

Great Milton Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held at the Pavilion on Monday 16th September 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs S Harrod (Chair), B Fox (Vice-chair), M Horsley and D Harms.

In attendance: Alan Pickett (Clerk), Tim Darch (former Parish Clerk, observing), Andy Noble (prospective Councillor, observing) and 4 members of the public.

Prior to any business, those in attendance were advised that despite his recent appointment Alan Pickett would be unable to continue as Parish Clerk beyond today's meeting and the associated follow-up actions for personal reasons. Councillors expressed regret at this development but understood and accepted Mr Pickett's decision. Mr Pickett was formally appointed as Clerk for this meeting, but will not be expected to continue his duties.

101/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received in advance from Cllr Georgina Heritage (SODC), Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo (OCC) and Cllr Sarah MacMahon.

102/24 Variation of order of business

Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda.

103/24 Declarations of member's interest (if any)

No interests were declared pertaining to matters on the agenda.

104/24 Matters to Report

Monthly reports from the county and district councillors were received. Having digested the reports, Cllr Harrod highlighted the imminent Joint Local Plan consultation and the National Planning Policy Framework consultation, and the availability of Cllr Heritage's SODC councillor's fund of £5,000 which could be used for local projects.

105/24 Correspondence and Public Discussion

The 126 and 127 Tuesday and Thursday bus services are currently under review by the County Council. The County Council advises that usage is better on Tuesdays (for Thame Market Day) than on Thursdays. It was proposed to suggest the removal of the Thursday service if it ensures the continuation of the better-used Tuesday service. The Parish Council will respond in due course.

A member of the public in attendance raised concerns over water discharge onto their land from a neighbouring property which has been subject to a recent retrospective planning approval for the installation of a menage, which the Parish Council supported. The issue was outlined and discussed, and a plan for mitigation was outlined, which essentially comprised the construction of a drainage ditch. Councillors were supportive of the plan and suggested that the member of the public should proceed with proposing it to their neighbour.

A member of the public in attendance expressed disappointment at the lack of verge cutting in the village in the summer months, which now requires urgent attention. An offer was made to assist with grass cutting themselves, though a cooperative approach would be necessary to cover the entire village. Councillors were grateful for this offer, but it was agreed to contact the current contractor to discuss their performance and urge immediate remedial action prior to implementing an alternative approach.

A member of the public in attendance asked whether grass on areas of village green which have been damaged by the location of a skip there would soon be restored. Councillors have confirmed that this will take place between October and November.

106/24 Planning Applications

A The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P24/S1077/FUL - Mount Pleasant Farm Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7HX. Erection of two x 4-bedroom dwellings with x1 double garage and x1 single garage (resubmission of planning permission P19/S2605/FUL).

An application for a similar development at this location was previously submitted some years ago. Recent local consultation on the latest application revealed no significant issues other than with planned windows potentially overlooking a neighbouring property and concerns over the removal of trees which may have been protected. After discussion councillors agreed unanimously to express NO STRONG VIEWS on the proposed development.

B The following planning decisions received and other matters were discussed:

P24/S1999/FUL Land to the rear of number 6 Thame Road OX44 7HY. Granted.

P23/S2906/FUL - Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7JE. The retention of the existing building and continued use as offices (mail order company). (As amended by agent's letter dated 24 October 2023).

P24/S0073/FUL - Common Cottage London Road Milton Common OX9 2NU. Single dwelling (as amplified by noise assessment and additional information received 9 August 2024). No action required.

P24/S2739/HH - The Old Vicarage Church Road Great Milton Oxford OX44 7PB. Rebuild existing external garden wall to same length as it currently stands and to a consistent height matching original height of wall. No action required.

P24/S2738/S73 - The Old Vicarage Church Road Great Milton Oxford OX44 7PB. Variation of conditions 2 (Approved plans) and 3 (Materials) on application P24/S0994/HH - to allow for a change in the approved roof material for the new pool area house from clay tiles to corrugated iron. (Alterations and refurbishment of the main house. Demolition of log store outbuilding and garage and replacement with new oak framed garage and new double storey extension to the Coach House. Alterations to the Apple Store for use as a gym. New outdoor swimming pool and pool house & associated landscaping). No action required.

P24/S2740/LB - The Old Vicarage Church Road Great Milton Oxford OX44 7PB. Rebuild existing external garden wall to same length as it currently stands and to a consistent height matching original height of wall. No action required.

C The following planning appeals were considered but no concerns were raised:

P23/S3459/FUL – White Ash London Road Milton Common Thame OX9 2NU. Appeal dismissed. Continued use of single storey building as storage without compliance with condition 3 of P02/N0682. (As amended by agent's letter dated 24 October 2023).

P23/S2616/FUL – Land adjacent to the Yard Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7NY.
Appeal dismissed.

107/24 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday July 17th 2024 were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as an accurate record.

108/24 Financial Resolutions

A To authorise and sign the following cheques for payment:

Alan Pickett: Salary, Tax and Expenses for September

NOTE: it was agreed between Mr Pickett and councillors that given the circumstances no salary would be paid.

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste July £92.82

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste Aug: £92.82

J M Dudley (Bulletin): £311.40

Tactical Facilities Management - July £590.60

Tactical Facilities Management - Aug £590.60

NOTE: payment will be delayed pending discussions with Tactical Facilities Management over service quality

Moore £48.00

BT Office/e-mail package: £14.83 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

Hugo Fox: web support: £23.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

B The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements for July and August were received and signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 16 September 2024 was £30,129.40.

109/24 Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

A resident has requested permission to park on village green land outside their home to minimise the distance required to walk from their car. After discussion it was AGREED to advise the resident that permission would be granted on a temporary basis, dependent upon the restoration of any damaged grass should the property be eventually sold. Councillors subsequently debated the wider issue of parking on village green verges with specific regard to setting precedents, and whether action should be taken given that this practice is already ongoing in some locations. Councillors AGREED to take no wider action at this stage, given the potential resulting increase in roadside parking which is already a cause for concern.

An OCC Highways meeting is scheduled for 1030 on Monday 23 September, at which the following will be discussed:

- The potential for speed indicator devices to record number plates of speeding vehicles
- Potholes on Thame Road
- Slow-down sign by the Forties on Windmill Hill
- A40 through Milton Common – eroded at edges
- Request for a white centre line on Priory Corner, Church Road

Updates of councillors/clerk names and contact details in the Bulletin and on the website will be actioned as soon as is practical.

A meeting will be arranged with the school and the Recreation Ground Committee to discuss parking, especially during events.

The Parish Council proposes that its monthly meeting will be rescheduled to the second Wednesday of every month from September 2024 onwards: however this is yet to be formally agreed.

110/24 Security in the village

No security issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 21st October starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

SIGNED _____