

MINUTES OF THE GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
9 NOVEMBER 2015 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 no members of the public.

The Chairman expressed great sadness at the death of David Pickett at the weekend. He had been a Parish Councillor for many years and had been a big figure in the parish, always welcoming new comers to the village. He was also mainly responsible for raising large sums of money at the Pumpkin Show event. It was agreed that a sum of £50 should be set aside for either flowers or a charity depending on what the family preferred.

15/94 Public Discussion

There was no public discussion.

15/95 Apologies for absence were received from S Harrod

15/96 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

15/97 The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2015 were confirmed after the following amendment was made under 15/83 para 4 and then signed.

“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 some were too small.”

15/98 Matters arising

The Chairman stated that after contact with the Parish Council during the month, it was agreed to go ahead with the work on removal of ivy from the trees in Back Way. As a result, this had now taken place and it was agreed to now contact the arboriculturist to set the survey underway. The clerk had received correspondence from the owner of Hazelwood regarding the hedge that abounds the highway. After discussion, they were informed that it their hedge and their responsibility to have it trimmed back. The owners had agreed to undertake this work. The Chairman was asked whether the highways were happy about the entrance to Hazelwood as the wall encroached onto the highway. The Chairman agreed to talk to them about this

The Chairman and the clerk had removed all the salt from the car park in the Old Institute and put it in the bins.

15/99 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 had provided some of the information requested by the Parish Council and after a series of telephone and email calls, it was agreed that the Parish Council should recommend refusal. It felt that except for the make-up of the material for the proposed bunds, this application is virtually the same as the previous application. The Parish

Council objected for the following reasons: The area between the Chilterns AONB and the Oxford Green Belt was classified as an area of great landscape value and although this classification has been scrapped this proposal in open countryside fails to meet the requirements of SOLP C6, C9, G2, G4 or SOCS policy CSEN1 because it does not protect or enhance the landscape.; the application seeks to justify the proposal on the basis of noise and protection against vehicles breaking through from the motorway into farmland with livestock. The application makes no effort to quantify the number and frequency of break-throughs and from local knowledge, the numbers are low and the Parish Council do not consider there to be sufficient evidence for the resulting intrusion on the landscape. On the question of noise, no evidence has been offered to demonstrate that a lower bund would be less effective or that other mitigation methods would not achieve the same or similar results; The impact on Tetsworth Footpath 30 during the building of the bunds has been largely ignored and other than reference to a diversion for the completed bund to the south of the motorway no details have been presented; and the dangers arising from the mixing of pedestrians using FP30 and the vehicles bringing the materials has been ignored at the bridge crossing the motorway; from calculations by OCC this development will result in 26,736 vehicle movements plus fuel and maintenance trips for the on-site plant and wheel washers. Regardless of the route taken along the A40, these movements – 42 per day for five years – will drastically impact on the residents along the A40 between Junctions 8 and 6 on the M40, none of whom will gain any benefit from this proposal. In short many households will be inconvenienced for the alleged benefit of just one.

15/100 Responsible Financial Officer's report

The current account currently stands at £15,240.53 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,378.41. The following cheques were written: Stamps for The Haseleys £25.92; Heating £6.00; Colourplus £378.37; SODC (Dog bins) £75.35; Citizens Advice Bureau £30.00; Mears Estates £161.62. Two cheques were written at the meeting and would go on the agenda for the December meeting: Oxford Oak Tree Surgery £300; Scoops for salt bins £4.98. No other cheques were written. The clerk received £169.27 income from *The Haseleys* during the months of October.

15/101 Reports from Committees

Footpaths – E Spencer asked if the footpath sign at the bottom of the baulk could be replaced as it has rotted off. This is an OCC footpath sign and A Sheppard said she would try to get this fixed.

Village Hall –Preparations were now underway for the winter ball and decorating of the hall for Christmas will take place shortly after.

Playing Fields – The window in the pavilion had not been fixed but the water had been turned off. The Chairman reported that there had been some model aircraft enthusiasts on the Playing Fields recently and when asked if they had permission, they said that they didn't think they needed it. They were flying their aircraft close to Long Row and it was agreed that anyone using the Playing Fields for this purpose must seek permission. E Spencer said that she would ring the person who had first started this activity and inform them of the situation.

The clerk had been in touch with the Parish Council insurance people and was quoted a figure of £89 per year for playing fields and the public liability part was already covered by the Parish Council insurance. The clerk was asked to talk with E Lowry about this and see if the current insurance that the Playing Fields Committee could be cancelled. It was felt that even if there was quite a large fine it would still be cheaper than paying for the insurance for the whole year.

Transport – J Andrews said that the consultation regarding bus subsidies had now finished. OCC said that they had received more support for the 103 and 104 services than others. It was hoped that these would continue but the outcome would be known shortly.

Millennium Wood – this was starting to get overgrown. Two members of the Parish Council agreed that they would cut the footpaths through the wood at the weekend. It was agreed that the cutting programme for 2016 would be put on the agenda for the December meeting.

15/102 Allotment Agreement

K Sentance had provided the Parish Council with a copy of the agreement for the 2016/17 season. Whilst there were still a few points that needed clarifying, it was felt that generally it was better than in the past. It was agreed that this item should be discussed in advance next year in order to iron out all the anomalies. K Sentance was thanked for her efforts on this.

15/103 Update on affordable housing

The clerk had contacted both ORCC and SOHA to find out what happens now that the survey has been undertaken. To date she had not received any response although she had learned that the problem appeared to be with the planners in SODC. She was asked to contact them again and try to find out what the next step was.

15/104 Report from the District and County Councillor

S Harrod had sent his apologies but had sent reports to the Parish Council which was in the correspondence folder and this was being circulated.

15/105 Correspondence

The clerk had received an email from S Harrod with the paper from OCC (Oxfordshire Together). This was being circulated to the Parish Council to see if there were things that they felt that we could take on either as a parish or jointly with Great and Little Milton.

The usual correspondence was distributed to the Parish Councillors.

15/106 Any other business

A Sheppard reported on the Parish Forum meeting that she had attended recently. SODC is hoping to change its capital fund scheme as it is not being used sufficiently. Currently it is necessary to apply for the grant, and funding 50% of it. Once the grant has been agreed, the work can be undertaken but the Grantee does not receive the funding from SODC until the work is done. In future, they hope to change it to 100% grant from SODC and having the money in advance. It was agreed that the information received should be circulated to the Parish Council and for them to agree whether there is anything that they wish to put on the budget for the coming year. D Mann asked whether two defibrillators could be purchased but it was agreed that one should be put on the budget

initially and see how things go before buying a second one. The budget will be discussed at the December meeting.

The clerk reported that the Taylor Blackall Fund was asking the village what they wished to have the funds spent on in future. A public event will take place in The Plough during January and will be announced in The Haseleys. The Chairman said that he was delighted that the Windmill has been awarded a plaque for Building Conservation by the Oxford Preservation Trust announced recently.

The Chairman said that he was happy to keep supplying the boards and paperwork for the Road Blocked as part of the Remembrance Service. However he asked the Parish Council if he could get some Perspex sheet to cover the boards as he had lost the paper notice due to windy weather. It would be a maximum of £70 and this was agreed. He also reported that the clerk had been contacted about the wall at the end of Lewington Close that had been partly demolished by the builders/ThamesWater who were laying on water to the new house. The residents of Lewington Close were concerned that this would become a permanent access point to the property and wanted to make sure that the wall is reinstalled once the work had been undertaken.

15/107 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 14 December 2015 and the following one on 11 January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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