

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT HASELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON MONDAY 13 MAY 2024 AT 8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

24/01 Election of the Chairman

Cllr Suter called for nominations for the position of Chairman. It was proposed and duly seconded that Cllr Suter be elected Chairman. On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed.

24/02 Election of the Vice Chairman

Cllr Suter called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. It was proposed and duly seconded that Cllr Sheehan be elected Vice Chairman. On put to the vote it was unanimously agreed.

24/03 Councillor Representatives

Discussion took place on current and possible new Committees.

Resolved that the Committees and Representatives be agreed as follows:

Planning – Cllr Lindsay
Footpaths – Cllr Webster
Allotments – Cllr Brown
Millennium Wood – Cllr Sheehan
Environment – Cllr Sheehan
Miss Cross Field – Cllr Groves
Playing Fields – Cllr Groves
Village Hall – Cllr Woodrow
Communication – Cllr Lindsay

It was agreed to add an item to the June agenda to discuss how best to ensure residents in North Weston, Little Haseley and Milton Common are adequately represented.

24/04 Public Discussion and Public Questions

A resident raised the following points:

- during the last civic year, the parish council had attempted to reduce the number of meetings held but had not succeeded. He urged the council to consider restoring monthly meetings.
- Referencing the drainage item on the agenda, the resident felt the village would be more supportive of local measures to make the village more flood resilient.
- Recreation ground - one of the plastic goals is now damaged beyond repair and the basketball net needs replacing. New swing seats are needed and the frame requires repainting. Rather than considering more new equipment in Miss Cross Field, the parish council should ask secondary school aged children living the village what, if anything they would like.
- Churchyard – following a change in the mowing regime, it is not acceptable that relatives visiting graves are forced to walk through knee-high grass. Policies of greening / wilding have a place but not to the detriment of the churchyard and those who visit it.
- As a lobbying group, membership of Earthshot should be added to a Councillor's Register of Interests.

24/05 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

24/06 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest.

24/07 Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 11 March 2024 and 3 April 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24/08 Matters Arising

Following discussion in March regarding the financial donation by the Pumpkin Show for a bench in Millennium Wood, Cllr Sheehan had circulated three options together with costs.

Option 1: 'Standard' picnic bench setup of 1 x 1800mm table and 2 x 1800mm benches £1,494.02 excluding vat.

Option 2: Two x 1800mm tables to be set around the central oak tree in Millennium Wood - £1,277.51 excl. vat. Sleeper benches to be sourced at a cost of £70-£100 each to provide seating. This will also work with 1200mm tables, though cost reduction is minimal.

Option 3: One x 2400mm table, quote to be obtained but given prices above anticipate £700 - £800 excl. vat. Benches to be sourced as per Option 2, although may be able to purchase 1 x 2400mm bench within budget if required.

Resolved to support Option 1 and purchase 1 x 1800mm table and 2 x 1800mm benches.

The Chairman apologised that he had not followed up an action from the last meeting to contact the owner of land adjacent to the recreation ground to ask if the kissing gate could be removed. The Chairman will follow this up and report back at the next meeting.

It was agreed the parish council will respond to the consultation on proposed development on Chalgrove Airfield. The response will mirror that submitted to the Local Plan consultation on the same subject.

24/09 Planning Applications

The following application was noted:

P24/S1156/DIS - Land off Rectory Road, Great Haseley

Discharge of conditions 4 (Surface water drainage), 5 (Foul water drainage), 8 (Glazing) and 15 (External lighting) on application P22/S4565/FUL (Erection of a 4 bedroomed detached family dwelling with integral garage, and associated access and landscaping).

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

P24/S0493/HH - Olive Cottage, 3 Rectory Road, Great Haseley, OX44 7JS

Single storey garden room to rear plus two rear facing ground floor windows

P24/S0783/FUL - North Weston Farm, North Weston, OX9 2HA

Change of use of existing grain store building to storage.

It was further noted that the following application had been withdrawn prior to determination:

P23/S4303/S73 - Land off Rectory Road, Great Haseley, OX44 7JS

Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) in application P22/S4565/FUL (Erection of a 4 bedroomed detached family dwelling with integral garage, and associated access and landscaping- Variation of approved plans) - to allow for single story rear extension.

24/10 Financial Report

Bank statements to 30 April 2024 had been circulated. The balance on the Current Account is £30,939.52 and Business Reserve Account £44,214.55. Income for the month included the first half of the Precept, VAT reclaim (4th qtr), and allotment rents. Expenditure is as previously approved.

24/11 Payments

The following payments were approved: £330.00 Richard Taylor Landscapes, £1,951.81 Great Haseley History Group, £78.00 Shield Maintenance Ltd, £108 A & W Grounds Maintenance.

Castle Water Direct Debit £13.92.

24/12 Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

The Clerk had reviewed the Standing Orders and proposed they remain unchanged for 2024.
Resolved to approve the Standing Orders for 2024.

The Clerk reported the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had just published revised model Financial Regulations. It was agreed to defer review of the Financial Regulations to allow time to consider any changes resulting from NALCs revisions and to incorporate online banking.

24/13 Schedule of Meetings

The Schedule of Meetings for 2024-25 was tabled.

Resolved to approve the Schedule of Meetings for 2024-25.

24/14 Drainage Issues

Berrick Salome Parish Drainage Group has written to town and parish councils in the area to gauge the extent to which there are similar issues related to drainage and to ask whether councils consider a joint approach to be beneficial or at least whether sharing information will provide reinforcement and enable councils to take stronger action independently.

It was agreed the Chairman will respond to the questions raised and confirm support of this initiative.

24/15 Allotments

A brief discussion took place on the advantages and disadvantages of setting up an allotment committee. Following discussion, it was agreed to continue with the current arrangement of the parish council managing the allotments.

24/16 Projects

Public Art

Next step is to consult the village on the public art strategy.

Neighbourhood Priority Statement (NPS)

The District Neighbourhood Plan team has confirmed the number of responses to the consultation is adequate to be able to move forward to the next stage which is to draft the Neighbourhood Priority Statement.

Miss Cross Field – new play equipment

Following work identified in the RoSPA play inspection report, members considered quotations received from a play equipment supplier. It was agreed to approach the landscape maintenance company who cut the grass to see whether they can quote to level the ground and install grass matting where required. Further quotes will be sought to purchase new swing seats and chains. Repainting of the swing frames on the recreation ground will be added to the list of jobs for the next Tidy Day. Cllr Groves will purchase a new basketball net.

24/17 Reports from Committees / District and County Councillors

County Councillor Freddie van Mierlo had given his apologies and circulated his monthly report.

District Councillor Georgina Heritage had circulated her monthly report and added that following the District Council's Annual Meeting to elect the leader, deputy leader and members of cabinet, Cllr Heritage had been elected to serve on the Cabinet, her portfolio will be confirmed shortly. Members of Parish Council congratulated Cllr Heritage on her election.

Environment – It was agreed to continue hedge planting north of the recreation ground. Cllr Sheehan will apply to the Trust of Oxfordshire Environment for funding.

Millennium Wood - Cllr Sheehan will propose dates for the apple day at the next meeting.

Allotments, Playing Fields, Footpaths, Village Hall – nothing further to report.

24/18 Information Exchange

Nothing to report.

24/19 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on 10 June 2024 in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm

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Chairman
10 June 2024