

Great Milton Parish Council

Clerk: Jacqueline Wren

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DRAFT Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council (GMPC) Parish Council Meeting held at the Pavilion on Monday 15th September 2025, at 7.30pm

Present: Stephen Harrod (Chair), Bill Fox (Vice Chair, BF), Councillors David Harms (DH), Malcolm Horsley (MH), Andrew Noble (AN), Sarah MacMahon (SM).

In attendance: Jacqueline Wren (Clerk), and 5 members of the public.

71/25 Apologies for Absence

District Councillor Georgina Heritage sent her apologies.

72/25 Variation of order of business

The Chair requested that item 82/25 was addressed before item 81/25 since the outcome of one may affect the other.

73/25 Declarations of members' interests

No interests were declared.

74/25 Reports

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC)

The District Councillor's Report was received – see Attachment 1.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

No report was received.

75/25 Haseley Trading Estate

The Council discussed the application by SODC to redevelop the Haseley Trading Estate into a waste vehicle depot ([P25/S1653/FUL](#)):

The Chair noted the Council's recent response to the latest amendments and emphasised the need to decide who will speak and prepare a speech for the planning committee on 8th October (date not yet confirmed). The Chair has requested that each Parish Council (Great Haseley, Great Milton, Little Milton, Stadhampton) get a separate 5 minute slot rather than one slot for the 4 PCs as is customary. He is awaiting a response.

The Council discussed the extremely limited response from SODC to the Freedom of Information request regarding the purchase of the Haseley site and the pre-application process. The documents returned were heavily redacted and key documents were not released on the basis of confidentiality. It was agreed that there is sufficient grounds to suspect that due process may not have been followed. There was discussion as to whether the Council should request a Judicial Review (JR) should planning permission be granted. To apply for a JR the Council would need a definitive reason they believe the process did not conform to legislation and supporting evidence. The next step would be to engage a planning

lawyer to review the FOI response and give their opinion on whether there are sufficient grounds to apply for a JR. The cost of this legal counsel at the application stage is likely to be £2000-£3000. There is a 6 week time limit to apply for a JR from when planning is granted so the Council agreed we should make preparations now if considering this. It was also noted that if a JR is granted this process is likely to cost more than £20,000. At this point the Council and members of the public present felt that further funding may be forthcoming from some local residents.

MH questioned whether the outcome of a JR would change the reality of the site being used as a depot given SODC have no contingency plan. There was also discussion about whether a JR would find fault with the process if the inaccuracies and omissions are in supporting documents from other agencies e.g. Highways.

The Council agreed to an expenditure of up to £2500 on legal advice to apply for a Judicial Review should the planning be approved.

MH and DH to liaise with other PCs and decide who will speak at Planning Committee and draft speech. Speech may be reviewed by Planning Consultant (SS) if requested. It was also noted that SS may continue to advise the Council on this issue and has recommended all in opposition should continue to lobby for support from businesses, politicians and press contacts.

76/25 Correspondence and Public Discussion

The list of correspondence was reviewed. Some issues raised are covered in later items on the agenda.

There was discussion about the Council's involvement with the recently formed 'Oxford Green Belt Network (OGBN)' – a group of parish councils opposed to the formation of a Greater Oxford unitary council. It was agreed that there are a lot of unknowns when considering the future structure of local government, however the concept of becoming subsumed into the urban area of Oxford is to be resisted. The Council agreed that a letter should be drafted. DH and Clerk to action.

77/25 Roads, verges and mowing

Mowing – the Council agreed that there had been no issues noted with recent cuts. It was brought to our attention that the triangle of grass outside Saracote on the green is not being cut but it is not currently included on the mowing map. Clerk to amend map and liaise with contractors.

