

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Great Haseley Parish Council held on
Monday 12 May 2025 AT 8.10PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs H Blythe, J Brown, C Groves, R Sheehan, T Suter (Chairman),
P Woodrow, A Oughton (Clerk) and four members of the public.

25/01 Election of the Chairman

Cllr Suter called for nominations for the position of Chairman. It was proposed and duly seconded that Cllr Sheehan be elected Chairman. On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed.

25/02 Election of the Vice Chairman

Cllr Suter called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. It was proposed and duly seconded that Cllr Blythe be elected Vice Chairman. On put to the vote it was unanimously agreed.

25/03 Councillor Representatives

Discussion took place on current and possible new Committees.

Resolved that the Committees and Representatives be agreed as follows:

Planning – Cllr Lindsay
Allotments – Cllr Brown
Environment – Cllr Sheehan
Playing Fields – Cllr Groves
Communication – Cllr Suter

Footpaths – Cllr Blythe
Millennium Wood – Cllr Sheehan
Miss Cross Field – Cllr Groves
Village Hall – Cllr Woodrow
Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Suter

25/04 Public Discussion and Public Questions

A resident raised the following points:

- During the last civic year, the parish council had attempted to reduce the number of meetings held but had not succeeded. He urged the council to consider restoring monthly meetings.
- How will the policy (if adopted) on what can be put on the noticeboards be policed.
- A bench on the playing fields needs repairing. *Cllr Woodrow reported the bench has been inspected and repairs added to the 'To Do List' for the next Village Tidy Day.*
- Recent surveys have been carried out through WhatsApp, this relies on residents having the App / social media, using this means of communication is disingenuous. *Councillors agreed and added that WhatsApp will not be the only method of gathering resident's views.*
- Permission should have been gained before work was carried out to the Hawthorn Tree in Mill Lane. *Cllr Blythe to send relevant information to the resident.*

A further resident had written to the Parish Council with concerns related to the District Council's plans to develop Haseley Trading Estate as a waste vehicle hub. He urged the village to work together and asked how the Parish Council can support information gathering, the formulation of constructive views and work with the District Council to mitigate issues, such as a safe pedestrian crossing over the A329 and increased traffic through the village and on the A329.

25/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Lindsay (Personal).

25/06 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest.

25/07 Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 10 March 2025 and 14 April 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25/08 Planning

P25/S1054/FUL - Highway House Barn, Rectory Road, Great Haseley, OX44 7JG

Conversion and renovation of highway house, barn to provide residential accommodation as a two-bedroom three person dwelling.

Resolved to Object on the grounds of Highways / inadequate on-site parking / heritage.

Strong concerns around the ability to satisfy the South Oxfordshire District Planning policies TRANS5 given the obvious eventuality of parking on the street on a junction and DES5 policy, given there is no outside space for occupants. Together with Sections 11 + 12 of the NPPF – given the proximity to neighbouring property and the junctions of Rectory Road and Thame Road.

P25/S1213/FUL - Unit 10, Christmas Hill Business Park, Rycote Lane, Thame, OX9 2FZ

Provision of condenser units and associated works (part retrospective).

Resolved to recommend **No Strong Views**.

The following application was noted:

P25/S1253/NM - Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Great Haseley, OX44 7JU

Non material amendment on application P24/S2469/HH (To rebuild the garden shed and increase the length of the shed slightly. To extend the existing wall along the northern perimeter and part way along the eastern perimeter. To clad the blockwork wall in stone to match the surrounding walls in the village. (Rebuild of the garden gate and additional garage window.)) - to amend the windows on the south elevation to one large panel made up of a number of frames in a Crittal style rather than two separate casement windows.

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

P25/S0010/FUL - Farm Buildings at Little Sandhill, Standhill Lane, Little Haseley, OX44 7LW

Conversion of buildings to residential self-build dwelling (as an improved alternative to conversion permitted under P24/S1452/N4B - to include timber cladding, infill area, flue, solar panels, ASHP and battery)

P25/S0451/FUL - Village Hall, Rectory Road, Great Haseley, OX44 7JG

Proposal to widen existing doorway to enable disabled access to village hall.

