

MINUTES OF THE GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
14 MARCH 2016 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 no members of the public.

15/157 Public Discussion

There was no public discussion.

15/158 Apologies for absence were received from S Harrod.

15/159 There were no declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

15/160 The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2016 were confirmed and signed.

15/161 Matters arising

J Andrews reported that he had written to Heyfordian regarding the proposed new bus timetable but as yet had not received any reply. The Chairman had received a reply regarding election costs but felt that it missed the point of the argument. The clerk had spoken with SoHa who informed her that they now had permission to go ahead with the affordable housing and once the architect had come up with some plans they would be put before the Parish Council for their approval.

The clerk had received a call regarding the stone for Dale Gostick asking for it to be removed from her garden. E Spencer agreed to talk to J Gostick to get it put in place. The Chairman reported that he had repaired the 30mph road sign near Winsey View and the signs at the entrance to the village in Thame Road.

The litterblitz has now been done and most areas of the two villages have been cleaned. H Harvey reported that he had been informed that the old School had been purchased by someone from Aylesbury and they were planning to put two houses on the site and keep the Old Institute as office space.

15/162 Planning

P16/S0631/LB Vine Cottage, 23 Rectory Road, Great Haseley

Re-pointing of two chimneys, replacement of two lower storey windows, removal of buttress to rear of property and re-pointing of external stonework.

The Parish Council recommends that this application should be approved.

The planning application for a traveller's site on the A40 had been rejected by SODC which was good news. The clerk reported that she had written to the Enforcement team in January regarding the lights at Farol and having received no reply, has contacted them again. She also received complaints from the residents of Milton Common.

15/163 Responsible Financial Officer's report

The current account currently stands at £10,508.00 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,380.97 The following cheques were written: Stamps for The Haseleys £25.92; Heating £6.00; Colourplus £330.35; Reimbursement for D Simcox for fixings for road signs £11.26; Sylva Consultancy £750.00; shelving for Archive Store £74.42; OPFA

£40.00; Community First (ORCC) £35.00; OALC Subscription £133.07. Cheques written at the March meeting but not on the agenda: SODC Dog Bins £100.46; LCR Subscription £17.00. These will appear on the agenda for April. No other cheques were written. The clerk received £157.28 income from *The Haseleys* and a donation from filming of £500 during the month of February.

15/164 Purchase of a defibrillator

The Chairman reported that the clerk had started to fill in the necessary information to obtain a grant from SODC to find that the lowest limit for a grant was £1,000 and the amount needed for one defibrillator was in the region of £1,500 so that the 50% grant was below the amount we could claim for. As a result, it was decided to try for a grant for two defibrillators, one to be put on the side of the Village Hall and one on the Pavilion at the Playing Fields. It was also reported that a number of people in the village had said they would be prepared to give a donation towards a defibrillator and H Harvey suggested that when approaching these people for their donation, they should be asked whether they would be prepared to pay, say £5 annually to go towards the ongoing running costs.

15/165 Work on trees in Back Way and the Playing Fields

The report had been received from Sylva Trees regarding the work that was necessary on the trees that were the responsibility of the Parish Council. It was agreed that the clerk should try to get four quotations for the work and then the Parish Council could decide which work should be undertaken as a matter of priority. E Spencer said that the electricity board cut some of her trees where they were causing a problem with overhead cables and it was suggested that they should be contacted to try to get some of the work done to cut the cost for the Parish Council.

15/166 Possible changes to governance of Oxfordshire

A number of papers had come out from both OCC and the District Councils regarding possible changes in the governance of Oxfordshire. OCC were proposing a unitary authority, with or without Oxford City Council and the District Council were proposing to have five unitary authorities which would cover Oxfordshire and some parts of the adjoining counties. This was discussed but as nothing had come out from central government on whether Oxfordshire could become a Unitary Authority or not, it was felt that not much could be decided. Once clarification had been received, this issue needed to be discussed again.

