

**MINUTES OF THE GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY  
14 SEPTEMBER 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.

**15/60 Public Discussion**

L Bird attended the meeting and expressed her concerns about the state of Back Way due mostly to the building works that were currently taking place. Two weeks ago, the recycle lorry for brown bins was unable to collect bins due to the badly parked vehicles. This had caused anger among the residents as it is a service that they pay for. They had tried to get the lorry to return but it would not come. This was discussed and whilst the Parish Council had sympathy with the residents, it felt there was little they could do. It was the responsibility of the building site owners (or their representatives) to ensure that Back Way was not blocked at any time. H Harvey agreed to talk to the two other site owners and he would also contact his own builder to ensure that the footpath was not blocked particularly on a Tuesday and therefore stopping the waste lorries collecting from the households along Back Way.

15/61 Apologies for absence were received from S Harrod (County and District Councillor)

15/62 D Simcox declared a personal interest in item 15/68 on the agenda.

15/63 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2015 were confirmed and signed.

**15/64 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**15/65 Planning**

There had been two planning meetings over the summer period and the minutes of both these meetings were ratified. The Chairman reported that a large stretch of wall had been demolished at the Orchard, Back Way for which they did not have planning consent. The enforcement team had contacted the architect who was informed that he needed to obtain planning permission for this demolition. It was also pointed out that the stone that had been used for the wall had been bulldozed into the site and covered with hardcore so it could not be re-used. A letter had been received from the owner of the site with a traffic management plan which it was felt to be most helpful.

The clerk had received notification that a certificate of lawful development was being sought at Pippards, Latchford Lane, Great Haseley.

**15/66 Responsible Financial Officer's report**

The current account currently stands at £13,167.28 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,377.08. The following cheques were written: Great Haseley Playing Fields Committee (Insurance) £902.27; Open Spaces Society £45.00; Wheatley Park School £20.00; BDO (Audit) £120.00; Colourplus £282.30; Mears Estates £518.29; South and Vale Carers Centre £30.00. Cheques written after the July meeting and therefore not on the agenda: Playsafety Ltd £156.00; Mears Estates £303.36; Windmill Landscapes

£84.00; Nicholsons Nurseries £60.00. No other cheques were written. The clerk received £123.75 income from *The Haseleys* during the months of July and August.

#### **15/67 Approval of the annual return for 2014-15**

The clerk had received the annual return back from BDO and there were no matters which came to their attention which required the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report. The Parish Council therefore accepted the Annual return and the notice of conclusion of the audit would be posted on the village notice board.

The Chairman left the room for this item and H Harvey acted as Chairman

#### **15/68 Purchase of a printer for the clerk**

The Chairman left the meeting and H Harvey took over the business for this item. The clerk outlined that the current printer that she used had been purchased 50:50 by herself and the Parish Council in 2005 and it was now becoming unreliable. She had undertaken a survey of possible replacement printers and recommended that an HP Color Laserjet Pro M252n would be a good replacement. She said that as she used the printer for personal use (as well as for *The Haseleys*) she was happy to pay 50% of the cost of the printer (£149 including VAT) and 50% of the cost of the cartridges. It was agreed that this seemed reasonable and the clerk was instructed to go ahead with the purchase. The clerk thanked the Parish Council for this.

The Chairman returned to the meeting.

#### **15/69 Update on affordable housing**

The housing survey had been distributed to everyone in the parish and a public meeting had taken place although it was rather poorly attended. There were a number of issues raised at the meeting which the Chairman was unable to answer so the clerk had obtained the information. This had been circulated to the Parish Council, put on the Great Haseley Parish Council website and on notice boards around the village.

The information received from SOHA indicated that once the survey had been undertaken there is a timescale for completion of housing which it hoped would be around Christmas 2016.

E Spencer left the meeting due to a medical emergency.

#### **15/70 Purchase and position of salt bins**

Due to the imminent sale of the Old School it was necessary to remove the bag of salt from the car park. It was felt that two green salt bins should be purchased, one put near the telephone box and one put near the 30mph sign on Thame Road. The clerk was asked to order these.