P25/S0445/HH - The Stone Yard, Back Way, Great Haseley, OX44 7JP

Two storey extension to side with single storey glazed extension to front. (As amplified by additional information received 28 March 2025.)

25/09 Haseley Trading Estate

Councillors and residents attended South Oxfordshire District Council's Public Consultation on 28 April 2025 and continue to gather information from the community. The Parish Council is liaising with Little Milton and Great Milton Parish Councils on a joint approach.

The Council look to appoint a planning consultant to provide a report on the planning application to aid discussion at a future meeting when the application is discussed. It was noted that the application is expected to be registered with the District Planning Authority in the next few weeks.

Resolved to engage a planning consultant, funds to be taken from Village Protection Ear Marked Reserve.

25/10 Financial Report

Bank statements to 30 April 2025 had been circulated. The balance on the Current Account is £34,408.93 and Business Reserve Account £44,822.99. Income for the month included the first half of the Precept and allotment rents. Expenditure as previously approved.

25/11 Payments

The following payments were approved: £258.00 Richard Taylor Landscapes, £79.56 Shield Maintenance Ltd, £250.00 A & W Grounds Maintenance, £90.95 South Oxfordshire District Council (Village Hall Waste).

25/12 Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

The Clerk presented revised Standing Orders based on the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) recently published revised model Orders which reflect changes to procurement legislation. The language has also changed to be in gender neutral terms. In the draft Standing Orders suggested deletions are struck through and proposed changes, amended to suit the Council's needs, highlighted red. It was noted that any **bold** type contains legal and statutory requirements which cannot be altered.

Resolved to approve Standing Orders, as drafted.

The Clerk presented revised Financial Regulations based on NALCs model Regulations dated September 2024. As above, suggested deletions are struck through and proposed changes, to suit the Council's needs, highlighted red. Any **bold** type cannot be altered.

Resolved to approve Financial Regulations, as drafted.

25/13 Schedule of Meetings

The Schedule of Meetings for 2024-25 was tabled. It was agreed to change the title 'Planning Sub-Committee meeting' to 'Parish Council meeting.' These meetings will continue to be held with a limited agenda, primarily concentrating on planning matters and approving payments but with the opportunity to add further items if required.

Resolved to approve the Schedule of Meetings for 2024-25 amended as above.

25/14 Vehicle Speed Mitigation

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

25/15 Allotments

It was agreed that a plan showing the proposed area to be set aside for a delivery area, together with associated costs will be presented to a future meeting for consideration.

25/16 Projects

Public Art

Cllr Blythe reported key points of the public art strategy include ideas for the triangle area (opposite the Village Hall), history related projects around the village including the churchyard, improvements on the recreation ground and decorative information boards.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Suter reported he had spoken to a neighbourhood planning officer at the District Council to move things forward.

25/17 Village Noticeboards

Discussion took place on what should be displayed on the 'Community' side of the noticeboard at the Village Hall. It was agreed that Community notices should take priority and be up to A4 in size. Any commercial adverts to be limited to a business card, anything larger will be removed at the discretion of the Parish Council.

25/18 Reports from Committees / District and County Councillors

Newly elected County Councillor Judith Edwards had attended the Annual Parish Meeting earlier this evening to introduce herself to residents and councillors. Cllr Edwards will do her best to attend meetings but given the size of the electoral ward she anticipates this will be every other month.

District Councillor Georgina Heritage had circulated her annual and monthly reports ahead of the meeting. Cllr Heritage reiterated her promise to work with residents and councillors regarding proposals for Haseley Trading Estate.

Allotments – Cllr Brown reported four new allotment holders have taken up allotments.

Communication – Cllr Suter reported he had received a letter from the Chairman of Shabbington Parish Council asking for cooperation in lobbying Oxfordshire County Council for better gritting and signage on the road leading to the village, which falls within Oxfordshire and Great Haseley Parish boundary.

Millennium Wood – Cllr Sheehan reported the mowing regime for this year has begun.

Village Hall – Cllr Woodrow reported a dance class has shown an interest in hiring the hall twice a week. Dad's Band will perform later in the year.

25/19 Information Exchange

The Parish Council expressed thanks to everyone who volunteered and helped to make the annual tidy event in April a success.

25/20 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on 9 June 2025 in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm

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Chairman
9 June 2025