

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON MONDAY 13 MARCH 2017 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: D Simcox (Chairman); J Andrews; D Mann; K Sentance; E Spencer J Simcox, Clerk and two members of the public.

16/176 Public Discussion

L Woodrow asked whether the Parish Council would be prepared to buy a new pop-up gazebo for the village. The Woodrows have had one for some years which have been used for many events (Horticultural Show, Village Fete and events at the Village Hall) and during the storm when it was being used by the Village Hall, it was severely damaged. She had given the Parish Council a quotation for a replacement which would be £400 +VAT. C Pickett and E Spencer said that the Pumpkin Show could pay for half if the Parish Council could pay for the remainder. It was agreed that this should happen and it would go on the agenda for the April meeting.

She also asked if the Parish Council would pay for the new electricity payment meters for the village hall which were necessary due to the introduction of the new £1 coins. It was pointed out that the Village Hall had money which the Parish Council was holding on their behalf. It was agreed that the clerk would inform the Village Hall how much they had in order that they could decide what to do.

C Pickett asked why the Parish Council did not employ a handyman. She said this could be funded by asking each household to pay £20 per year instead of volunteers undertaking work around the village. It was pointed out that some households would not be prepared to contribute to this scheme and it would probably be very difficult to find someone suitable who would undertake this role. There was also the question as to who would supervise them. Some members of the Parish Council said that they felt that the annual spring clean and litter blitz was a good community thing to do and felt that it should not be paid for while there were sufficient people to help. She then went on to ask why village signs had not been put in place when it was something that was listed on the Community Led plan. The Parish Council said that they had insufficient funds to be able to undertake this as 6 or 7 signs would be required. She was also informed that the Community led plan had been updated and was awaiting circulation to the Parish Council for confirmation.

C Pickett then asked why the Allotment agreement stated that no livestock or bees could be put on allotments. This was discussed at length and she was asked to formally request in writing her wish to keep livestock (bees or hens) on her allotment so that the Council could discuss it and make a decision at its next meeting. She also asked the Council's view on keeping bees on the School Garden that the Council currently leases from the County Council. It was agreed to consider this further.

16/177 Apologies for absence - A Sheppard

16/178 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

16/179 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2017 were confirmed and signed.

16/180 Matters arising

The Chairman reported that the plaque was now in place on the seat on the Playing Fields. The clerk had written to Nicholsons Nurseries asking when they would be undertaking the pruning work on the Millennium Wood and was informed that due to heavy workload it would not be done until at least April. The clerk had organised a skip to be delivered for the spring clean and also two bags of material to put down on the footpath between 2 and 3 Horseclose. E Spencer has arranged with J Shrimpton to move the material to the rear of the properties with his tractor on the Saturday morning. E Spencer had agreed to remove all the wood from the Cross Field and various places along Back Way for which she was thanked. One of the seats on the Cross Field was broken and it was agreed to replace this with one made of recycled plastic. A copy of the Victoria History (Ewelme One Hundred) publication had been received.

16/181 Planning

P17/SO644/LB Maytree Cottage, Little Haseley

Installation of through floor lift to benefit disabled person

The Parish Council considers that this application should be approved.

P17/SO702/FUL Land to the rear of Unit 1, Christmas Lane, Thame

Change of use from agricultural to space for further open storage and parking

The Parish Council has no strong views on this application. However, they were concerned about the amount of mud that was on the road coming from the site up to the roundabout in Thame.

The White House, Moreton had received planning permission although a condition was that no use was to be made of the entrance onto the A329 but all vehicles etc must be through the owners land in Moreton Road.

The Parish Council had received notification that the owner of the Old Institute had applied for change of use from office to residential. It was reported that at long last the affordable housing had received planning consent. E Spencer said that they expected to start work this week.

16/182 Responsible Financial Officer's report

The current account currently stands at £12,027.16 and the Business Reserve account stands at £15,386.75 The following cheques were written: Plaque for seat £24.99; Stamps for The Haseleys £26.40; Heating £6.00; Colourplus £313.34; Reimbursement to J Simcox for Victoria County History Hundred Issue £98.70 (Boydell & Brewer); Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association £40.00; subscription for OALC £133.07; CPRE £36.00. No other cheques were written. Cheque written but not on the February agenda for J Green (hedge cutting) £50.00. Cheque written between meetings: Playdale £4,037.94.

The clerk had received the following income during the month: £217.77 (Advertising in The Haseleys).

16/183 Security posts in Back Way

The clerk had sought quotations from four contractors to undertake work to put posts in along Back Way to stop parking on the common land. Only two had replied and it was

agreed to accept the quotation from Windmill Landscapes. The clerk would contact them to get the work done.

16/184 Update on the SODC Local Plan

Little had appeared to have happened during the month although things were going on behind the screens that the Parish Council was not privy to know about. There had been a number of people taking measurement etc in and around the parish regarding the Harrington site but until something definite comes to light, there was nothing to be done. The Chalgrove group had been leafleting local villages to try to stop this housing development happening

16/185 Response to One Oxfordshire Consultation

The Chairman had prepared a list of points that he felt needed further information before anything could be discussed. S Harrod said he thought the new Unitary Authority would be good for the area although the Parish Council were quite concerned on a number of points. J Andrews also pointed out a number of problems with the large document that had been produced. S Harrod urged the Parish Council to respond to this as they felt so strongly.

The Parish Council agreed with the points made by the Chairman and asked him to respond on their behalf.

16/186 Standing Order on Remuneration for Parish Councillors

This standing order had been circulated to Parish Council prior to the meeting as it had been suggested that this should be updated. It had been agreed in 2008 that no remuneration should be given to Parish Councillors. It was said that some parishioners said that the Councillors were only there for the money when in fact no Councillor received any payment whatsoever. After much discussion, it was agreed to look at all the Standing Orders each time there is an election and decide whether they are still relevant and up to date. As the meeting was already running late, this would be postponed until a future meeting.

16/171 Reports from Committees

Footpaths – Nothing had been reported as being a problem.

Playing Fields – A number of complaints had been received regarding the work that had been undertaken on the Playing Fields with regard to rabbit control. Hawthorn bushes had been cut back but it was agreed whilst it had been drastic, it would all grow back in due course.

Cross Field – J Andrews reported that the new play equipment on the Cross Field would be put in place the week of 10 April. It would be necessary to close the area whilst the work was being undertaken. J Andrews had agreed that should any cement etc needed to be stored under cover, they contractors could use his garage. The clerk had arranged with the Village Hall that the contractors could use the Hall's toilet and kitchen facilities whilst the work was being done but that it must be left in a clean state.

Allotments – K Sentance said that she had got most of the money in now and would be organizing the rotovating of one of the plots before the end of March.

16/188 Report from the District and County Councillor

S Harrod had been quizzed about the One Oxfordshire Consultation as mentioned above. He was also asked about the potholes that had been repaired in Latchford Lane. However, when they had been repaired there was water in them and now the tarmac was just washing out of the holes. The Chairman reported that the new planning map portal was dreadful to try and use for planning issues. S Harrod said he would pass on his comments. S Harrod said he still did not have a reply regarding the street lights at the junction of the M40 with the A329 or when asked whether adults could use school busses.

16/189 Correspondence

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

16/190 Any other business

The Chairman was thanked for his efforts putting signs out for the recent Archive Group event and for the litterblitz.

16/191 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 10 April which will also include the Annual Parish Meeting, and the following one which will be the AGM on 8 May 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.47pm.

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