

**MINUTES OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 13 JUNE 2022 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: C Groves, D Lindsay, R Sheehan, T Suter, J Webster, P Woodrow, A Oughton (Clerk) and five members of the public.

22/20 Public Discussion and Public Questions

A parishioner advised the council that she had spoken to various parties, including District and County Councils about extending the new bus service to Le Manoir to loop through Great Haseley. The possibility of this happening depends on a) if the bus company is prepared to do it and b) funding is available. The parishioner also asked for clarification on two previously approved planning applications within the village.

Another parishioner congratulated Cllr Lindsay on his election as Chairman and requested an update on the installation of faster broadband in the village. Cllr Suter replied saying he had expected to speak to Openreach today but no one had responded. Airband has agreed that anyone who signs with them will not lose their voucher as it will be passed onto Openreach. Airband has indicated they want to do a presentation in the evening of 5 July at the Village Hall.

A further question was raised asking what can be done to stop HGVs parking on the verges near Ariens. Cllr Groves reported he has investigated the possibility of installing bollards but they need to be set back near the hedge and so will not be effective.

A list of footpaths needing attention was passed to Cllr Webster.

22/21 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Cllr Lindsay reported he had received Cllr McGuirk's resignation as a Parish Councillor. Cllr Lindsay thanked Cllr McGuirk on behalf of the Parish Council for the time and commitment she had given whilst serving as a Councillor.

22/22 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of Interest or Dispensations.

22/23 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22/024 Matters Arising

Cllr Suter reported he had attended the District's Community Governance Review Committee meeting and spoken on behalf of the Parish Council regarding Thame Town Council's request to extend their Parish boundary into Great Haseley parish.

District Officers did not consider the proposed change to the boundary addressed the criteria set out in the terms of reference for this review and recommended to consult on a proposal to make no change to the parish boundary between Thame and Great Haseley. The District Committee agreed the officer's recommendation unanimously.

Consultation on the draft proposals will close on 29 July 2022 with the Committee agreeing final proposals at a meeting to be arranged in early September 2022.

22/25 Planning Applications

P22/S1566/FUL – Lobb Farm near Milton Common

New Grain store and related hard surfacing

Resolved to Fully Support the application

P22/S1199/HH – 4 London Road, Milton Common

Proposed ground floor extension & part first floor extension

Resolved No Objections with the following comment:

Concern regarding the scale of the proposed extension which, if approved will almost double the size of the dwelling.

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

P22/S1192/HH - Sainfoin House, Peggs Farm Road, Great Haseley

Demolition of existing pool house and reconstruction to match existing

P22/S1317/FUL - 20 Horse Close Cottages, Great Haseley

Change use of existing garage from storage to 'Dog Grooming' room.

22/26 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Suter had attended the first meeting of six parishes (including Great Haseley) selected to take part in a national pilot for a new, simpler approach to neighbourhood planning.

The proposal is for parishes to produce a 'Neighbourhood Priority Statement' (NPS) which allows a parish to capture and codify issues that are important. The NPS will not be a policy document that the planning authority and developers will have to adhere to but they will have to pay regard to it. Once a NPS is agreed there is nothing to stop a parish going forward to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.

The District Council are developing a template and guidelines on what needs to be done, the timetable is for evidence gathering and consultation in the autumn with the NPS being submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) in early 2023.

The Parish Council need to form a small Committee of interested people to take this forward. Cllrs Lindsay, Sheehan, Suter and Woodrow volunteered to be on the Committee, together with representatives from the village.

22/27 South Oxfordshire District Local Plan

It was noted that the latest public consultation on the joint Local Plan between SODC and Vale of White Horse District Council opened on 12 May 2022 and runs to 23 June 2022.

It was agreed Cllr Sheehan will draft a response to the consultation and circulate to Councillors for comment before submission.

22/28 Internal Audit

The Report of the Internal Audit for 2021-22 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Mr Dick Heindrick, Internal Auditor, added the Parish Council was now in a position to further improve the financial management e.g. the addition of reserves onto the Balance Sheet and putting the budget onto the accounting software package with clear categories allowing year on year comparisons.

The accounts show a 45% increase subject to reserves being made to the village hall and parish protection fund. This gives the Council the opportunity in future years to set out a policy related to any surplus.

22/29 External Audit / Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) / End of Year Accounts 2021-22

- a) It was agreed that the Parish Council met the requirements to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and **Resolved** to sign Page 3 of the AGAR.
- b) The Parish Clerk asked the Parish Council to answer questions, 1 to 9 of Annual Governance Statement on page 5 of the AGAR. It was agreed to answer 'Yes' to each of the questions.

**Resolved that:
The Annual Governance Statement for 2021-22 be approved.**

- c) The Financial Statements (Unaudited) including the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022, the Income & Expenditure Account for year ended 31 March 2022 were received.

