

**MINUTES OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.30PM VIA ZOOM**

**Present:** Cllrs A Sheppard (Chair), D Lindsay, C Pickett, E Spencer, P Woodrow, A Oughton (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

**20/71 Public Discussion and Public Questions**

A member of the public had noticed an increase in speeding vehicles along Back Way since completion of the recent work. He had discussed the issue with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) who had not shown an interest and reported it to Thames Valley Police. He felt options to encourage vehicles to slow down were limited but that something had to be done to protect pedestrians who use the track. Back Way was not a thoroughfare and vehicles should only use it to gain access to properties along it.

Regarding any future projects that may impact a number of residents, the parishioner asked the Parish Council, as part of their due diligence, to ensure a group of residents spoke on behalf of all that may be impacted by the project.

Toby Garfitt spoke regarding arrangements for Remembrance this year. Current COVID-19 restrictions prevented no more than six gathering at the war memorial. As an alternative St Peter's church would like to offer to hold the ceremony at the church door, with 30 people socially distanced inside the front part of the churchyard. The church service will follow immediately and wreaths taken to the war memorial afterwards.

It is Great Milton's turn to have the Service of Remembrance at 11am, so Great Haseley's service will be at 9.30am. Over the years the time has alternated between the villages. In 2018 for the centenary of the Armistice both villages held a Service at 11am. However, it was agreed 2018 should not set a precedent for future years.

A parishioner raised the following points:

Firstly, the tap at the allotments had been changed. When the water was laid to the allotments the agreement was that a 'push and hold' tap was installed so water would not be wasted. By changing the tap and allowing people to put hoses onto it means only one person can use the tap at a time and with water conservation upper most in people's minds it did not seem right to change the type of tap originally installed.

The Mill Lane street sign has been dug up and removed and is now leaning on the other side of the road, and needs fixing. When the affordable housing was built it was agreed that the Rectory Road sign should be moved. The resident requested the street sign be reinstalled beyond the affordable housing.

Broadband, two or three years ago there was an application to install a green cabinet serving Latchford Lane end of the village but this had not arrived. Residents in Little Haseley have fibre to premises but nothing is happening in Latchford Lane. Can the Parish Council investigate what the proposed timescale is for provision of fibre to premises broadband?

David Simcox said he was happy to put the road closure signs in place if the Parish Council decide to hold the Remembrance Service at the war memorial. However, this will entail a small cost of between £10-£15 to print the signs.

A resident raised concern regarding parking. Last Sunday a fire engine had difficulty passing parked cars at the pinch point along Rectory Road. The width of Rectory Road at The Plough is 5m, 22 paces towards Horse Close the width reduces to 4.85m and a further 22 paces to 4.55m. Vehicles parked at the narrowest point create problems for emergency service vehicles to pass. The Parish Council agreed to contact the Fire Liaison Officer to arrange a site visit to discuss.

## **20/72 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Cllr McGuirk (Business).

Cllr Sheppard was on holiday but joined the meeting via zoom. Cllr Lindsay chaired the meeting.

## **20/73 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

Cllr Spencer declared an interest in item 20/80 – Back Way and planning application P20/S3462/DIS and did not take part in discussion or vote on these items.

Cllr Woodrow declared an interest in planning application P20/S3293/HH and did not take part in discussion or vote on this item.

## **20/74 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **20/75 Matters Arising**

Cllrs Sheppard and Woodrow had met with OCC Highways regarding work to the aprons at each end of Back Way and the ‘triangle’ opposite the Village Hall. The OCC officer explained that due to COVID-19 the County Council had a severe shortfall in funding and this work would not be considered until the new financial year and then would not be a priority.

Cllrs Lindsay, McGuirk and Sheppard had submitted responses to the planning consultations as agreed at the meeting in September. The responses had been circulated to Councillors. The letter to John Howell, from all local parishes opposed to the Chalgrove Airfield planning application has been sent.

The Clerk is in communication with the contractor who will take over emptying dog waste bins to chase the contract and references. The deadline by which the contract needs to be signed has been extended to allow all the necessary checks and paperwork to be completed.

Cllr Sheppard has spoken with OCC regarding replacement of the broken litter bin in Rectory Road.

