

Minutes of Great Haseley Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 9 June 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs H Blythe, J Brown, C Groves, D Lindsay, R Sheehan (Chairman), A Oughton (Clerk) and three members of the public.

25/21 Public Discussion / Public Questions

There was no public discussion or public questions raised.

25/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs Suter (Personal) and Woodrow (Personal).

25/23 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest.

25/24 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25/25 Planning

It was not possible to discuss the applications listed on the agenda due to the District Planning Authority's website shutdown for planned IT upgrades between 24 May and 9 June. The Clerk to request the District Planning Authority grant extensions of time to allow the Parish Council to consider these applications at their next meeting.

The following application was noted:

P25/S1248/DIS - Farm Buildings, Little Standhill, Standhill Lane, Little Haseley
Amendment No. 1 – As amended by additional information received 12 May 2025

P25/S0951/DIS - Dodwells Solar Farm, Land north of the A40 near Thame

Discharge of conditions 4 (Final Layout and Equipment Details), 8 (Sustainable Drainage Scheme), 9 (Construction Traffic Management Plan), 10 (Landscaping Scheme and Implementation), 11 (Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan), 12 (Tree Protection Measures), 13 (Biodiversity Enhancement Plan), 14 (Construction Environment Management Plan for Biodiversity), 15 (Ecology District Licence Compliance Certificate) on application P21/S3915/FUL (Installation and operation of a solar farm together with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure).

25/26 Internal Audit

The Internal Audit Report for 2024-25 was circulated prior to the meeting. The internal audit was conducted between 21 and 30 May 2025.

The audit has once again concluded that control objectives have been achieved throughout the financial year. The Income and Expenditure Account for year ended 31 March 2025 is a fair reflection of the financial transactions that have taken place during the year and the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025 is a fair reflection of the financial position of the council at year end.

The overall impression is that the council's financial affairs are in good order and that administration and management of its financial affairs remain under control. The Internal

Auditor made two recommendations: 1) that most of the funds in the current account, that are not needed for day-to-day operational requirements are moved to the reserve account to earn interest. 2) that an agreed amount of money from the reserve account is transferred to a higher interest account which can be withdrawn with a three month notice period. The parish council accepted both recommendations and will consider higher interest accounts and levels to be kept in the current and reserve accounts at a future meeting.

The Internal Auditor completed and signed page 3 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2024-25 Form 2. The council thanked Mr Dick Heinrich for carrying out the internal audit.

25/27 External Audit / Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) / End of Year Accounts 2024-25

It was noted that as both income and expenditure during the financial year was less than £25k, the Parish Council may agree to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review and complete AGAR – Form 2.

- a) To approve that the Parish Council meets the requirements to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

Resolved that the Parish Council meets the requirements and signs the Certification of Exemption on Page 3 of the AGAR – Form 2.

- b) The Clerk asked the Parish Council to answer questions, 1 to 9 of Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2024-25 on page 5 of the AGAR. It was agreed to answer 'Yes' to each question.

Resolved that The Annual Governance Statement for 2024-25 be approved.

- c) The Financial Statements (Unaudited) including the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025, the Income & Expenditure Account for year ended 31 March 2025 were received.

- d) **Resolved that Section 2 - Accounting Statements for 2024-25, on Page 6 of the AGAR be approved.**

The Notice of Public Rights will commence on Friday 13 June 2025 and finish on Thursday 24 July 2025. During this time members of the public have the right to view the parish council's accounts. In accordance with the Transparency Code, financial information will be published on the council's website.

25/28 Financial Report

Bank statements to 30 May 2025 had been circulated. The balance on the Current Account is £33,812.09 and Business Reserve Account £44,863.51. Income for the month included £85.19 – VAT Qtr reclaim. Expenditure as previously approved.

Cllr Sheehan reported he has been investigating which pieces of flood mitigation equipment will best serve the needs of the parish. It was agreed Cllr Sheehan order equipment to the value of £2,500 using grant money received.