**d) Resolved that:
The Accounting Statements for 2021-22, on Page 6 of the AGAR be approved.**

22/30 Payments

The following cheques were approved: £52.00 Shield Maintenance Ltd, £600.00 Ridgeway Rural Services.

22/31 Financial Report

Copies of bank statements to 31 May 2022 had been circulated. The balances were noted as follows: Current Account - £24,353.39 and Business Reserve Account - £40,643.41.

Income on the Current Account was made up of £520.00 SODC grant funding towards refurbishment of names on the War Memorial and the cost of a First Response Course for members of the village. Expenditure was as approved at the May meeting.

It was **resolved** not to make a financial contribution to Home Start Southern Oxfordshire as it was unclear how residents in Great Haseley directly benefitted from the services offered.

22/32 Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

The Clerk had reviewed the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations with proposed changes highlighted in red. Changes to the Financial Regulations were taken from the National Association of Local Council's Model Financial Regulations and related to changes in procurement following Brexit.

Proposed changes to the Standing Orders included the agreement not to hold a meeting in December thus reducing the number of meetings to 9 per year, excluding the Annual Meeting. It was further discussed that meetings held in June, October, February and April will primarily concentrate on planning matters, finance and projects. This will be on a trial basis and reviewed in February 2023.

Resolved to adopt the proposed changes to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

22/33 Code of Conduct

It was noted that SODC and Vale of White Horse District Council adopted the new model Code of Conduct at their Annual Meetings held in May. The Head of Legal and Democratic & Monitoring at SODC urged Parish Councils to adopt the new Code of Conduct at the earliest opportunity.

Resolved to adopt the new Code of Conduct.

22/34 Parish Communication

It was agreed to ask the Editor of The Haseleys to create an advertisement for inclusion in The Haseleys to find a new editorial team and to also seek a person to take on publication of the weekly Haseley Updates.

22/35 CPRE Oxfordshire – Call for County-wide Renewable Energy Strategy

It was agreed Cllr Sheehan will draft a response to CPRE Oxfordshire's call for a properly thought-out strategy for the location of renewable energy. The draft will be circulated to Councillors for comment before submission to CPRE.

22/36 Public Art – s106 Funding

Cllr Lindsay reported the first meeting of the Committee looking at public art in the village will take place on 21 June. The SODC Officer responsible for Public Art will be invited to attend. The main item will be drafting a scope of work for the Parish Council to agree.

22/37 Wild Oxfordshire

It was agreed the Parish Council will join Wild Oxfordshire, the annual subscription is £35.00. The payment will be added to the next agenda for approval.

22/38 Village Events

It was agreed the Parish Council needs to be clear, in the early stages of planning, which events it is responsible for organising.

22/39 Reports from Committees / County and District Councillors

County Councillor Freddie van Mierlo had sent his apologies and circulated his report. District Councillor Newton had given her apologies.

Reports from Committees:

Village Hall – The Committee has been incredibly busy. The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations had been very successful.

Allotments – All plots are now let.

Environment – Cllr Sheehan has written and submitted a funding application for the village wildlife survey. Oxfordshire Treescapes are offering free surveys, Cllr Sheehan will apply.

Cllr Sheehan has looked into electrical vehicle (EV) on street charging. The Government's EV Chargepoint Grant provides funding of up to 75% towards the cost of installing electric vehicle smart charge points at domestic properties across the UK. Most EV charges are considered Permitted Development and do not need planning permission. You cannot place any electric vehicle charging cable across the pedestrian footway, even if it is covered by a cable cover or

mat. There is lots of useful information on Oxfordshire County Council's website. Cllr Sheehan will write a piece on EV chargers for the Haseley Updates.

There was a fertilizer spill in Haseley Brook a couple of weeks ago, River Thame Conservation Trust are monitoring.

Millennium Wood – Woodland Management Course will take place on 24 June. Results of the future nature survey carried out last month are expected shortly.

Footpaths – Cllr Webster will investigate the list of footpaths that need attention.

Playing Fields – Lots of cricket being played, nice to see people there and using the facilities.

Miss Cross Field – Cllr Groves will circulate three quotations to replace a piece of play equipment ready for discussion in September.

Communication – Nothing to report.

22/40 Correspondence

Items of correspondence and local parish magazines were circulated in the Correspondence Bag for June.

The Clerk reported St Peter's Church had sent an email informing the Council of the increase in grass cutting due to increases in fuel and other overheads. With regard to the 'new' churchyard some levelling work, etc., needs to be done. St Peter's will let the Council know when decisions have been made.

22/41 Information Exchange

Cllr Sheehan and the Clerk will attend Oxfordshire Association of Local Council's AGM on 4 July.

Cllr Lindsay will write to the Tower Captain at St Peter's Church thanking the bell ringers for ringing over the Jubilee weekend.

Items for next agenda:
Relocation of additional dog bin.

22/42 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting will be held on 11 July 2022, commencing at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm

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Chairman
11 July 2022