Cllr Woodrow has applied hazard tape to the defibrillator casing at the Village Hall to make it more visible.

## **20/76 Planning Applications**

### **P20/S3259/LDE – 21 Little Haseley**

Occupation of building in breach of agricultural occupancy condition attached to planning permission.

**The application was noted.**

### **P20/S3293/HH – The School House, Rectory Road**

Demolition of existing garage at the front, erection of single storey extension (in place of garage), side extension to first floor, loft conversion and removal of existing render to all elevations.

**Resolved to support the application**

**P20/S3244/FUL - Land to the North West of Stoke Talmage, Stoke Talmage**

The construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm and associated infrastructure, including inverters, substation compound, security cameras, fencing, access tracks and landscaping.

**Resolved to support the application**

**Comment:** The proximity to Stoke Grange was noted, a greater distance between the property and solar farm recommended and sufficient landscaping to be provided as a condition to effectively screen Stoke Grange from views of the development.

**P20/S3245/FUL - Harlesford Farm near Tetsworth**

The construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm and associated infrastructure, including inverters, substation compound, security cameras, fencing, access tracks and landscaping.

**Resolved to object to the application**

Concerns about the cumulative effect of having two solar farms in such close proximity and of such scale, effect on Public Rights of Way and visual intrusion.

**P20/S3481/FUL - Rycote Lane Farm, Rycote Lane, Milton Common**

Grain store with turning area.

**Resolved to support the application**

**P20/S3383/HH – 27 Rectory Road**

Proposed first floor rear extension.

**Resolved to support the application**

**P20/S3462/DIS - Winsey View Farm, Rectory Road**

Discharge of condition 3 - contamination on application ref. P19/S2194/N4B Change of use and associated operations to convert existing agricultural building to a dwelling house.

**The application was noted.**

It was noted that the District Planning Authority has granted permission for the following application:

**P20/S1175/HH & P20/S1779/LB – 5 Rectory Road**

Proposed side infill single level extension shadowed away from original thatched property. Proposed adjustments to garage with barn style roof additional window and external door (as amended by drwng no.s Option 3 PP06 Rev A, PP07 Rev A and Option 3 PP09 Rev A to correct roof light omission on outbuilding received on 7 July 2020 and drwng no.s PP-009B and PP-005C to relocate door from side to rear elevation received on 21 August 2020 and drwng no. Option 3 PP06-B to correct missing doorway received on 2 September 2020.

**20/77 Local Plan**

It was noted the consultation on the proposed main modifications to the emerging Local Plan runs until midnight on Monday 2 November 2020. It was agreed Cllrs Lindsay, McGuirk and Sheppard will draft and submit a response to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

**20/78 Financial Report**

The Clerk presented the financial report which covered income and expenditure to 30 September 2020, the balance on the Current Account was £22,690.34 and the Business Reserve Account £36,315.38. The main increase on the Current Account being receipt of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Precept.

The Clerk reported that to 30 September actual spend was in line with 2020-21 budget with the exception of the increased cost of dog waste bin emptying.

## **20/79 Payments**

The following cheques were written as notified on the agenda: £4,200 Hazell & Jefferies, £6,274.44 Fresh Air Fitness, £498 Ridgeway Rural Services, £611.06 Parish Administration, £152.60 HMRC.

The Clerk reported receipt of £500 grant from OCC towards payment of the Hazell & Jefferies invoice was outstanding but that OCC had been in contact and the payment would be made shortly. It was agreed to go ahead and pay the invoice.

It was noted a cheque had been written for £330.00 to Millview Garden Centre to purchase daffodil bulbs as agreed at the meeting in September.

## **20/80 Back Way**

Discussion took place as to how best to discourage vehicles from speeding along Back Way. It was noted that Cllr Sheppard had cleaned all the signs.

Options included a letter drop to residents along Back Way asking them to remind visitors to proceed slowly, that Back Way is a footpath and to be mindful of pedestrians, including children who might be using the track.

Some investigation had been made into purchasing appropriate signage, in particular to raise awareness of children and pedestrians and to slow down. The signs were reasonably priced and easy to order. Cllr Sheppard will ask the Rights of Way Officer for their thoughts when they next visit the site.

