

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** D Simcox (Chairman); J Andrews; H Harvey; D Lindsay; D Mann; A Sheppard; E Spencer; C Newton, District Councillor; J Simcox, Clerk and no members of the public.

**17/106 Public Discussion**

There were no public present.

17/107 Apologies for absence - S Harrod, County Councillor.

17/108 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

17/109 The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2017 were confirmed and signed.

**17/ 110 Matters arising**

J Andrews asked if there had been any further problems with blocking of Back Way. The clerk reported that there had and contact had been made with Mark Stone Homes and it was hoped that things would improve. The Chairman reported that OCC had instructed OnSite to attempt to clear all the drains in Great Haseley but they had failed with the drain near 42 Thame Road which required road closure and they did not have the remit to undertake this.

The clerk had received a telephone call from a possible candidate for the clerk's post who lived in Chinnor. The Chairman had received an email from the Thame Town Clerk offering to supply a clerk but the Parish Council felt they would rather have someone from the parish if possible. The clerk was pursuing a couple of possible people to see if they would be interested.

The clerk had received a response for a call for a new Editor for The Haseleys and was meeting with a group of people who were interested to outline what the job entailed.

The Chairman had met with the Woodrows and agreed a site for the Owl box in Back Way. Permission had been received to cut down the dead chestnut tree on the allotments and this would be undertaken during the winter months. A letter had now been received from L Woodrow accepting the terms and conditions for the placement of a shed on the allotments.

The clerk had requested a meeting with HCA (the people behind the possible Chalgrove airfield development) to express the Parish Council's concerns on traffic and noise pollution. The clerk had requested the definitive footpath maps for the parish and once these had been received, she would pass them to D Lindsay for his safekeeping.

**17/111 Planning**

The Chairman said that he had spoken at a recent SODC planning meeting opposing the proposed development of another bungalow at North Weston on the grounds that Policy CSRI in SODC's Core Strategy is not a housing supply policy and so, following the recent Supreme Court judgement, should not be set aside because of the lack of a five year land supply and should stand meaning that only infill should be permitted at North Weston. The Planning Committee disagreed, particularly after the Planning Officer

stated that at recent appeals the Policy had been determined to be a housing supply policy. The Chairman asked C Newton to find out what these were as he was unable to find them on SODC's website.

The Parish Council had put in a strongly worded opposition to the plans for The Institute and asked C Newton that should the officer recommend acceptance, that she asked for it to go to Committee. The Parish Council had received a letter from the Architects involved with the appeal for the traveller's site at Tetsworth in which they have turned the site around so that the entrance is now nearer to Milton Common which gives better sight lines on the A40. However it does mean that children walking to school in Tetsworth have even further to walk. The Parish Council was still opposed to the planning application.

#### **17/112 Responsible Financial Officer's report**

The current account currently stands at £15,206.24 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,387.79. The following cheques were written: Colourplus £313.34; L Woodrow (Owl box) £119.95; R Mead Skip Hire £180.00; Great Milton Parish Council (Ad for the clerk's post) £5.00; Stamps for The Haseleys £28.00; Reimbursement of D Simcox (Digitalprinting of Local Plan) £151.76. Two cheques were written between the meetings: LexisNexis (Local Council Administration publication) £64.00; OCC (Definitive maps of the parish) £7.69. A cheque for Citizen's Advice Bureau for £25.00 was written and this will appear on the agenda for the December meeting. No other cheques were written. Income during the month of October for advertising in The Haseleys was £85.88.

The clerk asked about payment of the outstanding invoice for Mears. E Spencer said that the grass on the playing fields and the Cross Field had now been cut again and a special price had been agreed. She said that once the new invoice came in, the two should then be paid.

The clerk expressed thanks to J Robinson for checking the accounts from July to October.

#### **17/113 Update on the SODC Local Plan**

D Simcox had arranged for four copies of the Local Plan less the appendices to be printed and these were being circulated to the Parish Council. Once the Chairman had picked out the salient pieces, he would put in the reply to SODC. It was agreed that it was a difficult document to get to grips with and took many hours of reading to understand it. The deadline for reply had been extended to 30 November 2017.

It was also agreed that as further information had come out about the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway it was necessary to send out an email alert as some people did not realise the significance of some of the possible routes that this would take.