Pavements and verges – agreed that the pavements in Oxen Piece should be added to the list for the SODC Deep Clean in October (14th-16th)

A member of the public requested that the drains on Church Road be added to the agenda for future meetings. Highways have a designated department for managing drains but they are not regularly cleared and so debris builds up and causes frequent flooding after heavy rain. Request to add the pavements on Church Road to the list for the SODC team but noted that they will not clear road drains or gutters so need to liaise with Highways team for this. Clerk to action.

78/25 Litter and dog-fouling

The Council discussed the particular problem of dog-fouling in Old Field and the suggestion by some residents that monitoring or fines should be instigated to further encourage people to clear up after their dogs. It was noted that Old Field is

not under the PC's ownership so the Old Field Committee are within their rights to determine their own enforcement measures. The Clerk noted that the land owners are within their rights to fine people on the spot or with visual proof. An Old Field representative was present and agreed to share this discussion with the committee.

79/25 Freecycle

The Chair explained that the Freecycle volunteers are often faced with quite a lot of unwanted items following an event which require multiple trips to the recycling centre in their own vehicles. He suggested the Council consider funding a skip after each event to remove these items. The cost would be approximately £280 per event so potentially £1100-£1400 per year. It was noted that events are well attended and a very positive initiative in reducing waste.

It was noted that if the skip is there overnight or for an extended period it is likely to be abused. Alternative options were discussed including arranging an SODC collection or a "wait and load" service whereby all items are removed immediately. The Council resolved to cover the cost of a skip or rubbish collection service but the Clerk will also investigate whether SODC can assist.

80/25 Le Manoir Temporary Closure

The Council discussed the recent announcement that Le Manoir will close in January for a period of 18 months while their redevelopment works are carried out. The Chair noted that he had met with the Manoir's management team and they explained it was a financial decision by Belmond that it would not be viable to try and operate the business while doing the work. It was noted that this will have an impact on the village as a whole, there will be many redundancies and consequently a loss of income for village landlords, including The Bull.

It was noted that the bus service will continue during the closure.

Concern was raised that should the Haseley depot be granted permission Belmond may review their decision to invest so heavily in redeveloping and reopening Le Manoir.

82/25 Casual Vacancies

Previously interested parties have expressed they no longer wish to stand. The Chair is in contact with someone who may be interested. No current applicants.

81/25 The Chair

Chair noted that he will step down in October and resign as Chair and Councillor since he is leaving the village in November. MH stated he is willing to stand for Chair but unable to attend on 20th October. The Council resolved to move the next meeting to Monday 13th October – Clerk to book pavilion.

83/25 Planning Applications: The following planning applications were discussed:

P25/S2509/PIP

Land east of 14 Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7HY

Erection of a minimum of five and a maximum of nine residential dwellings (of which two dwellings would be self/custom build).

Extension granted until 16th September

- It was noted that neither Orpwoods Cottage nor 6 Thame Road were included on the list of consultees despite sharing a boundary with the proposed site. BF expressed concern that allowing building on a green field site may set a precedent – other Councillors agreed. It was noted that Orpwoods Cottage

was built as an agricultural residence and is not an extension of the settlement boundary – therefore the land is not an ‘infill’ plot as suggested. Concern was raised regarding drainage on Thame Road and the impact of increased traffic where many are already not obeying the new 20mph limit. MH noted that on a positive note new houses could benefit village businesses.

P25/S2646/FUL

Land to east of Chilworth Rd, Great Milton

Change of use of land from grazing to an equestrian use, addition of a stable block and area of hardstanding for horse box access, and use of land to the rear of the stable as a small paddock.

Consultation deadline 24th September

- The Council did not identify any concerns but SM will speak with neighbours to check whether they are aware and happy with the proposal. SM to inform Clerk in time to reply to consultation.

P25/S2248/HH

Farriers Cottage, Church Rd, Great Milton OX44 7PB

New garden room with end store. New car port to existing gravel parking area.

Consultation deadline 17th September (extended by request)

- The Council did not express any concerns with the application. A member of the public noted that the existing garage included variations to the agreed plans and raised a concern that any windows in the planned carport should not overlook neighbouring properties.

