

GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council meeting held on **Monday 8th February 2010**
at **7.30pm** in the **Pavilion.**

Present: Cllrs Mr. Ken Rogers (Chairman), Mr. Stephen Harrod (Vice Chairman),
Mr. Phil Ashworth, Mr. Doug Colley, Mr. Peter Fewell, Mrs. Christine
Pepperell

In Attendance: Joanna Botha (Clerk)
Pat Cox (Bulletin Reporter)
Manuel Stone (Bulletin Editor)
Jonathan Dudley (Bulletin Producer)
John Nowell-Smith (District Councillor)

18/10 Apologies for Absence

David Turner (County Councillor)
Ian Bradley

19/10 Register of Interests for this Meeting

None

20/10 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record.
This was proposed by Stephen Harrod (SH), seconded by Doug Colley (DC) and
agreed upon unanimously.

21/10 Matters to Report

Actions:

The Clerk reported that the Fullers Field hedge cutting had been done; a witness
statement had been sent to Heyfordian about the damage to the Village Green; she
had been liaising with Berinsfield Community Business who have experience with
managing invasive weeds and have staff with certificates for spraying and have
offered to look into the Himalayan Balsam in the spring and provide guidance and
an estimate about any necessary work; she had written to Wheatley PC regarding
the Triangle Enforcement Appeal as requested by the Aldens; she is liaising with the
web company about possible developments and will put it on the Agenda when
there is a specific recommendation.

There was no progress as such with the Recreation Ground Accessway, but this will
be prioritised in February.

JB

Ken Rogers (KR) reported that he was due to meet with Traffic Engineer Peter
Ronald at 11am on Tuesday 9th February to discuss locations for the speed survey.
He also reported that Sally Lasson had kindly offered to take on distribution of The
Bulletin in Church Road.

KR

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22/10 Correspondence and Public Discussion

SODC had written to confirm GMPC's precept request of £12,980.

SODC had written with details of changes to the procedure for automatic referral of Planning Applications from 1st February 2010. Currently Planning Applications are automatically referred to the Planning Committee where the view of the Parish Council differs to that of the District Council. Referral will now take place only if the District Councillor 'calls in' the application to the Planning Committee. This is an SODC initiative rather than a national one. Cllrs expressed their concern about the loss of influence and voice that this implies. John Nowell-Smith (J N-S) reported that he was against the change as a point of principle, although he predicts that it will actually impact very few applications. A practical difficulty will be the tight time line the PC will have to communicate with the District Councillor to ask them to act on their behalf.

SODC had written with a backlog of invoices since April 2009 and also a pricing change to dog bin collections. Collections are now made on a basis of keeping bins serviceable and a flat rate of £2.35 per bin per week plus admin charge will apply.

The Maple Tree Children's Centre had written that the school travel plan is due for review, inviting KR and other interested Cllrs to contribute to this on account of recent debate surrounding the impact of the Children's Centre on traffic and parking. It was agreed to suggest the w/c 22nd February and that KR, SH and Peter Fewell (PF) would hope to attend.

**JB, KR
SH, PF**

Andy Noble had written in his role as Allotment Coordinator about renewed interest in the allotments and the current waiting list, suggesting that the Parish Council consider options to provide for this, specifically whether the former allotment land currently let can be reinstated. It was agreed that the Clerk should look at the relevant minutes and history of the allotment lets and that Andy should be invited to attend the March meeting when this would be a formal Agenda item.

JB

The Maple Tree Children's Centre had written to invite Clerk and Councillors to a Family Fun and Feedback Session at Horspath Village Hall on Thursday 4th March. The Clerk said she would try to attend.

JB

English Heritage had written to say that it has been decided NOT to list the telephone box in the village for reasons related to the merit of the kiosk design and the relationship with other listed buildings in the location. Some Cllrs felt that the decision was wrong but all agreed not to request a review.

Enterprise Highways (Oxfordshire) had written to notify us that its provision of the recreation ground grass-cutting service will end 31st March 2010. Services will continue after 1st April provided by QCS.

Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council (ORCC) had written to invite us to make an entry into a unique county book – 100 words on a local community initiative which makes a special or significant contribution to community life. Cllrs agreed to bring suggestions to the March meeting.

ALL

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Society of Local Council Clerks had written with details of a one day training course for Clerks, Chairman and Councillors on Managing Paper, all about archives, legal documents, minutes etc. This would be on Monday March 8th and cost £95. SH proposed that the Clerk attend and PF seconded.

