

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON MONDAY 9 OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: D Simcox (Chairman); J Andrews; H Harvey; D Lindsay; A Sheppard; E Spencer; S Harrod, County Councillor; C Newton, District Councillor; J Simcox, Clerk and one member of the public.

17/88 Public Discussion

L Woodrow said that she had taken advice regarding what sort of owl box should be put in place in Back Way and after discussion, the Parish Council agreed to pay up to £100 towards the cost of the box.

17/89 Apologies for absence - D Mann.

17/90 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

17/91 The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2017 were confirmed and signed.

17/92 Matters arising

The Chairman reported that the allotments had been cleared of all the accumulated rubbish and thanked all those who helped. The clerk had submitted an application to have the tree chopped down on the allotment that was dying. There had been a pre-application meeting of the Parish Council with the members of the Thame Market regarding the possibility of re-housing the market on land near to Gregorys. Whilst the Parish Council did not wish to see the market go from Thame, they were however worried about traffic problems on the A329 and also the creep of industrial units along the length of the A329 from Thame to the motorway. Mr and Mrs Taylor had been touch voicing their concerns and it was agreed that once a planning application had been submitted, the Parish Council would keep them informed.

The clerk reported that there had been problems with the blocking of Back Way at the Old School site. The clerk had spoken with Mark Stone and it was hoped that this problem would be solved although there had been two occasions when the rubbish lorry was unable to get through. Most of the problems are caused by thoughtless parking on behalf of the contractors.

The clerk reported that she had not received a copy of the letter back from L Woodrow regarding putting a shed on the allotments and she had been reminded to return it. The clerk also reported that she was disappointed that there had been no response to her job advert from *The Haseleys*. It was agreed that it should be advertised in Great and Little Milton, and Tiddington magazines and put into the OALC newsletter.

17/93 Planning

P17/S3522/HH The Institute, Rectory Road, Great Haseley

Description: Installation of dormer windows, rooflights and new gable, roof extension to entrance and new first floor

The Parish Council looked at this application and in principle were against it. However A Sheppard agreed to talk to the Conservation Officer to get their views before putting in a

reply to SODC. It was felt that this building was an important building in the village and had a history that should be reflected in the treatment when turning it into a house. The Chairman reported that he had been speaking with SODC Planning regarding the application for The Bungalow, 2 Weston Lane, North Weston. He had been sent a new plan but it was still felt that this did not address the issues of the Parish Council so their objection to the application still stood.

A letter had been received stating that there would be a change of use of an agricultural building to self storage facility at North Weston Farm.

A letter had been received from SODC stating that the CIL money from the new houses (£2,041.65) would be transferred to our account on 25 October. The Chairman again asked Councillors to come forward with some ideas on how the money should be spent.

17/94 Responsible Financial Officer's report

The current account currently stands at £16,477.37 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,387.65. The following cheques were written: Clerk's salary (July-September 2017) £326.61; HMRC Tax on salary £81.60; Stamps for The Haseleys £26.88; Envelopes for The Haseleys (Office Outlet) £47.98; St Peter's Church £644.00; Colourplus £316.29; Reimbursement to D Simcox (HSS Hire trolley) £32.84; BDO (Audit) £276.00; Royal British Legion £35.00. The following cheques were written and will appear on the agenda for November: SODC (Dog Bins) £62.80; Reimbursement of D Simcox (Toms Tree Ties) £60.00. No other cheques were written. Income during the month of September 2017 was advertising in The Haseleys £180.67 and the second tranche of the precept £6,750.

The clerk reported that the bank no longer sends out cheques on a regular basis and it was necessary to request one. As she had insufficient cheques to cover all the outstanding invoices she had ordered a new cheque book and once this arrived she would then pay the outstanding invoices.

17/95 Approve Annual Return for 2016-17

The clerk had received the annual return back from BDO. The Parish Council therefore accepted the Annual return and the notice of conclusion of the audit had been posted on the village notice board.

17/96 Year-to-date forecast

The clerk had produced a year to date forecast which had been circulated to the Parish Council. The Chairman said that the budget figure had not been kept to largely because the second invoice for the children's play equipment had come into the year 2016-17 instead of 2016-15. A Sheppard asked about why the figure for advertising in the Haseleys was so low and the clerk said that most advertisers paid during January and February. The forecast was then accepted.

17/97 Update on the SODC Local Plan

D Simcox and A Sheppard were due to attend a meeting at Didcot on 11 October when the final draft plan was due to be published. The consultation that follows is mainly a legal process but the Parish Council was still able to respond to it.

H Harvey asked whether all Councillors had received a letter regarding the Local Plan as he had received one. E Spencer said that she had but no one else had. It was agreed that the clerk would find out why some people had received them and not others.

17/98 Reports from Committees

Footpaths – D Lindsay said there were no matters outstanding that he was aware of. A Sheppard passed over to him some information of footpaths and would brief him on some of the outstanding issues. The Chairman asked whether there was still a set of maps from OCC with all the footpaths on it. A Sheppard said they had not been passed on to her and it was agreed that the clerk would try to obtain a set to be passed on to D Lindsay.

