

Great Milton Parish Council

Clerk: Jacqueline Wren

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Minutes of the meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held at the Pavilion on Monday the 19th January 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillor Malcolm Horsley (Chair, MH), Councillors Sarah MacMahon (SM), David Harms (DH) and Richard Oliver (RO).

In attendance: A representative from Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons and 6 members of the public.

135/25 Apologies for absence

Councillor Bill Fox (Vice Chair, BF) and Councillor Andrew Noble (AN)

136/25 Variation of order of business: None.

137/25 Declarations of members' interests: None.

138/25 Reports:

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

No monthly report was received from County Councillor Judith Edwards who also gave her apologies as she has been unwell.

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) – [available online here](#)

The monthly report from District Councillor Georgina Heritage was noted but there was no further discussion.

139/25 Correspondence and Public Discussion

The recent power cuts in the village were discussed. A member of the public noted how there have been recent problems in Ambroseden (near Bicester) with 3-4 power cuts per week, which is thought due to increased demands of electric vehicle charging. There was concern that similar may happen in Great Milton with increasing numbers of electric vehicles. The Chair noted that recent power cuts were due to a fault which was subsequently fixed. The Council resolved to monitor the situation and consult SSEN if the problem becomes more frequent.

The forthcoming Neighbourhood Planning Event with SODC on 28th Jan was noted. Since it is a Wednesday afternoon it is unlikely anyone can attend.

140/25 Thame Road Development

Mr Bob Hutton (BH) explained plans for the development on land to the south of Thame Rd. The application has been granted permission in principle for up to 9 houses but the full application will be for 6 houses. The plans are considerate of the impact on the village community. Mr Hutton announced that the footpath running in front of the new houses will be gifted to the village so pedestrians no longer need to walk on the road. He also explained how each property has a different appearance and the first property on entering Thame Rd is thatched to make the development as attractive and sympathetic as possible to the existing character of the village. Full planning permission is likely to be submitted in 6 months time and Mr Hutton would like the Council to support it.

DH asked about internet and BH noted that if permission is granted he would be paying around £230,000 to SODC of which GMPC will get a share to improve infrastructure, including internet provision. However, it is also a planning requirement to include high speed broadband now.

MH raised the issue of drainage as this is becoming more of an issue in the area with heavy rain and the ditches often flood. BH noted that they will have to put attenuation ponds in and will be required to design the drainage to the satisfaction of SODC.

RO asked about continuation of the road on the eastern extent. BH clarified this is an access road to other part of his land.

BH stated that as it currently stands there are no plans for phase two. He noted that the village is likely to become part of Greater Oxford and housing need will be increased. DH asked about self-build and BH answered that self-build allows people freedom to choose what they want but can mean that they can choose a style which doesn't necessarily fit. In this case his plans are in keeping with the village. He also noted that the houses do not include garage but sufficient space has been left to build garages after houses purchased.

A member of the public asked whether affordable housing is a requirement? BH explained that it is not a requirement of new development but he is in support of affordable housing and previously offered to gift the land to South Oxfordshire Housing Association (SOHA) but they declined as did not want to provide shared ownership properties. SOHA presented the position that there was no requirement for low cost housing in Great Milton. The completed houses on the new development are likely to be priced at £600k to £1m.

141/25 Le Manoir

Niall Kingston (NK) gave a quick overview of the most recent plans for the redevelopment: The main external changes are;

- taking out one of the doors in main courtyard
- new access and fire escape from kitchen – wont be visible from the road.
- in the main house blocking a window and putting a hatch onto the roof of the restaurant.
- In the building overlooking the churchyard there will be a window and two skylights removed and bricked/tiled to match the surrounding building.

Cllr Oliver asked about the noise impact from the new plant next to the churchyard and NK replied that it is likely to be quieter than the current equipment as it will be newer and more efficient. Plans will also be amended to adjust the screening of the plant onto the churchyard to minimise noise. Detailed studies on noise attenuation will be needed before planning is approved.

NK noted that if planning approval is finalised the plan remains to have builders on site from April – they are in their final selection of a contractor.

The management team have spoken to both contractors about the importance of avoiding traffic through the village and they will be enforcing this to the best of their abilities. NK welcomes feedback from the village if and when problems arise.

NK noted that people are worried it will change dramatically but emphasised that they want the main house to remain very similar to how it has been.

It was agreed that the public footpath through the meadow needs to be closed from health and safety perspective while works are ongoing however they do not wish to make the footpath unavailable until such time as it is absolutely necessary for safety. The appointed contractors will need to ensure their compliance with H&S requirements and may need to lock the gates at a certain point.

142/25 No 46 Bus Service

Niall Kingston from Le Manoir spoke about No 46 Bus Service. He is aware that some village residents are relying on the late night service to get back from work in Oxford or Wheatley. He is in contact with the Oxford Bus Company to try and reinstate the 23.20 service back to the village. NK confirmed that Le Manoir are contractually obliged to pay £170,000 per year for the bus for 5 years from its inception. If this money were not going towards the bus service it would need to be spent on sustainable strategies rather than profit. He noted that the OBC are focusing their spending on expanding their electric fleet which may be a factor in cutting the least used services.

It was agreed that if it were possible to lose the 21.20 service or one of the early morning services and reinstate the late night service back to the village this would meet most people's needs.

It was agreed that the Clerk will also contact OBC on behalf of GMPC and make this request.

