

**Minutes of Great Haseley Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 13 January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs C Groves, D Lindsay, T Suter, P Woodrow and A Oughton (Clerk) together with 2 members of the public.

24/113 Public Discussion and Public Questions

A resident put forward a proposal for easing traffic congestion on the interchange between the old A40 and A329. Over the last 50 years traffic flows have escalated enormously since Junction 7 'Three Pigeons Interchange' was altered because of the M40 motorway extension.

The key problems are excessive speed on A329 (despite 40mph limit), uneven traffic flows (especially when there are problems on M40) and visibility is often impaired by the setting sun (particularly driving from the Oxford Belfry side of the A40 and turning right towards Great Haseley).

A possible solution would be a set of double mini-roundabouts for the A40 / A329 intersection. Government documents show mini-roundabouts can be used for strategic routes including trunk roads. However, no one will do anything until there are fatalities, as the resident suspects only 'locals' know the full dangers of the junction.

The Chairman thanked the resident for raising the matter and agreed to share the proposal with other local parish councils, Thame Town Council, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Freddie van Mierlo MP.

24/114 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs Brown and Sheehan.

24/115 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no Declarations of Interest or Dispensations.

24/116 Minutes

Minutes of the meetings held on 11 November 2024 and 9 December 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24/117 Planning

**P24/S2886/FUL - Land North of Rycote Lane, Thame, OX9 2FZ
Amendment No. 1**

Mixed-use development incorporating the relocation of Thame Livestock Market and comprising a building accommodating agricultural sales, administrative offices, welfare facilities and associated uses together with a commercial development comprising 11,981sqm (GEA) of B2/B8 with ancillary E(g)(i) and E(g)(iii), all with access, parking, highway works, landscaping, drainage and ancillary operation. (As amended by information received on 17 December 2024).

Resolved to continue to Object

Although comments raised by the Parish Council had largely been addressed there remained the outstanding question around viability:

- *The size of the associated commercial development to the rear of the site must be the*

minimum required to support the development of the Livestock Market. A full viability assessment must be provided.

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

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

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

24/118 Co-Option

The Parish Council received one application from a resident to be considered for Co-option. The applicant attended the meeting and spoke about their background and why they wanted to become a councillor, they then answered questions.

Resolved that Mr Hamish Blythe be co-opted onto the Parish Council to serve until the local elections in May 2027.

24/119 Budget and Precept 2025-26

Some minor amendments were made to the draft budget presented. Following discussion, it was agreed to set a budget of £16,915.00.

Resolved that the 2025-26 Budget of £16,915.00 be approved.

After discussion it was agreed to keep the Precept at the same level, £16,400.00, which equates to £59.18 per year for a Band D dwelling, a small reduction of £0.30 on the previous year related to the tax base published by the District Council.

Resolved that £16,400.00 be raised for the Precept for 2025-26

24/120 Financial Report

Bank statements to 31 December 2024 had been circulated. No income for the month was received into the current account and expenditure was as previously approved. Reserve account income of £52.77 relates to monthly interest received.

24/121 Payments

The following payments were approved: £79.56 Shield Maintenance Ltd, £260 A & W Grounds Maintenance, £143.86 (Hugo Fox Website), £521.77 Parish Administration, £130.40 HMRC.

Direct Debit – Castle Water £3.38

It was agreed to sign a Direct Debit mandate for payment of the annual fee to Hugo Fox Ltd for provision of the parish council website.

24/122 Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice (OSAV CA)

The annual report from the OSAV CA had been circulated. The report highlights work carried out by OSAV CA including the number of people in the village who have been helped in the last year. It was agreed the OSAV CA provided a valuable service to residents and especially during the continuing economic crisis.

Resolved to donate £70 to Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice.

24/123 Speed Indicator Signs (SIDs)

Some discussion took place, including the possibility of using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds to purchase Speed Indicator Signs. The approximate cost of a SID, including installation is £5k. It was agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting. The Clerk will calculate the amount of CIL received that has not been allocated to projects and bring this to the next meeting.

24/124 Emergency Plan

The Emergency Plan was reviewed and agreed with a couple of minor amendments. The Clerk will update the Plan and send a copy to the Emergency Planning Department at OCC.

24/125 Recreation Ground

Cllr Groves and members of the Cricket Committee are working with the owner of the access track to improve the condition.

The cost of repair of the swing bay will be presented at the next meeting to enable a decision to be made as to whether to repair or replace the play equipment.

24/126 Village Hall

It was agreed various documentation relating to the ownership of the village hall will be shared at the next meeting.

24/127 Projects

Public Art – nothing further to report.

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. The first discussion will be whether the boundary area of the Plan will follow the parish boundary.

24/128 Reports from Committees / District and County Councillors

District Councillor Georgina Heritage sent her apologies and circulated her monthly report.

Village Hall – A planning application for alterations to improve accessibility arrangements at the hall has been submitted to the District Council's planning department.

Playing Fields – Seven cricket matches have been arranged for the new season. The small tree behind the pavilion, which has fallen across the boundary fence, will be dealt with shortly.

St Peter's Church – Tim reported that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has agreed to go ahead with resurfacing the path in the churchyard as far as the door. The PCC are keen to install a new accessible kissing gate which will require formal permission. They are hopeful the parish council will support an application for funds towards the purchase of a new gate.

24/129 Information Exchange

Concern was raised regarding a vehicle which is parked overnight on a regular basis at Ditch End.

24/130 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on 10 March 2025 in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

{Note if any planning applications are received that require consideration before the next scheduled meeting, an additional meeting of the parish council will be held on 10 February 2025}.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm

.....
Chairman
10 March 2025