#### **15/71 Management of trees within Great Haseley**

The clerk had met with an arboriculturist recommended by SODC and walked around Back Way and on to the Playing Fields to look at various trees. P Ableson pointed out that most of the trees in Back Way have ivy growing up them and it would not be possible for them to undertake a full survey of the trees without first removing the ivy. The clerk was given a quote of £626 + VAT for the survey and an extra cost of £50 +VAT for a plan of the area so that they can plot the trees onto it. The Chairman said that he could

supply a plan. Discussion took place as to whether this could be undertaken by a group of volunteers and when it was pointed out there are a lot of trees, it was felt that it would be too much work. The clerk was therefore asked to try to get three quotes for this removal prior to the survey work being done.

#### **15/72 Neighbourhood Planning Conference**

A Sheppard and K Sentance had attended this conference and reported back to the Parish Council that about 11% of communities in the area had undertaken a Neighbourhood Plan. It was felt that this is something that should be undertaken as a way of safeguarding against possible unwelcome development in the area. This development could take the form of housing, solar panels etc etc. Whilst it did not have to be solely undertaken by the Parish Council, indeed it would be better if a group of residents with some of the Parish Councillors were to undertake this task, it was felt that it should be done. It was agreed that the item would be put on the agenda for the next meeting after the Councillors had looked at the information received after the conference which the clerk would circulate.

H Harvey then left the meeting as he had an engagement that could not be broken.

#### **15/73 Her Majesty the Queen's ninetieth birthday**

This item was discussed and it was agreed that a street party may be a suggestion. D Mann agreed to talk to the Village Hall Committee regarding this as there should not be a clash with the village fete.

#### **15/74 Reports from Committees**

**Footpaths** – A Sheppard said that she now has almost all of the survey forms back for putting in to SODC to formalise the footpath from Rectory Road to Back Way.

**Village Hall** – D Mann reported that the exterior of the windows had now been painted and the kitchen was being renewed. There was a ball planned for November.

**Playing Fields** – A new post is needed on the Playing Fields, the clerk would arrange to have this done. The insurance for the Playing Fields has more than doubled since 2009 when the Parish Council first started paying for it. It was agreed to ask the Playing Fields Committee to get three quotations for the July meeting so that the Parish Council could decide then which one to go for rather than be faced with an invoice which had been paid. The clerk would contact E Lowry regarding this issue.

**Cross Field** – RoSPA had undertaken the annual inspection of the playing fields and the Cross Field and there are a few minor points that need to be dealt with. The clerk was asked to pass this information on to H Harvey and E Spencer.

#### **Millennium Wood**

H Harvey said that he had removed all the dead grass from inside the tree guards on the new area of the wood.

**Transport** – J Andrews reported that he was receiving information regarding the proposed Little Milton Cycle Path initiative. He said they were having some issues with farmers not happy about a cycleway through their properties but they were still working

to try to resolve these. There is also the issue of who is to pay for this and they have said that they will be asking the Parish Council for a donation.

**15/75 Report from the District and County Councillor**

As S Harrod was not present, no reports were given although he had sent some paperwork through that was distributed to the Parish Council.

**15/76 Correspondence**

The usual correspondence was distributed to the Parish Councillors.

**15/77 Any other business**

The Chairman reminded the Parish Council that when they are acting on behalf of the Parish Council they must abide by the Code of Conduct which they had all signed up to. However, when they are acting in a personal capacity it does not apply even though some people think it does.

It has been suggested that a dog bin should be put on the grass verge at the entrance to the Grove. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and the clerk was asked to organize this.

K Sentance asked if anything had happened as a result of H Harvey talking to Paul Lee regarding the website. The clerk said that as far as she knew, H Harvey had not been in touch with Paul and it was suggested that he had been rather busy lately. The clerk would give him a reminder to do something about this.

15/78 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 12 October 2015 and the following one on 9 November 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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