143/25 Playground Maintenance

The Clerk gave an update from the Recreation Ground Committee: They are in the process of getting quotes for the necessary repair and replacement of the playground equipment. Unfortunately it looks like some parts will need complete replacement so the cost is likely to be high. They have a list of grant applications to work through and apply for funding. They will also be applying to the Sheppard Trust. It was agreed that MH will contact the Chair of the Rec Committee for an update and to offer our support. All agreed that the playground is an important amenity for the village, especially due to its location next to the school. The Council are committed to supporting the Rec Committee in obtaining the funds necessary to facilitate repairs as soon as possible.

144/25 Mowing Contract

The tender submissions for the 2026-27 mowing contract were reviewed – see attachment 1.

Tenders were received from Green & Growing and A&W Grounds but 4th Corner Landscaping were not able to tender. Both tenders are from local contractors with a good reputation but it was agreed that Green & Growing have previously provided a good service to GMPC and also offered a lower price. The Council resolved to award the contract to Green & Growing.

The Clerk will contact Green & Growing to confirm they are able to start in March, and will arrange a pre-start meeting to confirm schedules and service levels – a Councillor to attend.

145/25 Churchyard Mowing Costs

Church Warden Trudy Timbs was in attendance to request that the Council cover the annual mowing costs for the churchyard. This is approximately £1000 per year and is the cost of the mowing itself since the PCC own their own mower. It was noted that historically the Council have contributed towards the PCC's mowing costs but it was not included in this year's budget. It was agreed that the PCC will provide a more accurate breakdown of their costs and the Council will consider their contribution. It should be included in future budgets.

146/25 Speed Indicator Devices

It was agreed that the Council will purchase another Speed Indicator Device so there can be devices permanently in position in all three locations. There is £3000 in the budget for this expense. Clerk to contact Westcotec and order the device.

147/25 Planning Applications: The following planning applications were discussed:

P25/S4084/FUL and P25/S4085/LB

Le Manoir Aux Quat Saisons

Internal alterations to manor house and dovecote: including alterations to wall and floor finishes; localised demolition of internal walls; temporary opening up works; alterations to existing services. External alterations to manor house including the removal of skylights, new door, removal of existing door, new roof access hatch, and lightning rods.

As discussed earlier in the meeting the main changes which impact residents are removal of windows, skylights and doors overlooking churchyard. The Council agreed to support the application.

P25/S4062/O

Land to the east of Chilworth Road, Great Milton, OX44 7NY

Outline application for detached self-build dwelling and related works, with matters reserved except access, layout and scale.

DH noted this is grey belt land. Planning granted for two houses on the adjacent corner plot. The scale and layout is appropriate for the location. The Council agreed to support the application.

148/25 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the 15th December 2025 were received and approved, however the Vice Chair was not present to sign, so this will be done at the February meeting.

149/25 Finance

A The **Bank Reconciliation** and Statement of Accounts up to 31st December 2025 were received.

B The following payments were authorised:

Payee	Element	Amount	Date	Minute Ref Order Agreed	Power to Spend
Shield Maintenance Ltd.	Dog waste – Jan 2025	£100.10	21/01/26		OSA s10
Bibby Financial Servies Ltd.	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd. Dec 25	£581.60	21/01/26	150/24	OSA s10
Jonathan Dudley	Bulletin – Jan 26	£283.76	21/01/26		
Castle Water	Allotments Water	£5.73	21/01/26		
Jacqueline Wren	Clerk’s Expenses	£83.00	21/01/26		

C The following monthly payments were noted;

Clerk’s salary	£480.00	30/12/25
Scribe Accounts	£37.20	01/01/26
Bank Charges	£6.00	30/12/25
BT plc	£14.23	30/12/25

D Receipts: £220 Oxfordshire County Council – Rent 2024+25 18/12/25

150/25 Actions

It was noted that the SID on Church Rd still needs to be moved to Thame Road.

151/25 Security in the village

The Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator was not present but has advised that the damage to the village gateway feature be reported to the Police so a claim can be made on insurance if necessary.

152/25 Items for next agenda or information only

The Clerk noted that the defibrillator needs servicing but the support received from the Heartbeat Trust has been poor. Another set of new pads are also needed. The Council agreed that new supplies could be ordered directly from a supplier and that we should discuss changing support provider at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 21.05

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 16th February 2026 starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Agenda items for the January meeting are due to the Clerk by Wednesday 4th February.

Attachment 1 – Mowing Tenders

	Green & Growing		A&W Grounds		Tactical Facilities	
	per cut	per year	per cut	per year	per cut	per year
Main verge mowing: Church Rd/The Green/Lower End (10 cuts pa)	£300.00	£3,000.00	£318.00	£3,180.00	£342.00	£3,420.00
Thame Rd verges (10 cuts pa)	£150.00	£1,500.00	£144.00	£1,440.00	£150.00	£1,500.00
Recreation Ground (13 cuts pa)	£135.00	£1,755.00	£192.00	£2,496.00	£128.40	£1,669.20
Chilworth Road (2 cuts pa)	£240.00	£480.00	£312.00	£624.00	£120.00	£240.00
TOTAL	£6,735.00	£6,735.00	£7,740.00	£7,740.00	£6,829.20	£6,829.20
pcm	£561.25		£645.00		£569.10	

TFM currently doing 9 and 18 cuts pa and mow the playground with same frequency as Rec