

MINUTES OF THE GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
12 OCTOBER 2015 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: D Simcox (Chairman); J Andrews; H Harvey; D Mann; K Sentance; A Sheppard. J Simcox, Clerk; S Harrod (County and District Councillor) and three members of the public.

15/79 Public Discussion

There was no public discussion.

15/80 Apologies for absence were received from E Spencer;

15/81 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

15/82 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2015 were confirmed and with the following modification to Item 15/64 were then signed.

J Andrews reported that he had replied on behalf of the Parish Council to OCC's public consultation on supported bus services.

The Planning meeting that took place on 7 October was ratified.

15/83 Matters arising

Two salt bins had now been put in place and a small amount of salt added. It was agreed that a working party was needed to move the remainder of the salt from the school playground to the bins. The new dog bin had been installed at the entrance to The Grove at the church end and had already been used. The clerk had tried to get quotes for removing the ivy from the trees in Back Way and after several attempts had received one quote of £500 + VAT. As it was a large amount the clerk was asked to try to get another two.

E Lowry had provided a copy of the Playing Fields insurance policy and the Chairman asked if anyone knew of someone who dealt in insurance who could look at it on behalf of the Parish Council. It was suggested that it be taken to the NFU office to ask their advice.

H Harvey had spoken with P Lee regarding the website and was unsure how to draw together all the different websites that had evolved in the parish. He was informed that the village hall also had a website with Hugo Fox and he agreed to talk to them about this.

J Andrews reported that as far as he could tell, the site at The Orchard was not causing problems with vehicles and was being well managed including filling of holes in Back Way. D Mann said that she had been informed that the stone wall had been taken down and the stone that was of use would be used to rebuild it but quite a lot of it was too small.

15/84 Planning

P15/S3101/FUL Manor Farm, Tetsworth

Construction of a 6m high landscaped bund to run either side of the M40 in the fields at Manor Farm, Tetsworth

The applicant's representative was present and explained some points to the Parish Council regarding this application. The Parish Council were unhappy about a 6 metre high bund being built along the sides of the motorway. This area was considered to be worth preserving for its open aspect once you have come through the cutting at Stokenchurch. However, the Parish Council appreciated that the bund would help with noise and asked the applicant to provide the Parish Council with figures for noise reduction if the bund was reduced to 4 metres and was planted with trees. They also asked for figures of how many vehicles had left the motorway in what timeframe. Once they had received this information, they would reply accordingly.

The clerk had received notification that SODC had granted permission for the Ice House at Rycote, the building at North Weston and Quince Cottage, Back Way.

15/85 Responsible Financial Officer's report

The current account currently stands at £16,806.69 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,377.78. The following cheques were written: Clerk's salary (July, August & September) £313.16; HMRC Tax £78.40; Stamps for The Haseleys £39.96; Printer and cartridges (half) £189.68; Colourplus £282.30; Mears Estates £323.23; Windmill Landscapes £42.00; Glasdon (Salt bins and dog bin) £494.40; Nicholsons £60.00. Two cheques were written at the meeting and would go on the agenda for the November meeting: Stamps for The Haseleys (September issue) £33.12; Oxon Assoc. For the Blind £25.00. No other cheques were written. The clerk received £121.27 income from *The Haseleys* during the months of September.

15/86 Year to date Statement

The clerk had provided a year to date statement and reminded the Parish Council that the budget for grass cutting had been exceeded due to the fact that St Peter's had claimed three years of grass cutting in one year. The Parish Council then accepted this statement.

15/87 Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council had been circulated the details that had been given to the representatives who had attended the Neighbourhood Plan Conference. The Parish Council was undecided as to whether they thought it would be a good idea to have one and if so, whether to join forces with the Miltons and Tetsworth. It was decided that this item should be considered again in a couple of months and a decision taken as to a way forward.

15/88 Update on affordable housing

The clerk had received a draft copy of the affordable housing survey from ORCC and circulated to the Parish Council. As it had only been received late on the 12th October, no one had really had the opportunity to look at it in detail. A few points that had been picked up were that there were a number of people who had replied but were not on the SODC list for people seeking housing. Also previously, the norm had been that whatever the final number of houses that were being asked for, this figure was halved as for various reasons once they were available, people did not want them. There was also the issue that there was the possibility in future that these houses could be bought and then sold on and the landowner having given the land at below housing land value would not be very keen to put forward future proposals. The clerk was asked to get answers to these queries and this would be discussed in detail at the next meeting.

K Sentance raised the possibility of Land Trusts to provide the housing. The Chairman said that this had been looked at but the advice from ORCC and SoHA had been not to use them as this would delay the building of the properties and would be much more complicated to administer.

15/89 Reports from Committees

Footpaths – A Sheppard had received sufficient forms for submission to OCC for the footpath from Lewington Close to Back Way. The Chairman agreed to copy these and return them to her so that she could send them on to OCC.

Village Hall – The kitchen was almost complete and thanks go to Paul Woodrow and his team for their hard work. There is to be a winter ball in November.

Playing Fields – The last cut had now taken place. H Harvey agreed to ensure that the water was switched off in the Pavilion.

Cross Field – There still seemed to be a problem with the gate as outlined in the RoSPA report but it seemed difficult to see what could be done to improve things. The gate was normally left open, so it was felt that it was perhaps not necessary to do anything urgently.

Millennium Wood – this was starting to get overgrown. This would be put on the agenda for the November meeting to agree a cutting regime for 2016.

Allotments – K Sentance said that the water had been turned off. There was now a waiting list for allotments for next year. There had been a problem with regard to the apple trees at the end of the allotments but this now seemed to have been resolved.

15/90 Report from the District and County Councillor

SODC – Officers would be knocking on doors of those people who have not responded to two requests to confirm their voter information to try to encourage everyone to get involved. Biffa have said that there are some items that are put into recycling bins that should not be included. These are: nappies, Pringles tubes, cat food pouches, and plastic clothes hangers. The clerk would put a note in The Haseleys. A new round of grants are available from the capital grants scheme is open now for applications between £1,000 and £550,000 to fund things like defibrillators, play areas, land for allotments, street furniture and community websites. Applications close on 27 November 2015.

OCC – S Harrod reported that they were still trying to set a budget but things were very difficult. There is to be a public consultation about the future of Children's centres and Early Intervention Centres. Free electric blanket testing was again taking place and a consultation was underway on the future of the A40 towards Witney.

15/91 Correspondence

The clerk had received notification about the Town and Parish Forum on 4 November. K Sentance agreed to attend and A Sheppard if she is available. ORCC were having an event on 9 November but no one was available for this.

The usual correspondence was distributed to the Parish Councillors.

15/92 **Any other business**

H Harvey asked if there was anything that could be done regarding the motorbikes that seem to travel at high speed along the A329 on Sundays. This had been reported before and the clerk would talk to the local PSCO to see if something could be done about it.

15/93 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 9 November 2015 and the following one on 14 December 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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