25/29 Payments

The following payments were approved: £79.56 Shield Maintenance Ltd, £1,000 A & W Grounds Maintenance, £811.13 Clear Councils Insurance, £159.57 Woodrows Joinery, £113.03 Woodrows Joinery, £93.85 Rackspace. £3.62 – Castle Water, Direct Debit.

25/30 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

It was noted that £19k of CIL funding is held in the Reserve Account. Of this £12k is allocated to previously agreed projects to install audio visual equipment in the village hall and to improve the triangle area opposite the village hall. This leaves a balance of £7k to spend on future projects.

25/31 Vehicle Speed Mitigation

Sixty-Six people responded to the village consultation, via WhatsApp. The data highlights different levels of concern but suggests that no immediate action needs to be taken. Consideration should be given to two potential speed mitigation options: speed indicator signs and village entrance gates. It was agreed to consider purchasing village entrance gates using CIL funds. The village will be consulted using various methods before a final decision on the style and locations of the gates is taken,

25/32 Projects

Public Art

Cllr Blythe has circulated a draft Hasley Art Fund Strategy. There are five primary ideas to be developed, all incorporating the windmill in their design: village gates, benches, noticeboards, triangle area opposite the village hall, plaques and maps and a churchyard gate. Cllr Blythe is due to meet with the officer responsible for delivering a public art project in Thame.

25/33 Allotments

The item to consider setting side an area specifically for deliveries had been withdrawn. Instead, it was agreed to add a clause to the allotment agreement (from 2026) that allotment holders must ensure deliveries are made in a timely manner.

It was **resolved** to increase allotment rents by £5 per plot, (£30 full plot, £25 half plot and £15 quarter plot) backdated to 1st April 2025.

25/34 Reports from Committees / District and County Councillors

County Councillor Judith Edwards had circulated her monthly report ahead of the meeting and added that she had met a lot of people since being elected as a councillor and was doing her best to attend as many parish council meetings as possible.

Judith has been nominated onto the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny and the People Overview & Scrutiny Committees. Work to clean and empty every highway drainage gulley in Oxfordshire this year, and every year going forward is underway. The Parish Council commented that it would be good to know dates for gulley clearance in advance so that efforts can be made to free up the roadside of vehicles that may obstruct gulley clearance.

Judith also reported that the Councillor Grant Scheme will open shortly. A consultation on the implementation of a congestion charge in Oxford City Centre opens today. If successful the scheme will be implemented at the end of the summer with funds raised from the scheme being channeled into bus travel.

District Councillor Georgina Heritage had given her apologies and circulated her monthly report ahead of the meeting.

Environment – Cllr Sheehan to obtain a quotation to replace the oak tree which has been strimmed too closely and forward it to the contractor for reimbursement.

Footpaths – Cllr Blythe has cleared vegetation from some footpaths within the village.

Millennium Wood – The grass is due to be mowed this month. An extra cut will be organised using the maintenance budget for the wood. Agreed to transfer any unspent funds at the end of the financial year to an ear marked reserve for tree maintenance.

Recreation Ground – Agreed Cllr Groves will apply to the County Councillor grant fund (when it opens) for money to purchase a replacement bench / picnic table near the tennis courts. It was noted that a coffee van will be at the cricket ground on Saturdays for home matches.

25/35 Information Exchange

Correspondence has been received from a resident regarding proposals for Haseley Trading Estate. This will form part of the evidence gathering ahead of discussion of the planning application at a future meeting.

The Clerk reported three planning consultants have been contacted with a view to providing a quotation to write a report on the Haseley Trading Estate for the Parish Council to consider in determining the application. The Clerk has received one response and will circulate the quotation when received.

Cllr Sheehan is meeting with the chairmen of Little Milton and Great Milton Parish Councils to consider a combined approach.

The Editors of The Haseleys have put a request out for more local content to be submitted for inclusion in the magazine. They have indicated their intention to step down as Editors in 12 months.

Agenda items for next meeting: Apple Day, Unitary proposals for Oxfordshire,

25/36 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on 14 July 2025 in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

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Chairman
14 July 2025