Village Hall – The Chairman reported that the coin meters had been disabled until further work on the heating system had been undertaken. A weekend of work on painting and decorating the hall was planned for 11/12 November and all volunteers welcome.

Playing Fields – Most of the metal had been removed from the playing fields although the ash was still in place. The flood had been cleaned and repaired in the pavilion. It was agreed that the fields needed another cut, E Spencer to contact Mears regarding this. The defibrillator box had caused a head injury and it was agreed that in the future this should be moved to the end of the building once a cover had been made.

Cross Field – J Andrews was still waiting for a reply regarding the replacement of the multiplay equipment but would chase this.

Millennium Wood – All the tree guards had been removed from the “new” trees and there appeared to be a problem with ants. The clerk had written to Nicholsons regarding this and they assured her that they would be OK. The Chairman had purchased some tree ties and about 50 of these had been used and it was hoped that the remainder would be done over the next few weeks.

The clerk had received an invoice for the cutting of the Millennium Wood and pointed out that not all of the wood had been cut and therefore should the invoice be reduced accordingly. E Spencer said she would talk to them about this when she asked for a further cut of the playing fields and inform the clerk of the outcome.

Allotments – The rubbish had all been removed. The Chairman agreed to meet with H Harvey and J Andrews to show them how to turn the water off.

Transport – Nothing to report.

17/99 Lease on School Garden

The lease on the School garden expires at the beginning of July 2018 and it was agreed that the Parish Councillors should visit the site to see whether they felt that this should be renewed, if possible, or allowed to lapse. This would be put on the agenda for the November meeting.

17/100 Standing Orders

The clerk had made the alterations suggested. A Sheppard pointed out a typing error and it was agreed that with the change, the Standing Orders should be adopted. The clerk would make the necessary change and then put them on the Parish Council website.

17/101 Response to the Consultation on revised Draft Section 106 Planning Obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Chairman said that he had looked at this document and felt that there was nothing that would have any impact on the parish and unless anyone else felt differently, there would not be a response from the Parish Council. All councillors felt the same about this consultation so it was abandoned.

17/102 Report from the District and County Councillors

S Harrod had sent round the usual report from OCC which had been circulated to the Parish Council. He was asked if he knew about the proposed move of the Thame Market to the site near Gregorys. He did not but said he would make sure when it came up that he would look at the problems with extra traffic that it would generate.

The Chairman reported that he thinks that the lights have been fixed on the motorway junction. Also some of the drains had been done in Latchford Lane. The subject of the pavement in Thame Road was also discussed and it was hoped that a better surface would be put down soon.

S Harrod went on to talk about the COMET bus service that Great Milton were funding for a short period of time. He said however that he felt that it would not be viable as it was too expensive for the number of people using it.

Caroline Newton, the new District Councillor, was welcomed to the meeting and was given a rundown of the things that were most pressing in the parish ie the Local Plan and the possibility of either Harrington or Chalgrove taking place; the Oxford and Cambridge Expressway and the planning application for the Institute. She asked whether we were undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan and was informed that at a public meeting, it was agreed to postpone this for the time being as there was the other planning issues which were taking up a lot of time and effort. D Simcox agreed to show the parish and areas of concern to the District Councillor.

17/103 Correspondence

The clerk had received notification of Community First's AGM and asked if anyone wished to attend. As there had been a lot of meetings recently, no one wished to go to this one as well. Information had been received that the names of the new houses on the old school site would be The School Rooms and Six Bells Cottage. There was to be a Town and Parish Forum on 1 November, not Councillors wished to attend.

The usual bag of correspondence was given to the Parish Councillors.

17/104 Any other business

H Harvey asked about the possible use of the new barn at Standhill being used for shooting. It was agreed that this was not the case. He also asked about the surface of Church Hill and who would be liable if anyone fell and hurt themselves. He was informed that it was not the responsibility of the Parish Council and it was uncertain whose "road" it was.

The question of the finish on the drains on Back Way from the Old School site was raised. The clerk was asked to contact the owner and get a definitive answer and plans as to how the work would be undertaken as it would obviously involve digging up an area Back Way. H Harvey asked about the surface of Back Way where the electric cable had been laid. The surface had not been reinstated well enough and it was now very soft. It was agreed that he should go to see the builders (Feltham) of the new affordable housing and ask them to get the work done properly.

The Chairman reminded the Parish Council about the Remembrance Day service although at present, we are unsure of the timing. The Parish Council would be putting a wreath on the War Memorial as normal.

The Chairman informed the Parish Council about a sudden death that had occurred in the village and the family were in need of help. It was felt that condolences go to the family but it was not appropriate for the Parish Council to make money available for them. It was known that the Tayler Blackall Charity and the Pumpkin Show would be donating money to help them over a very difficult time.

17/105 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 13 November and the following one on 11 December, both at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

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