**Resolved to allocate £100 towards a letter drop to all residents on Back Way and to purchase signs to dissuade drivers from speeding.**

## **20/81 IT Infrastructure**

Cllr Lindsay had carried out some initial investigations into the Parish Council's existing IT and future requirements for 2021 and beyond. The Parish Council currently paid for two domain names; [www.thehaseleys.co.uk](http://www.thehaseleys.co.uk) and [www.greathaseleyparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.greathaseleyparishcouncil.co.uk). Hosting fees are paid to a company to provide emails and the Parish Council website. There was huge duplication in terms of communication.

Cllr Lindsay will provide proposals, including confirmed costings to a future meeting for discussion.

## **20/82 Faster Broadband**

It was agreed to consult with residents to find out who is interested in the Community Super-fast Broadband scheme. An article will be put in The Haseleys asking those interested to email the Clerk.

## **20/83 Little Haseley**

It was agreed the Parish Council will write expressing thanks to the longstanding family who have contributed greatly to the parish community over many years and are moving.

## **20/84 Casual Vacancy**

The Clerk reported the Notice of Casual Vacancy had been displayed on the parish noticeboards on 23 September 2020. There then followed a period of 14 days (not including weekends) during which residents may write to the District Council to request an election.

If an election is not called the Parish Council can move to Co-opt a new Councillor onto the Council. A draft advertisement for the vacancy has been circulated. The proposed procedure and timescale for Co-option was agreed.

#### **20/85 Parish Administration**

It was agreed to increase in the Clerk's salary by 2.75%, in line with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) recommendation. This will be backdated to 1 April 2020.

#### **20/86 Remembrance Sunday**

It was agreed the Parish Council will take up St Peter's kind offer (see item 20 / 71) to host the Service of Remembrance on Sunday 8 November at the church door at 9.30am. Wreaths will be moved to the war memorial following the Service.

#### **20/87 Reports from Committees / County and District Councillors**

County Cllr Harrod reported his thoughts on the planning applications for the solar farms. He had attended a number of presentations from the developer and felt it was something to be encouraged dependent on the size and scale. The solar farms will be reasonably well hidden by landscaping and make a positive contribution towards moving to greener energy. Cllr Harrod has been assured there is no link between the solar farms and the possible future development of Harrington.

Cllr Harrod had little further to report from that already sent to Councillors via email. The County Council were budget planning over the next few months with pressure to reduce costs and expenditure. Through reassessment of this year's budget the Council had managed to save £15m without cutting services. The exception will be in social care which has already seen an increase in assessments, the cost of which has been built into this year's revised budget and will be in the 2021-22 budget.

Cllr Harrod expressed his sympathies with Back Way residents regarding speeding vehicles but there was little Highways can do as Back Way is not an adopted road.

District Councillor Newton reported she was concerned at the sheer scale of the two the proposed solar farms. At the meeting last month, Tetsworth Parish Council were minded not to object to the Harlesford application.

The District Council had revised their budget for this year due to the additional costs around COVID-19 and agreed the £1m shortfall will be met from reserves.

Cllr Newton had also signed the letter to John Howell re the Chalgrove Airfield application. Cllr Newton felt there was little John Howell could do to intervene but could have influence regarding implementation of associated infrastructure. SODC planning department have confirmed the Chalgrove Airfield application will not be considered at Committee until April 2021.

Cllr Harrod added that OCC Highways were looking at the Chalgrove application and what Conditions should be required upfront to mitigate the impact of construction traffic on the surrounding area.

**Footpaths, Village Hall, Playing Fields, Miss Cross Field – Nothing to report**

**Millennium Wood** – Cllr Spencer expressed thanks, on behalf of the Parish Council, to Mr Newell who had donated two trees which will be planted in the next couple of days. Anyone else wishing to donate a tree(s) would be welcome.

**Communications, Environment, Allotments** – Nothing to report.

**20/88 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**20/89 Information Exchange**

Nothing to report.

**20/90 Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed the next meeting will be held on Monday 9 November 2020 and the following meeting on 14 December 2020 commencing at 7.30pm.

The agenda for the meeting will be published on the Parish Council's website and will contain the link and information necessary for Councillors and Members of the Public to join the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed 9.25pm

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Chairman  
9 November 2020