

**Minutes of Great Haseley Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 11 November 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs J Brown, C Groves, D Lindsay, R Sheehan, T Suter, A Oughton (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

24/82 Public Discussion and Public Questions

Residents, whose properties were flooded with sewage and rainwater following the heavy rainfall on 23 September 2024 addressed the meeting. It is the fourth time in just over a year that flooding has occurred. Both properties are Grade II Listed and owners have a legal responsibility not to protect the building.

Correspondence back and forth between the residents and Thames Water which highlights Thames Water's failure to address the concerns raised was circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting.

The problem is exacerbated by two gully drains in the road that are silted and filled with vegetation (this has been reported to the County Council on two occasions via Fix My Street but no one has visited the site) and rainwater run-off from the new development opposite.

The Consumer Council for Water (CCW) has told Thames Water they are not following their own procedures. The residents have met with local MP, Freddie van Mierlo, who has written to Thames Water on two occasions but not received a response. The Environment Agency has also been contacted and they are investigating the repeated out-spill of sewage. The whole situation is complicated by the 1991 Water Act which relaxed things around the water industry, particularly related to rainwater.

24/83 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Woodrow (unwell).

24/84 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Suter declared an interest as applicant for planning applications related to Spokes Farm Cottage and did not take part in discussion or vote on these items.

Cllr Sheehan declared an interest as applicant for a planning application related to Walnut Tree Cottage and did not take part in discussion or vote on this item.

24/85 Casual Vacancy

Receipt of Cllr Jen Webster's resignation from the Council was noted. It was further noted that the Notice of Casual Vacancy was published on the village noticeboard on 31 October 2024 and will run for 14 working days, the last day being 20 November 2024.

After this time if there is no call for an election a new member can be Co-opted onto the Council. It was agreed to prepare an article for publication in the December edition of The Haseleys inviting residents to apply to be a Councillor. Co-option is planned to take place at the Council meeting on 13 January 2025.

The Council expressed its thanks and appreciation to Jen for all she has done in supporting the Council, the village and residents during her time as a Councillor.

24/86 Water and Flooding Issues

The concerns raised by residents following recent rainwater and sewage flooding their properties was discussed.

District Councillor Heritage confirmed that residents have done everything right in reporting events to the appropriate stakeholders and there is little further she can do but support their applications to various agencies. Cllr Heritage has spoken to Freddie van Mierlo today who is happy to lobby agencies both from a County Council perspective and as the local MP. Cllr Heritage asked residents to copy her into all correspondence so she can lend support.

The parish council agreed to:

- lend their support and write to the agencies involved,
- apply for funding from the District Councillor grant fund to purchase flood defence items for the village,
- liaise with local parishes to work together on flood mitigation,
- when considering planning applications include, where relevant, comments and observations related to drainage, sewage and rainwater runoff
- follow up with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways team who visited the village in October.

24/87 Minutes

Minutes of the meetings held on 9 September 2024 and 14 October 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24/88 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

24/89 Planning Applications

P24/S3073/FUL - 15 Little Haseley, Little Haseley, OX44 7LH

The proposal is for rerouting of surface water drainage of the main cottage from the current small drain which overflows due to an undersized pump, to a larger sewer just outside the property's south boundary.

Resolved to Support the application

P24/S3290/LB & P24/S3289/HH - 15 Little Haseley, Little Haseley, OX44 7LH

The erection of a new car port on the property to serve as cover for existing parking; and a re-design of the non-original 1980's porch as a glazed garden room.

Resolved to Support the applications

P24/S3193/HH - The Stone Yard, Back Way, Great Haseley, OX44 7JP

Review and raising of the roof structure to the house, and introduction of openings to the North elevation. Internal rearrangement.

Resolved to Support the application

P24/S3210/HH - 3 London Road, Milton Common, OX9 2NS

Installation of a 12KW air source heat pump to replace the existing oil-fired boiler.

Resolved to Support the application

P24/S3366/LB - Walnut Tree Cottage, Mill Lane, Great Haseley, OX44 7JU

To leave part of the southern wall of the building as unpainted stonework, following recent repair works to remove damaging masonry paint, and to replace two rotten wooden windows with like for like replacements.

Resolved to Support the application

P24/S3150/S73 - Winsey View Farm, Rectory Road, Great Haseley, OX44 7JT

Variation of Condition 1 (Temporary time limit) on planning application P22/S3618/FUL (Temporary provision of mobile home to facilitate self-build house construction) - to extend the temporary time limit.

Resolved to Support the application

P24/S2521/S73 & P24/S2606/S29 - Spokes Farm Cottage, 31 Rectory Rd, Great Haseley, OX44 7JQ: Amendment No.1 - As amplified by additional information Rec'd 23.10.24

Variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans) for a reduced scope of works on application P23/S2300/HH (Repair of the existing buildings including partial removal and reconstruction of upper gable wall of lean-to wall. Creation of new internal doorways. Formation of a link to the neighbouring outbuildings).

Resolved to Support the applications

The following applications were noted with no further comment:

P24/S3368/N4D - Building at Sands Farm nr Great Haseley

Notification pursuant to Class R to Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015. To change the use of part of the building which has floor space of less than 150 square metres to storage purposes within Use Class B8 from 4 January 2025.

P24/S3383/HH - The Firs, Rectory Road, Great Haseley, OX44 7JS

Single storey rear extension. (retrospective)

P24/S3382/DIS - Haseley Court, Little Haseley, OX44 7LL

Discharge of conditions 3(Landscaping Scheme (trees and shrubs only)) & 5(Tree Protection) on application ref. P23/S4020/HH (Works to the existing park and gardens. Tree planting and removal within the park and garden, construction of a new drive and configuration of vehicle access. Reversion of arable farmland back to parkland estate. Construction of a new lake).

