

GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In Attendance: Joanna Botha (Clerk)
Pat Cox (Bulletin Reporter)
David Turner (County Councillor)
16 Members of the Public

28/10 Apologies for Absence

John Nowell-Smith (District Councillor)

29/10 Register of Interests for this Meeting

Doug Colley (DC) and Peter Fewell each registered an interest in 33/10 A for the reason that their respective properties back onto the land.

30/10 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 PF and agreed upon unanimously.

31/10 Matters to Report

Actions:

County Councillor David Turner (DT) reported that decisions had been made on speed changes in the area. The bridge over the M40 on the A329 will be raised to 40 mph, the section of the A40 that passes the Oxford Belfry will be raised to 40 mph, the A418 from Thame to Wheatley will be reduced from 60 mph to 50mph.

DT added that an Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) apprenticeship programme which offers people from a range of backgrounds the chance to gain skills needed to work in adult social care had won a national award. Also OCC had increased its portion of Council Tax by 2.57 per cent. As South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) held its share at the same rate and Great Milton Parish Council (GMPC) reduced its share slightly, the overall increase will be in the region of 2.5 per cent.

Ken Rogers (KR) and SH reported that Area Traffic Engineer Peter Ronald had ordered a speed survey for the village and that they had attended the School Travel Plan meeting to look at the travel issues for the area impacted by the school.

Clerk Joanna Botha (JB) reported the following:

A letter regarding repeated instances of fly-tipping had gone to the Head of Environmental Services.

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A cheque for £20 to cover the cost of the second incidence of damage to the Village Green had been received from Heyfordian.

The three companies that provided quotations for the Recreation Ground Driveway had been written to and asked what the Parish Council's options are for a natural surface, as required for access across a Village Green. KR reminded the Clerk to draft a letter to be sent to those who are persistently parking on the Green.

JB

The Parish Council's web company, Mike Henson Presentations, had recommended two options for making the web site more current - Last Page Updated and Live News. The Clerk will circulate the URL for Councillors to see these features in action on the Princes Risborough web site.

ALL

32/10 Correspondence and Public Discussion

Mrs. Drescher has written with a copy of a letter to Highways regarding the potholes and major subsidence of Chilworth Road, and wondered if the Parish Council could also write a letter supporting her complaint. It was agreed that JB will follow this up along with other reports of potholes in the village.

JB

Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe Parish Councils had sent a copy of a letter to Margaret Reed, Head of Legal and Democratic Services at SODC about the changes to the Referral of Planning Applications. JB will send a similar letter from GMPC.

JB

Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Policing had written inviting GMPC to send a representative to a meeting Thame Police Station to discuss Neighbourhood Policing. Unfortunately no one is available to attend.

Commercial Services at SODC had written regarding the recent invoice and retrospective changes to dog bin emptying charges to say that on investigation the invoice was found to be incorrect. The correct charges are actually lower than those previously charged. Our account will be credited and a correct one issued.

The Oxfordshire Woodland Project and Oxfordshire Association for the Blind had each written thanking GMPC for its recent donations.

Ann Price had written the recent Touring Theatre production at the Neighbours Hall had resulted in a loss for the Hall of £124.69. This had happened in 2008 and the Parish Council had agreed to support the tour in future. This support was not necessary in 2009 as there was a profit. £150 was budgeted for 2009/10. Phil Ashworth proposed that a cheque be raised for this sum and SH seconded.

The Oxfordshire Business Education Alliance had written asking for financial support for its annual residential week for students with special needs. Wheatley Park is within the partnership of schools. JB will circulate the information and put it on a future Agenda.

JB

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St. John's Ambulance had written requesting a donation of £100 towards replacement vehicles and defibrillators. JB will circulate the information and put it on a future Agenda.

JB

Oxford Green Belt Network had written to say that GMPC's annual subscription of £15 is due on 1st April. It was resolved to renew this subscription - SH proposed and PF seconded.

33/10 Planning Applications

Doug Colley (DC) and Peter Fewell each registered an interest in 33/10 A because their respective properties back onto the land.

A The following Planning Application was considered:

Land at Coombe Farm, Chilworth Road, Great Milton, OX44 7NZ. R3.0035/10
Change of use from pasture to parking area for use by Great Milton CE Primary School for a temporary period until 31st January 2012.

After some discussion it was resolved to consider this application at a Planning Meeting before the 18th March deadline.

ALL

B The following Planning Application was considered by GMPC at a Planning Meeting on March 1st 2010 and APPROVED:

Chilworth House School, Grooms Farm, Thame Road, Wheatley (in the parish of Great Milton) OX33 1JP. P10/W0157 . The provision of an artificial grass all-weather playing area with perimeter fence.

