

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 11 MARCH 2019 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs A Sheppard (Chair), J Andrews, D Mann, D Simcox (Vice Chair),
A Oughton (Clerk) and one member of the public.

18/204 Public Discussion and Public Questions

A parishioner raised concerns regarding the planning applications for the proposed Power Generating Stations at Lobb Farm (Item 18/209). His house was the only one with a direct view of site. The power generated was not renewable, nor low carbon. It was felt the applicant had been very careful to keep the generating capacity for each plant under 50MW to avoid the application being decided at a national level.

Despite the amendments to landscaping and repositioning of the generating stations, the site will be very visible, especially in the winter. The application did not show the proposed views from the M40. It was industrial use in open countryside. Noise generation from the site and emissions from the flues will be unacceptable. The application failed on every policy in the emerging District Local Plan.

18/205 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Harvey (Business), Lindsay (Holiday) and Spencer (Unwell).

18/206 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Andrews declared an interest in item 18/217 as a resident whose property is accessed via Back Way.

18/207 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2019 were amended by hand to show the meeting commenced at 6.30pm and then confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18/208 Matters Arising

The Chair reported she had met with Mr Jon Beale, the Highways Officer at Oxfordshire County Council to discuss what can be done to slow traffic travelling through Great and Little Haseley villages. He advised that before anything can be done evidence had to be gathered. Equipment to measure speed, volume and direction of traffic can be hired at a cost of approximately £120. It was agreed to put this and other suggestions on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr Simcox reported the price of the wood to repair the bench on the playing fields is £35 and asked for approval to purchase it.

Resolved that Cllr Simcox purchase the wood.

The Chair reported Homes England were holding drop in sessions on Thursday 14 March at Cuxham and Friday 15 March at Stadhampton. District Councillor Newton suggested the Parish Council meet with Lee Turner at Highways to discuss what Great Haseley can do to mitigate against the traffic issues that would arise should the proposed development at Chalgrove Airfield go ahead.

18/209 Planning Applications

P18/S2995/FUL – Amendment No. 1 – Lobb Farm Cottage Access Road to Lobb Farm, Tetsworth and P18/S2996/FUL – Amendment No. 1 – Lobb Farm, Tetsworth

The proposed development is for a Gas Fired Electricity Generating Facility with the ability to generate up to 49.99MW of electricity. A low carbon flexible generating facility using gas reciprocating engines. The facility will generate electricity principally for the regional distribution network in times of generation shortfall and / or high demand (As clarified by additional information about trees received 15 November 2018, ecology received 19 November 2018, archaeology received 30 November 2018, trees received 18 January 2019 and supporting documents received 5 February 2019 and 19 February 2019. As amended by plans received 19 February 2019).

It was resolved to Object. Cllrs Sheppard and Simcox will draft a detailed response to the District Planning Officer.

P19/S0054/HH – Four Corners, Thame Road, Great Haseley

1. The removal of an existing leylandii hedge that runs along the southern perimeter of the property.
2. The erection of a new wall to replace the hedge.

It was resolved to have No Objections

It was noted that permission has been granted by the District Planning Authority for the following planning applications:

P18/S3825/HH – Bavaria Rectory Road, Great Haseley

Permanent additions to garage block (garage doors, side porch, side window and 3 no. roof lights). Temporary residential use of garage for the duration of the build of the replacement dwelling.

P18/S3900/HH – Old Barn House, Little Haseley

Replacement of two temporary sheds with smaller permanent oak framed shed.

P18/S4194/FUL – Building adjoining Sands Farm House, Rectory Road, Great Haseley

Conversion to dwelling with associated garden and erection of car port (As amplified by e-mail from agent received 28 January 2019).

18/210 Employment Land adjacent to the Parish Boundary

Cllrs Sheppard, Simcox and the Clerk met with Ricardo Rios, SODC Neighbourhood Planning Officer and Mr Markland, Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Officer at Thame Town Council to discuss the proposal to include employment land adjacent to the parish boundary in the review of the Thame Neighbourhood Plan, should Planning Permission be granted for the proposed Industrial Estate on the land in question.

It was felt this will be more advantageous to Thame than to Great Haseley. Development did not respect parish boundaries and although it would provide for employment, it would not prevent speculative development in other parts of the Parish. Currently parish and town councils did not receive a proportion of Business Rates, however, this may change in the future. A legal agreement will need to be drawn up to protect the interests of the parish.

It was resolved to agree if land adjacent to the Parish Boundary was to be included in the Review of the Thame Neighbourhood Plan, that it would need to be subject to confirmation of the area to be included, a legal agreement and no financial cost to the Parish.

18/211 Haseley Updates

The Haseley email updates have been well received. A financial request of £75.80 has been received to purchase 10,000 email credits to enable the continued distribution of the Haseley Update.

It was resolved to approve the payment of £75.80 for the purchase of 10,000 email credits.

18/212 Payments

The following cheques were written as notified on the agenda: CPRE Subscription £36.00, Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association Subscription £42.00, Community First Oxfordshire Subscription £35.00, Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils Subscription £138.97, J Gostick (repair of wall to Horseshoe Close) £567.50, Stamps (Feb edition The Haseleys) £27.84, Colourplus (Feb edition The Haseleys) £450.54.

The following cheques were written at the meeting: Clerk's Expenses £105.60.

