#### **15/115 Future audit arrangements**

The clerk had received notification from OALC that they needed a response from the Parish Council by 31 January 2016 whether they wished to take up the offer of having an annual audit done by NALC or they wished to opt out and go with someone else. The Clerk was asked to find out what the possible fees were and a decision would be made at the January meeting.

#### **15/116 Budgets and precept**

The clerk had circulated a draft budget to the Parish Council leaving the precept as current ie £11000. A number of items were then added to the budget which would give a deficit of £6010 which was in line with recommendations from the auditors. The budget would be ratified at the January meeting.

The question of the website was raised on budgets and it was agreed that H Harvey would draft an email regarding the future of the website.

#### **15/117 Purchase of a defibrillator**

The clerk had received three quotations, all very similar but it was agreed that she should contact adjoining parishes to ask where they obtained theirs from. It was also agreed that as there was another round of grants from SODC starting 1 February that an application should be put together to try to get at least some of it from another source.

### **Reports from Committees**

**Footpaths** – The footpath in Mill Lane was blocked due to a fallen tree that is covered in ivy. H Harvey agreed to try to deal with this. A Sheppard said that she had reported the missing sign to OCC at the bottom of the baulk.

**Village Hall** –The Winter Ball had been a great success making a profit of £1770 and the Farmers' market had also been well attended. The Village Hall Committee had agreed to take on the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday street party.

**Playing Fields** – This was dealt with under a separate item.

**Transport** – J Andrews said that the consultation regarding bus subsidies had now finished and was disappointed to now learn that it is recommended that all subsidies would be removed. It will go to Committee in January for a final decision. J Andrews will write on behalf of the Parish Council urging OCC to try to retain some bus subsidies.

**Millennium Wood** – Thanks go to H Harvey for cutting the rides through the wood and hedge has now been cut

### **15/119 Management of the Playing Fields**

E Lowry outlined the current situation stating that he was Treasurer and was happy to continue and the current financial state was OK and the pavilion had recently been painted. Michael and Margaret Howlett were happy to take bookings for a year. It was agreed that a Committee meeting was needed to let all parties know what was happening and the Parish Council representatives on the committee would organise this. The Chairman said that an email address as part of the package from the website hosting could be organised and it was agreed that this would help. It was felt that many people in the village did not know what an asset the Playing Fields are and they are very under used. An advertisement would go in The Haseleys to try to bring things to everyone's attention.

### **15/120 Maintenance of the Millennium Wood**

It was agreed to have the same number of cuts during next year but not fixing the dates to take account of the growing seasons. It was also agreed to look at the trees next year to see whether any needed pruning.

### **15/121 Update on affordable housing**

The clerk had received a telephone call from Craig Dransfield (SOHA) with the following information:

SOHA are in final negotiations with the landowner for the purchase of the land. The scheme will be for:

|                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 x 1 bed houses/flats | for rent                     |
| 1 x 2 bed houses       | for rent or shared ownership |
| 1 x 3 bed house        | for shared ownship           |

This is the recommendation from the first survey which took place in 2010. The second survey recommended 1 x 1 bed bungalow, 1 x 1 bed house, flat or bungalow, 8 x 2 bed houses and 2 x 2 bed bungalows.

The reasons for not building the recommended number in the 2014 survey are:

The smaller scheme does not have to go before the Committee to get funding approval. The larger scheme would need their consent and the opinion is that approval would not be forthcoming for such a large build in a small village with no facilities.

SOHA have agreement in principle with SODC for planning of the smaller development. For the larger one, it would be necessary to go back to SODC to get their approval for a larger development which could take a long time.

SOHA do not build bungalows as they are considered too expensive on land and the build is nearly as expensive as a house which takes up less space.

The Parish Council was asked to support the planning when it comes through for their views and also asked to see if others in the parish could be persuaded to write offering their support

It was agreed that this information would be put on village notice boards and on the webpage..

**15/122 Report from the District and County Councillor**

S Harrod said that OCC was still trying to balance its budget and therefore little else was happening. He had sent a report for both OCC and SODC and these were being circulated.

**15/123 Correspondence**

The clerk had received a letter from the Lord –Lieutenant of Oxfordshire regarding the forthcoming celebration for Her Majesty the Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday encouraging parishes to organize street parties in conjunction with the church. It was agreed that the village hall committee should contact St Peter’s and make sure that things were not being duplicated. The usual correspondence was distributed to the Parish Councillors.

**15/124 Any other business**

The chairman said that he had noticed that flytipping had once again appeared in the village. The clerk had written and reported it.

He then wished the Parish Council and Happy Christmas and a peaceful New year.

15/125 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 11 January and the following one on 8 February 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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