

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2017 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 two members of the public.

**16/159 Public Discussion**

There was no public discussion at the meeting.

16/160 There were no apologies for absence.

16/161 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

16/162 The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2017 were confirmed and signed.

**16/163 Matters arising**

The clerk had received a letter from Highways England regarding the problem of accidents on the northbound off slip road of the M40 and was informed that there had been no fatalities and therefore no alterations would be made. The chairman said that some of the problem was on the A329 which, of course was not counted in to any surveys of accidents on the motorway. It was also not helped that the street lights on the motorway bridge have not been working for several years despite reporting it on Fixmystreet and reporting it to S Harrod.

The Chairman had now produced a plan of where posts should be put on Backway but due to personal circumstances, the clerk had been unable to ask for quotations. This will be done during this month. A plaque had been engraved for the seat on the Playing Fields and once this had been varnished, it would be put in place.

**16/164 Planning**

**P17/SO135/FUL Old School House, Backway, Great Haseley**

The erection of a detached infill dwelling at Old School House, Backway, Great Haseley Whilst the Parish Council felt that the proposed dwelling was not a very interesting building, it had no strong views but felt that the new property should be subservient to the main Listed Building to maintain its integrity.

**P17/SO367/HH Bavaria, Rectory Road, Great Haseley**

Single storey outbuilding for storage of tractor and mowers and gardening equipment. The Parish Council strongly recommends that this application in the Conservation Area is refused.

The parcel of agricultural land where this building is proposed to be located is identified in the Great Haseley Conservation Area Character Study as an important open space. Any building on the land will detract from that openness and a building in the proposed location even more so.

The applicant has singularly failed to make the case for even a single bay building far less for a three bay building. The agricultural area is barely as large as some gardens in the village and they manage without such a building. As there is already a garage and several other out buildings on the applicants land nearer the house, there seems to the Parish

Council to be no need for another one. Indeed the applicant's earlier application P12/S2381/FUL that was granted permission on 20 December 2016 already includes a tractor shed.

The Parish Council supports the view of OCC Highways that any increase of the use of the gate onto Rectory Road should be resisted as the visibility on the bend is already almost non-existent due to hedges both on the applicants land and the neighbour to the west and the addition of the proposed building will make the situation even worse.

### **P17/SO327/HH Paddock View, Field Farm, North Weston**

Single storey rear extension

The Parish Council has no strong views on this application.

The clerk had written to A Duffield regarding the application for affordable housing which had still not been determined. She had received a reply from S Crawford to say that a date of 17 February had been given and it was hoped that this would be agreed then.

### **16/165 Responsible Financial Officer's report**

The current account currently stands at £16,790.03 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,386.63 The following cheques were written: Stamps for The Haseleys £26.40; Heating £6.00; Colourplus £313.34; SODC (Dog bins) £57.96; Sylvatrees Ltd £480.00. The following cheque was written and will appear on the March agenda: J Green (hedge cutting) £50.00. No other cheques were written.

The clerk had received the following income during the month: £477.67 (Advertising in The Haseleys) and the second tranche of money from SODC for the Defibrillators £720.00.

K Sentance reported that for the last two Parish Council meetings she had been forced to get a taxi from Oxford in order that she could attend the meeting. This had cost her £12 each time and she felt that she should receive at least some contribution back from the Parish Council. It was pointed out a Standing Order was in place (dated 13 May 2008) stating:

“That the Parish Council of Great Haseley resolved that the Parish Remuneration Panel's report be received and no allowances be paid to members of the Parish Council”

K Sentance asked if this Standing Order could be discussed at the March meeting. It was agreed to put this on the agenda.

### **16/166 Contract for grass cutting for 2017**

After receiving the quotation from Mears for grass cutting, the clerk had sent out three enquiries to other contractors for the work. One had not replied and the other two quoted figures that were quite a lot higher than Mears. It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue with Mears but to try and talk to them about the problem of strimming around the posts on the playing fields.

#### **16/167 Date and scope of annual spring clean**

The Chairman suggested the 18<sup>th</sup> March for the spring clean and litterblitz. This was accepted and the clerk would arrange to have a small skip delivered. There will also be a light lunch for helpers in the Village Hall. A note will go into The Haseleys to try to get more volunteers to help. Concern was shown that people do not keep the area outside their property clear and if this was done, there would be less for volunteers to do.

#### **16/168 Purchase of the Ewelme One Hundred Issue of the Victoria County History**

It was agreed that this should be purchased at a cost of £95.00 and to go on the agenda for the March meeting.

#### **16/169 Update on the SODC Local Plan**

A Sheppard had attended a day of “enquiry by design” meeting at Chalgrove. Plans were on display showing that the proposal was to move the bypass road at Chalgrove to go through the new site and end up at the Secondary School that was needed to be built. There were also plans for two primary schools. It had also been suggested that the school in Watlington would close with the children going to the new school at Chalgrove. However, there appeared to be concern because of the schools and roads plus the new siting of the airstrip took up much of the area and it was not sure whether sufficient housing could be built to make it viable.

#### **16/170 Amendments and updates to the Community led Plan**

K Sentance had updated the version of the Plan and the Chairman also gave her some minor changes. She would then circulate the updated plan to the Parish Council.

#### **16/171 Reports from Committees**

**Footpaths** – A plea was received asking dog walkers (and others) to keep to the footpaths, there is no OPEN ACCESS in the parish. The clerk was asked to put a note in The Haseleys.

**Playing Fields** – The Playing Fields looked good now that the rubbish had been removed although there had been a lot of mole activity.

**Cross Field** – J Andrews, E Spencer and the clerk had met with a representative from Playdale and received quotations for various options for new play equipment. After meeting again, it had been agreed that the two sets of swings should be replaced as a priority and to put a log frame in place as the first part of the refurbishment of the area. The total for this was approximately £9,000 and Parish Council agreed that this should be ordered so that this could be in place for the new season. The clerk would place an order over the next few days.

**Allotments** – K Sentance said that she was getting the money in for the allotments and all allotments were now taken. She would give the clerk the book and the money during March.

#### **16/172 Report from the District and County Councillor**

S Harrod’s reports had been circulated to the Parish Council in advance of the meeting. He also talked about the One Oxfordshire idea of creating one new council covering all of Oxfordshire instead of having District and County Councils. Concern was shown by

members of the Parish Council on how this would impact on them if they were asked to take on a greater role as all Parish Councillors were volunteers. There was also the issue of insufficient funds for the small parish councils and the physical ability to take on more responsibilities. S Harrod said that this was being looked at closely and hoped that many of the points raised would be resolved.

The Chairman asked again about the lights on the bridge over the M40 and S Harrod said he would try again to get them fixed. The question of houses which have remained empty for long periods of time was raised and S Harrod was asked whether SODC had any plans to bring some back into use. He said he did not know of any but would look into it.

S Harrod was asked when the Local Plan would be published and he said it was planned for the end of March.

**16/173 Correspondence**

The usual bag of correspondence was given to the Parish Councillors. The clerk had received a letter from the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire (Mrs Sarah Taylor) regarding Carers UK. It was felt that this letter should be left on file until further information is received.

**16/174 Any other business**

K Sentance reported that she would be standing down from the Parish Council at the April meeting as she would no longer be living in the village.

16/175 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 13 March and the following one on 10 April 2017 which will also include the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.47pm.

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