P25/S2539/HH

Watt Cottage, Lower End, Great Milton OX44 7NF

First floor extension to rear. Replace existing conservatory with new single storey extension. New PV panels to south facing roof slopes.

Consultation ends 17th September

- The Council had no concerns regarding this application and were all in support.

P25/S2434/LB & P25/S2433/HH

The Old Vicarage, Church Rd, Great Milton OX44 7PB

Replacement 2x vehicular driveway gates. The gates will be secured to new posts which will be set close to the boundary wall but won't actually touch the boundary wall.

Consultation deadline 17th September (extended by request)

- The Council had no concerns regarding this application.

P25/S2618/LB

The Old Vicarage, Church Rd, Great Milton OX44 7PB

Installation of a Starlink satellite dish on chimney 4.

Consultation ends 18th September

- The Council had no concerns regarding this application.

P25/S2016/PIP

Fairview, Old London Road, Milton Common OX9 2JR

Proposed demolition of existing bungalow and replacement with 6 new detached (self build) units.

Extension granted until 17th September

- The Council had no concerns regarding this application.

The following planning decisions were noted:

P25/S1864/S73

11 Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7HY

Removal of condition 4 of planning permission ref P83/N0457 regarding the use of the garage.

- PERMISSION GRANTED

P25/S1522/O

Land adjacent to The Old Stable Yard, Thame Road, Great Milton

Outline planning application for the erection of detached self build dwelling with access parking and amenity space.

- PERMISSION GRANTED

84/25 Towersey Planning Precedent

The Council discussed correspondence received from Jake Kingsbury regarding an application to erect 4 new houses on a green field site outside the settlement boundary of Towersey in direction contravention of the Neighbourhood Plan.

P25/S1828/FUL

The Council agreed that granting permission for this development would set a worrying precedent and negate the importance of having a Neighbourhood Plan. After some discussion it was agreed that despite the Council's objection they do not currently have the resource to fight this case in addition to more immediate threat of the Haseley Trading Estate development.

85/25 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the 21st July 2025 were approved and signed.

86/25 Finance

A The **Bank Reconciliation**, Statement of Accounts and Bank Statements up to 31st August 2025 were received and approved.

B The following payments were authorised:

Payee	Element	Amount	Date	Minute Ref Order Agreed	Power to Spend
Shield Maintenance Ltd.	Dog waste – Sept 2025	£92.82	17/09/25		OSA s10
Bibby Financial Servies Ltd.	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd. Sept 25	£581.60	17/09/25	150/24	OSA s10

Castle Water	Allotments Water	£5.73	17/09/25		Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908 s23
HMRC	Late Filing Penalty - PAYE	£100.00	17/09/25		
Moore	External Audit Fee	£252.00	17/09/25		

C It was noted that the following payments were made in August;

Shield Maintenance Ltd.	Dog waste – August 2025	£92.82	PAID		OSA s10
Bibby Financial Servies Ltd.	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd. August 25	£581.60	PAID	150/24	OSA s10
Castle Water	Allotments Water	£5.73	PAID		Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908 s23

D The External Auditor’s Report for 2024-25 was noted. This is now available on the website.

E The Council discussed the Letter of Engagement received from Jane Olds with regard to the Internal Audit for 2025-26. The Council resolved to sign the letter – Clerk to action and return.

87/25 Security in the village: No security concerns were raised.

88/25 Items for next agenda or information only

- A member of the public asked whether there had been any further interest following the feasibility report on the possibility of continuing a village shop. The Chair noted that the PC would be supportive of anyone who did want to start something but had not heard anything further since the report. MH noted a successful community shop in Islip. The member of the public noted that Le Manoir gardens will still be maintained during the closure so where is produce going? It was noted that following the renovation of The Bull this is likely to be a promising focus for a shop.
- BF noted that the Methodist Church is closing.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 13th October starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Agenda items for the October meeting are due to the Clerk by Wednesday, 1st Oct 2025