#### **17/114 SOHA's invitation to opening of affordable housing**

The clerk had received a telephone call regarding the completion of the affordable housing and was asked how many Parish Councillors wished to attend the opening event on Tuesday 12 December. Everyone said they hoped to and the clerk would pass the information on to SOHA and when a time was confirmed, inform the Parish Council.

## 17/115 Reports from Committees

**Footpaths** – D Simcox said that the footpaths from Latchford Lane to the Playing Fields had not been rolled back in. A Sheppard said she would be seeing the landowner and talk to them about it. D Lindsay asked for contact details of the local landowners and the Chairman agreed to get them for him.

**Village Hall** – A working weekend had taken place and the hall now had fresh paintwork. It was reported that the Village Hall Committee were thinking of taking out the fireplace. The Chairman said that as this was a visually major issue and as the Parish Council were Trustees, this should be put on the agenda for the December meeting in order that a proper discussion could take place. It was agreed that the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee should be asked to come to the meeting to talk about it.

A very successful Halloween event took place which has helped with much needed funds to provide better heating. The hall will be decorated for Christmas on 26 November.

**Playing Fields** – This has now had a final cut and the water has been switched off in the Pavilion. It was noted that one of the post adjacent to the gate was regularly being pulled out to allow vehicle access to the playing fields. D Simcox agreed to get some posthole cement and make it so this could not be done in the future.

**Cross Field** – J Andrews said that he had given up on one possible supplier of replacement equipment but the clerk had provided him with a possible alternative source which he was pursuing. Having spoken to a few children, it appeared that they were keen to have roundabout and/or a seesaw. He asked when the Parish Council would like to have the work done if possible and it was said that as the money was in the budget for this year, it should be completed by April.

**Millennium Wood** – All the trees that required tree ties had now been done and Nicholsons had assured the Parish Council that the problem with some of the shrubs and ants would be OK. E Spencer asked if the hedge could be cut on the Millennium Wood as the normal man was in the area. It was agreed that this should be undertaken.

**Allotments** – The water had now been turned off for the winter. The new tenancy agreement would be discussed at the December meeting in time for the new season.

**Transport** – J Andrews had completed a transport survey put by OCC but did not think it would help reinstate the bus service. It was reported that the COMET bus service in Great Milton was not very successful with two people using it. It was unlikely to continue after the time that the Parish Council was paying for it.

## 17/116 Lease on School Garden

This was discussed and the Chairman said that he wondered if it would be a possible site for a shed for the History Group should it be able to find the funds for it. It was agreed that the clerk should contact OCC to find out whether they are minded to renew the lease and if so, at what cost.

**17/117 Report from the District and County Councillors**

S Harrod had sent round the usual report from OCC which had been circulated to the Parish Council.

Caroline Newton, had also sent round a circular which had only been received late on 13<sup>th</sup>. She had been in touch with SODC regarding planning application for the Institute to find out what their views were and had received some details from the Conservation Officer. She asked if they were minded to accept it, to make sure that it goes to Committee as the Parish Council were opposed to it. She had been unable to make the arranged date to tour the Parish with the Chairman but had arranged a further date.

**17/118 Correspondence**

The usual bag of correspondence was given to the Parish Councillors.

**17/119 Any other business**

The Chairman had been approached by T Garfitt regarding the churchyard which he was concerned would run out of space in the next 10-15 years. The church had approached the landowner of the small piece of land between the churchyard and the back of the houses in Latchford Lane and he was happy to come to an arrangement about it. The Parish Council has a legal obligation to find land for burials and therefore it would be necessary to put in a planning application for change of use. This will be discussed further shortly.

The clerk informed the Parish Council that she has stood down as Secretary of the Tayler Blackall Charity and C Pickett would be taking on the role. As a result, she asked the Parish Council whether they wished her to continue to act on their behalf as a Trustee. Agreement was given and as the Trust was also happy for her to continue, she thanked the Parish Council.

The clerk had been asked whether anything could be done about the potholes along the edge of Thame Road from the edge of the village to the Parish boundary at the bottom of the hill. The Chairman said that as this was not highway, OCC would not do anything and if the Parish Council were to undertake something, they would be liable if a car was damaged by it. It was agreed to find out how much it would be to put some hard core in place.

The Chairman said that he was pleased to see how the village had helped the Simmonds family in their hour of need with the sudden death of their daughter to help towards funeral expenses.

17/120 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 11 December 2017 and the following one on 8 January 2017, both at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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