JB

23/10 Planning Applications

A Great Milton C of E Primary School. County Council reference R3.0188/09.
District Council reference P09/W0843/CC

The decision on the Children's Centre application was due to be reviewed by the OCC Planning and Regulations Committee on Monday 15th February at 2pm. GMPC is registered to speak. Cllrs discussed making a formal request that the application is called in by the Secretary of State should the committee approve it. This was proposed by SH, seconded by Phil Ashworth (PA) and agreed upon unanimously.

PA reported that many residents had commented on the considerable development activity at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons and that he would investigate further.

Great Milton Parish Council considers that the following planning applications should be approved by South Oxfordshire District Council:

Priors Gate, Church Road, Great Milton. P09/W1291
Construction of garden store/summer house.
(Decided at Planning Meeting held on Monday 25th January 2010)

Haddon, Lower End, Great Milton. P10/W0105/EX
Extension of time of planning permission P06/W1300 for the erection of a single storey rear extension to provide a utility area.

B **The following retrospective planning application has been WITHDRAWN:**

Hollands Farm, Great Milton. P09/W1095/RET
New replacement agricultural dwelling on site of existing barn

South Oxfordshire District Council has REFUSED permission for change of use of land for the following retrospective planning application:

Views Farm, Windmill Hill, Great Milton, OX44 7NW. P09/W1156/RET
Change of use of land and buildings to use for storage, manufacture and ancillary sale of stone products

South Oxfordshire District Council has GRANTED planning permission for the following application:

Isca House, Lower End, Great Milton. P09/W1185

24/10 Development of 'The Bulletin'

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A Manuel Stone (MS) and Jonathan Dudley (JD) were present and contributed to discussion about the possible merits of changing to an A5 format which MS felt might be advantageous from an editorial point of view as it is more flexible, and also adding some colour. JD can do colour and while this would add to the cost, a nice colour advert on the back page might pay for it. A5 is not a problem, provided the number of pages is manageable as folding and stapling is done by hand. It was resolved that JD supply the PC with costs for an A5 format with and without colour cover. MS agreed to discuss with Hazel Hand how it would impact on advertising.

JD/JB

25/10 Parish Plan

A KR reported that the Great Milton Plan launch event on 25th January had been a huge success with around 70 attendees, a good buzz, and much enthusiasm for the group planning exercise with Post-it notes. He reported on the first Steering Group meeting on behalf of Ian Bradley (IB) who is representing the PC. The Steering Group had agreed to have a rotational chair, have drafted a simple constitution and have arranged for the Post-it notes to be written up as a list of responses. The next meeting is Tuesday 2nd March. The Steering Group has requested that the Parish Council make a £150 contribution to the grant that ORCC will provide of £1500. This was proposed by PF, seconded by DC and agreed upon unanimously. The Clerk agreed to administer the finances through the Parish Council's banking. KR is to sit in for IB while he is away. IB will report to the PC.

KR/IB

26/10 Financial Resolutions

A The following payments were authorised, proposed by PA, seconded by DC and agreed upon unanimously:

- Joanna Botha (salary). £307.33
- Oxfordshire Woodland Project (donation). £30
- Oxfordshire Association for the Blind (donation). £30
- South Oxfordshire District Council (Dog Bins). £308.96
- Mike Henson Presentations (posting the Parish Plan advert). £17.63
- Manuel Stone (Bulletin Editorial). £50
- Jonathan Dudley (Bulletin Production). £427.20
- Neighbours Hall (for Parish Plan event). £25.00
- And various small reimbursements for the volunteers of the Hospital Car Service.

27/10 Any Other Business

J N-S reported that he was against the retrospective charging for dog bin emptying, as it means PCs cannot budget for this expenditure. He suggested writing to the Chief Executive of the District Council, David Buckell.

JB

Fly-tipping on the Forties down to the Cuddesden Mill, Green Hitchings and Oxen Piece is worsening. KR witnessed 50 plus sacks in a ditch near Cuddesden Mill. It was agreed to contact Head of Environmental Services.

JB

Saturday 24th April was chosen as the date for the annual litter pick. Meet at 11am at The Garage. The Clerk is to estimate the number of bags and pickers.

JB

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J N-S reported that SODC is currently setting its budgets and won't be raising its portion of the Council Tax this year.

DC reported that verges had been carved up on the Thame Road and that a drain cover needs mending.

JB

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The next Great Milton Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 8th March 2010 at 7.30pm** in the Pavilion.

Signed: _____

Date: _____