18/213 Financial Report

The balance on the Current Account was £11,372.21 and the Business Reserve Account £15,407.41. The income for the month of £803.47 had been received made up as follows: £392.47 (VAT reclaim), £15 (Book of Walks x 3), £396.00 (advertisements in The Haseleys).

As proposed in the Financial report and discussed at the meeting in January, it was agreed to transferred funds, as allocated in the 2018-19 budget (not expected to be spent before year end) to the Business Reserve Account.

It was resolved that the transfer of the £7,460.95 from the Current Account to the Business Reserve Account be approved made up as follows: £1,210.95 (CIL receipt), £2,250 (Support for HBAG), £2,000 (Village Hall), £2,000 (fencing Millennium Wood and Allotments).

18/214 Parish Administration

In line with the recommendation by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services it was agreed that the Clerk's salary will increase by 2%, effective from 1 April 2019.

It was resolved to approve a 2% increase in the Clerk's salary from 1 April 2019.

18/215 Internal Audit

Cllr Sheppard and the Clerk had met with Mr Heinrich to discuss the process of the Internal Audit and the draft scope of work (as circulated to Members ahead of the Parish Council meeting).

It was resolved to appoint Mr Heinrich as the Internal Auditor for 2018/19. The Scope of Works as tabled was agreed.

18/216 St Peter's Churchyard

It was agreed the timing of the request from St Peter's church for a donation towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard was unfortunate having been received shortly after the budget for 2019/20 had been agreed.

Whilst the Parish Council agreed with contributing towards a third of the cost of grass cutting as this was budgeted for, it could not agree to commit to a donation towards the general maintenance of the churchyard. It has responsibility for a number of community assets that it financially supports so it was felt it would be disproportionate to commit more to the churchyard.

Additionally, having recently signed off the budget it had been necessary to increase the precept and that as reserve funds have been reducing in recent years it would not be prudent to commit funds outside of the budget. Cllr Sheppard reported that following the last meeting she had forwarded an application form to the church to apply for funds from the County Councillor fund held by Cllr Harrod towards maintenance costs. Any requests for funding should not be retrospective.

It was noted that the grass cutting invoice for 2017 had only just been received which was an unacceptable delay. It was agreed the Clerk would write to St Peter's Church to advise them of the decision and to request invoices for grass cutting for 2018 be submitted as soon as possible.

It was resolved to pay a donation of one third of the 2017 cost of grass cutting at St Peter's churchyard.

It was resolved to pay a donation of one third of the 2018 cost of grass cutting at St Peter's churchyard on receipt of the invoices.

18/217 Back Way

Correspondence had been received regarding the deterioration of Back Way and who was responsible for its upkeep. Back Way is a footpath with rights of vehicle access to those who live along it.

Whilst some residents had made repairs to certain sections, others were of the opinion it was not their responsibility. A couple hoping to purchase a property in Back Way have suggested a 'Back Way Residents Association' be formed.

The County Council had a duty to maintain Back Way as a footpath for pedestrians. Cllr Sheppard has a meeting with the 'Rights of Way' Officer on Friday 15 March and will discuss Back Way to see what can be done. The Parish Council will write to each of the developers to see what their plans are to repair the damage caused by contractor's vehicles.

18/218 Emergency Action Plan

It was noted that no comments had been written on the draft Emergency Action Plan that had been circulated. It was agreed Cllr Simcox will email the draft plan to Councillors for comment and to add information.

18/219 Reports from Committees

Footpaths – nothing to report.

Village Hall

Cllr Mann reported a Garden Party was planned for September in conjunction with St Peter's Church.

Playing Fields

Cllr Simcox reported the broken bench will be repaired as part of the Spring Clean.

Cross Field – nothing to report.

Millennium Wood

Cllr Simcox reported the hazel trees needed to be coppiced. The hazel trees had been planted in groups of three and the suggestion was to cut one down to ground level in each group. It was agreed to seek advice on pruning and maintenance of the wood.

Allotments

Cllr Andrews will send out a reminder to allotment holders that rents are due and will also put a piece in The Haseleys magazine and Haseley email update.

18/220 Reports from District and County Councillors

County Councillor Harrod had given his apologies and circulated a report.

District Council Newton reported the budget had been approved, this would mean the District Council having to raise Council tax to the limit set by Government to provide the services needed. This reflected the tricky financial position many Local Authorities faced.

The District are expecting the Government to announce, in the Spring Statement, funding for infrastructure to support housing growth in the district.

The District is ranked second in the Country for recycling figures.

18/221 Correspondence

An email had been received from the developers of the two new properties on Rectory Road inviting Members to visit the site. It was agreed the Clerk will respond to thank them for the invitation and to advise that Members would like to visit the site.

18/222 Information Exchange

Cllr Andrews reported the plough which had been in safe keeping was due to be put back on the wall of The Plough Public House.

Cllr Andrews reported at the last History Group meeting the War Memorial had been discussed and whether the Parish Council would consider making an application to Historic England to have the War Memorial listed. The Chair said this would be added to the agenda for the April meeting and asked for a report giving more information to be circulated to Members before the meeting.

18/223 Date of Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on 8 April 2019 which will include the Annual Parish Meeting and the following meeting on 13 May 2019, both meetings will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm

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Chairman
8 April 2019