C SH updated the meeting on the following planning application:

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

GMPC had written to the Secretary of State requesting that this be called in and various residents were pursuing their own line of appeal.

D The following Planning Decisions had been received:

The following Enforcement Appeal is DISMISSED and the enforcement notice upheld. Alleged Breach: Carrying out of engineering operations to form an earth bund along the western boundary of the land (APP/Q3115/C/09/2113595 and APP/Q3115/C/09/2113909 and APP/Q3115/C/09/2113910).

Planning permission has been GRANTED by SODC for Priors Gate, Church Road, Great Milton. P09/W1291. Construction of garden store/summer house.

Planning permission has been GRANTED by SODC for 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.

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A certificate of lawful use / development had also been issued to Tanners Cottage for use of the garage outbuilding as a separate unit of residential occupation.

34/10 Parish Plan Update

A Ian Bradley updated the meeting on Parish Plan developments. The Steering Group now has a constitution and is at Step 3 of a 9-step process of creating a Parish Plan. Step 1 was the launch event at the Neighbours Hall. Step 2 was establishing the Steering Group. Step 3 is the development of a Project Plan. The group is analysing the initial inputs that came out of the launch event and looking at setting up working groups for different issues such as commercial buildings and businesses, housing, infrastructure, environment, community groups and activities, crime and safety. It is looking at what people have said they are really interested in, will put some plans together and the whole parish will be involved in feedback on the proposed plans. The experiences of other villages suggest this may take more than a year to complete. The group will communicate regularly as the Plan will only be successful if residents are behind it.

35/10 Increase in Demand for Allotments

A In a recent letter Andy Noble, Allotment Coordinator had alerted the Parish Council to the fact that there was no longer adequate allotment provision to meet demand. All allotments are currently taken, tenants not cultivating their land had been asked to move on to make way for new tenants and some plots had been reduced in size but there remains a waiting list of three. This is a new situation. It was resolved that a note go in The Bulletin that the rule on uncultivated allotments will be more strictly adhered to in future and that GMPC will keep the request for adequate provision under review.

36/10 The Future of The Bull

A Residents are concerned about the decline of The Bull, the last remaining public house in Great Milton. Cllrs agreed that The Bull is a very important amenity for the village and that GMPC has an important role to play in ensuring its security. A group outside of the meeting had been discussing the possibility of buying it as a community facility but Green King has made it clear that it is not for sale. Action to support The Bull could form part of the Parish Plan as it was noted that if proposals in the plan are urgent, action would not necessarily have to wait until the plan is published. It was resolved to write to GK to outline the huge concerns within the village and invite them to meet with GMPC. This was proposed by PA and seconded by SH.

JB/KR

JB will also remind staff at The Bull that free listing and editorial is available in The Bulletin to assist with promoting regular evenings or special events.

JB

37/10 Flooding at Oxen Piece

Residents at Oxen Piece had recently reported flooding in their back gardens. GMPC had made an enquiry to John Backley, a Technical Manager at SODC, about an outstanding action from the flood meeting last year for modifications to be made in order to channel the overflow from a pond behind Oxen Piece. He

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reported that he was due to meet with the landowner before the end of the month and would update GMPC with any outcomes.

38/10 Risk Assessment Review

Councillors discussed the Risk Assessment document which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. After discussion Councillors agreed that the content of this document was adequate and that they were satisfied that the internal audit was effective. It was resolved that this be approved, subject to the updating of the information in the Risk Assessment document. PA proposed and SH seconded.

JB

39/10 Financial Resolutions

The following cheques were raised:

Manuel Stone. Editorial Services. £50.00

Joanna Botha. Salary. £307.33.

Joanna Botha. Expenses Nov-Feb. £118.11

Joanna Botha. Parish Plan expenses. £96.50

Jenks Oxford. Half cost of cutting recreation ground hedge. £587.50

Oxford Greenbelt Network. Annual Subscription. £15.00

Neighbours Hall. Subsidy for Touring Theatre. £124.69

40/10 Any Other Business

Neighbours Hall – the patch crossing the verge is ridden with potholes. This will go on the Agenda for next meeting. JB will check responsibility.

JB

The hedge along the Recreation Ground path is causing a problem. Andy Noble agreed to look at it. The hedge by Oxen Piece also needs attention. JB will check past minutes to establish who is responsible for this.

JB

Andy Noble informed Cllrs that the Recreation Ground Management Committee is submitting an application for the interior of the Pavilion for £50,000 and Little Owls for £40,000. If successful this work will take place in the summer holidays.

There is a possibility that Charles Peers may not have a Christmas tree available next year. Alternatives were suggested such as putting lights onto one of the trees on the Village Green.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____