15/167 Proposal by OCC for Parish Council to undertake some highway services

This subject had been discussed at a previous meeting and now a few more details were coming out from OCC as to what services they wish to pass on to the Parish Councils. This was discussed and it was felt that whilst at the moment there may be money come from OCC to undertake the work, it was felt that in a few years time this would cease and the Parish Council would be left to foot the bill. Also there is the issue of liability should anyone get hurt or damage to vehicles etc. It was unanimously agreed that this is something that the Parish should not take on and should be left to OCC to undertake the work.

15/168 Updating of the Community Plan

K Sentance asked if the Community plan could now be updated as it was several years old and there were a number of things that had been achieved. It was felt that it should

not be published in paper copy again, but updates to be put on the web, thus meaning it did not incur extra costs. This would be looked at and discussed at a future meeting.

An email tree had been suggested as part of the Community Plan and the clerk said that she had a large number of email addresses of residents and was prepared to undertake this. However it was necessary to ask everyone if they wished their names to go forward for this use. It would however be done in such a way that limited people could see the list of contact details. It was suggested that more than one person had access to the list in order that people could be kept informed at all times.

15/169 Reports from Committees

Footpaths – A Sheppard reported that she had been instructed by OCC Footpaths to put a notice either end of the footpath from Lewington Close to Back Way stating that it was to become an official path and if any “owner” came forward to complain, then this would be taken into account.

Village Hall – The flat roof over the Ladies Toilets in the Village Hall was leaking and needs to be repaired. New small round tables had been purchased and the clerk asked D Mann if they old Christmas Tree and the remains of the Christmas greenery could be removed from the back of the Village Hall.

Playing Fields –The Playing Fields Committee had an AGM and E Spencer was made Chairman. It had been agreed that this should be an annual event and not as in the past, taking place only occasionally. The meeting had been well attended and various matters concerning the playing fields had been agreed. H Harvey asked what the Parish Council insurance covered and whether it was necessary for the cricket club to take out separate insurance. The clerk agreed to find out for the next meeting but was sure that it did not cover cricket matches but only the Pavilion, the grounds and public liability for the Parish Council members. A post around the car park had broken off and the clerk would get it replaced.

Transport – J Andrews said there was nothing further to report on transport.

Cross Field – The Chairman reported that the clerk had been in touch with the solicitor regarding the ending of the lease for the Cross Field. She was informed that she would receive a letter giving details of what it is necessary for the Parish Council to do and the possible costs. It was felt that it would probably be necessary to pay for both sets of legal fees plus land registry fees.

15/170 Report from the District and County Councillor

As S Harrod was not present he gave no verbal report. However monthly reports had been received which had been circulated to the Parish Council.

15/171 Correspondence

The clerk had received notification of a Compost giveaway weekend and she would put notice of this in The Haseleys. She had also received an email from a company who undertake weed control but it was felt that this was not necessary at the present time. The usual correspondence was circulated.

15/172 Any other business

The Chairman reported that he had received a telephone call from J Hayward regarding the problem of rabbits and that he wished to take steps to remove them and was asking permission to go on to the Playing Fields. The problem had been discussed at the Playing Fields meeting and so E Spencer agreed to talk to Mr Hayward in order to coordinate activities.

It was suggested that a number of litter pickers should be purchased by the Parish Council in order to help people on the annual event. The clerk would get some prices for these and inform the Parish Council at its next meeting.

The clerk then asked all the Parish Councillors whether their register of interest details as found on the SODC website are up to date. E Spencer asked for a form to be sent to her in order that hers could be updated.

The clerk was asked to contact Nicholsons Nurseries for some ideas for a tree to be planted on the Playing Fields to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. D Mann said that she was sure that the cracks were opening up at the base of the War Memorial. This would be looked into and discussed at a later date.

15/173 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 11 April which would include the Annual Parish Meeting and the following one on 9 May 2016 which would be the AGM of the Parish Council, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

.....