

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Great Haseley Parish Council held on
Monday 11 May 2026 AT 8.10PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs L Bird, H Blythe, C Groves, R Sheehan (Chairman), P Woodrow, A Oughton (Clerk) and two members of the public.

26/01 Election of the Chairman

Cllr Sheehan 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.

26/02 Election of the Vice Chairman

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

26/03 Acceptance of Office

Cllr Louise Bird duly signed the Declaration of Office as a Councillor on Great Haseley Parish Council.

26/04 Councillor Representatives

Discussion took place on current and possible new Committees.

Resolved that Committees and Representatives be agreed as follows:

Planning – vacancy	Footpaths – Cllr Blythe
Allotments – Cllr Bird	Millennium Wood – Cllr Sheehan
Environment – Cllr Sheehan	Miss Cross Field – Cllr Groves
Playing Fields – Cllr Groves	Village Hall – Cllr Woodrow
Communication – Cllr Blythe	Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Sheehan

26/05 Public Discussion and Public Questions

No items were raised.

26/06 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

It was noted that Cllrs Brown and Suter have resigned from the parish council.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their hard work whilst serving on the parish council. In particular Cllr Brown's oversight of the allotments, including renewal of annual tenancy agreements and collection of allotment rents and Cllr Suter for his dedication and as a member and Chairman. His contribution towards the development of the Neighbourhood Priority Statement, which then formed the basis of the draft Neighbourhood Plan was greatly appreciated.

26/07 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest.

26/08 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2026 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26/09 Planning

No items were discussed.

26/10 Financial Report

Bank statements to 30 April 2026 had been circulated. The balance on the Current Account: £18,931.16 and Business Reserve Account £69,298.13. Income for the month included the first half of the Precept, Community Infrastructure Levy funds and allotment rents. Expenditure as previously approved.

The Clerk reported that Castle Water had overestimated water usage at the allotments. A case had been raised with Castle Water and following investigation £773.68 is to be credited back to the Parish Council. It was agreed the best way to try and avoid this happening again is to submit regular meter readings.

26/11 Payments

The following payments were approved: £270.00 Richard Taylor Landscapes, £85.80 Shield Maintenance Ltd, £1050.00 A & W Grounds Maintenance Ltd.

Direct Debit: £779.99 Castle Water, £20.99 Hugh Fox Ltd

25/12 Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

Standing Orders 2026-27 were circulated and accepted with no changes.

Resolved to approve Standing Orders 2026-27

Financial Regulations 2026-27 were circulated and accepted with no changes.

Resolved to approve Financial Regulations 2026-27

26/13 Schedule of Meetings

The Schedule of Meetings for 2026-27 was tabled.

Resolved to approve the Schedule of Meetings for 2026-27.

26/14 Back Way

Resolved to purchase two bulk bags (100kg each) of type 1 material at a total cost of £105.60 excluding VAT. Bags of material to be delivered to two locations on Back Way for residents to use to fill pot holes along the track.

26/15 Miss Cross Field / Recreation Ground

Quotations received from three different suppliers for a new swing set comprising a toddler swing, flat swing and basket swing to be installed on the Recreation Ground:

Quote 1: Metal frame, price includes installation and removal of old equipment - £13,450.00

Quote 3: Wooden frame, price includes installation and removal of old equipment - £11,748.00

Quote 3: Wooden frame. Price includes installation, grass mat safety surfacing, 8 round metal post shoes, excludes removal of old equipment - £8,980.00.

Resolved to approve quotation 3 at a cost of £8,980.00 excluding VAT.

26/16 St Peter's Churchyard Path

Item deferred to next meeting to enable two further quotations to be obtained.

26/17 Village Hall

Resolved to approve the Village Hall Committee's proposed changes to the constitution but to retain point 2(4) related to co-opting members and amend point 9) to read the election of a chairman can take place at the beginning of any meeting.

26/18 Projects

Public Art

Four core projects identified:

- Creation of a Great Haseley Village Emblem – anticipated delivery Summer 2026
- Great Haseley Village Benches and Church Gate – anticipated delivery end 2026
- Great Haseley Village Boundary Gates – anticipated delivery end 2026
- Great Haseley Village Triangle

Next steps to share final copies of the plans for Parish Council approval, following which artists will be approached to submit designs.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

Confirmation of the designated area for the NP has been received from Policy and Programmes at South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC). The designation has been made for the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan by Great Haseley Parish Council under section 61G(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended. It was decided not to designate the area as a business area under section 61H(1) of the Act as it is not primarily or wholly business in nature.

The majority of draft policies have been received. Cllr Sheehan and Tim Suter to produce the first draft NP using the SODC template. The aim is to have the draft completed ready for consultation in July. Following the consultation a copy of the final NP will be submitted to SODC who will then move the NP to referendum.

26/19 Reports from Committees / District and County Councillors

County Cllr Edwards submitted her apologies.

District Councillor Georgina Heritage's annual and monthly reports were circulated ahead of the meeting. Cllr Heritage encouraged recruitment of a volunteer flood warden. The Capital Grant Fund opens shortly for funding applications, up to 50% of the project cost, from £5k to £75k.

The new District planning portal is live, please report any glitches / queries to Cllr Heritage. A reminder that the District offers monthly parish planning surgeries for parish councils. Cllr Heritage visited Haseley Industrial Estate to see how development of the new District Waste Vehicle site is progressing and whilst there took the opportunity to ask questions including

some related to drainage and attenuation. Completion of the development has been pushed back to early 2027. It is hoped the draft Traffic Management Plan, one of the planning conditions to be discharged, will be circulated in the next four to six weeks.

Communication: .gov.uk emails are ready. Cllr Blythe to circulate a 'how to guide' to set up new emails.

Footpaths: Good progress has been made on removing vegetation, hope to have it all cleared by June.

Village Hall: Volunteers cleared the contents of the loft and discovered active woodworm in the loft timbers. Quotations for this to be treated are being sought.

26/20 Information Exchange

Agreed to approach the research team at BBC Repair Shop to ask if they will consider renovating the plough originally attached to the wall of the Plough Public House.

Noted Mill Lane Road closure 8-11 June to enable work to remove tree roots from the drain.

26/21 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting will take place on 8 June 2026 in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm

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Chairman
8 June 2026