P24/S3381/DIS - Land off Rectory Road, Great Haseley, OX44 7JS

Discharge of condition 4(surface water drainage) on application ref. P22/S4565/FUL (Erection of a 4 bedroomed detached family dwelling with integral garage, and associated access and landscaping).

It was further noted that the District Planning Authority has granted permission for the following application:

P24/S2933/FUL - Units 8 &12, Christmas Hill Business Park, Rycote Lane, OX9 2FZ

Provision of mezzanine sections with associated works and one additional car parking space at Unit 8.

24/90 Notice of Landowner Statement: Land at Milton Common, OX9 2JY

It was noted that the owner of land at Milton Common has submitted a Highways Statement to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) which prevents unrecorded public rights of way from being legally recorded on the basis of presumed dedication in the future.

The landowner has also submitted a statement under section 15A(1) Commons Act 2006 which prevents the land from being registered as a town or village green in future.

24/91 Joint Local Plan Consultation

Having considered the Parish Council's previous response to the Joint Local Plan (JLP) and Haseley Brook Action Group's response to this iteration of the JLP, it was agreed that Cllr Sheehan respond to the current consultation on behalf of the Council marking as 'sound' the following policies: CE5, 8,11 and 12; SP1 and 2; JT2 and 5; TCR4; DE1, 2, 3 and 7; HP2, 4 and 10; NH1-13; IN1,2,3 and 7; Appendix 3, para A3.1, p436.

24/92 Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

It was agreed that Cllr Sheehan submit to a response to Phase 3 of the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to include information on hedge planting and conservation work in Millennium Wood and the Recreation Ground.

24/93 Community Infrastructure Levy

It was noted that the annual report detailing receipt and expenditure related to Community Infrastructure Levy funds for Great Haseley Parish 2023-24 has been submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council.

24/94 Consultation – Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings

The Council considered and agreed a response to each question in the Government consultation on remote attendance at meetings. However, whilst remote attendance is felt to be a positive step, there is some unease as to how voting by proxy might work in practice. It was agreed Cllr Suter will submit the Council's response to the consultation.

24/95 Financial Report

Bank statements to 31 October 2024 had been circulated. Current account income relates to 2nd quarter vat reclaim. Expenditure as approved at previous meetings.

The clerk reported that online banking is enabled and that wherever possible payments will be made electronically from now on. A Payments Schedule listing payments for this month was circulated at the meeting together with relevant invoices for verification and signature by two Councillors.

The External Auditor Report for 2023-24 was received. The Clerk reported that the Auditor had concluded that information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices. The Auditor had identified two documents, one related to 2022-23 audit and one related to 2023-24 audit were not published on the website. The Clerk reported this omission had been corrected.

The six-monthly budget summary was circulated. Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know about possible expenditure in their areas of responsibility to be included in the 2025-26 budget. The draft 2025-26 budget will be presented for agreement at the meeting in January.

24/96 Payments

The following payments were approved: £79.56 Shield Maintenance Ltd, £40 Information Commissioners Office, £41.29 Parish Expenses (postage and poppy wreath).

Direct Debit – Castle Water £13.39

It was agreed to sign a Direct Debit mandate for payment of the annual fee to the Information Commissioner's Office. By agreeing to pay by direct debit the annual charge is reduced to £35pa.

24/97 Speed Indicator Devices

Discussion of this item was deferred until January.

24/98 Miss Cross Field and Playing Fields

The annual RoSPA safety inspection reports were noted for Miss Cross Field and the Playing Fields. Cllr Groves circulated a summary of the reports at the meeting. The main item of concern is the mixed swing bay at the playing fields. It was agreed that Cllr Groves contact a play area maintenance contractor to seek their view on whether the equipment is economically viable to repair or should be replaced.

24/99 Allotments

It was agreed to extend the pipework to the tap to roughly centre of the allotments to make it easier for allotment holders to access water. The total cost of the work is £408.00 (including VAT). The cost will be covered by income received from allotment rents held in reserves.

Different ways of collecting and storing rainwater for use on the allotments is being explored. This may be done as a collective or per individual allotment.

24/100 Cricket Field - Recreation Ground

A request from Tiddington Cricket Club to live stream cricket matches at the recreation ground was approved 'in principle' subject to criteria for live streaming being acceptable.

24/101 Projects

Public Art – a consultation is planned to take place at the next 'Pop up Pub'.

Neighbourhood Priority Statement – There has been discussion with the Neighbourhood Plan Team at South Oxfordshire District Council about developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Great Haseley. More information to follow.

24/102 National Salary Award

The National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services salary award 2024-25 for the clerk was noted. **Resolved** to pay the newly approved rate and backpay to 1 April 2024.

24/103 Reports from Committees / District and County Councillors

District Councillor Georgina Heritage reported she had nothing further to add to her monthly report which had been circulated. County Councillor Freddie van Mierlo had given his apologies.

Allotments – the vacant plot has been filled.

Environment – hedge planting continues. Cllr Sheehan is organising a tidy / maintenance day at Millennium Wood in early December.

24/104 Information Exchange

A resident has contacted Cllr Suter about a poplar tree on the edge of the Grove which may be liable to fall. Cllr Sheehan agreed to assess the tree and consider what action to take.

24/105 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on 13 January 2025 in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

{Post meeting note – a planning application has been received and therefore a meeting will take place on Monday 9 December 2024 to determine a response to this and any other applications received before the agenda is published}.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm

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Chairman
13 January 2025