

Great Milton Parish Council

Clerk: Jacqueline Wren

Email: clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held at the Pavilion on Monday 23rd February 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillor Malcolm Horsley (Chair, MH), Councillors Bill Fox (Vice Chair, BF), David Harms (DH), Andrew Noble (AN) and Richard Oliver (RO).

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

153/25 Apologies for absence

Councillor Sarah Macmahon (SM)

154/25 **Variation of order of business:** The Council agreed to discuss the Churchyard mowing contract first since the PCC representative was in attendance.

156/25 **Declarations of members' interests:** None.

162/25 Churchyard Mowing Costs

The PCC have confirmed that the annual mowing costs are £1100 (11 cuts at £100) which is currently invoiced and paid per cut. The Vice Chair noted that there is £765 left unallocated in the 26/27 mowing budget, so taking £335 from the general reserve allows the Council to cover the churchyard mowing costs this year. It was noted that a specific item should be included in next year's budget to allow for this. The Council agreed to cover the costs of the churchyard mowing. Clerk to liaise with the PCC Treasurer to arrange payment.

157/25 Reports

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

The Council noted that County Councillor Judith Edwards has recently made a statement regarding her ongoing cancer treatment and her intention to return to work as soon as she is able. The Council send their best wishes for a quick recovery.

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

The monthly report from District Councillor Georgina Heritage was noted and the Council noted that they would like to ensure that the Recreation Ground Management Committee are aware of the grants which she details in her report. Clerk to action.

158/25 Correspondence and Public Discussion

Correspondence was addressed in following agenda items.

159/25 Greenbelt Network – Threat of the Grey Belt

Recent correspondence from the Oxford Green Belt Network has raised concern regarding SODC having recently granted grey belt status to land in the green belt villages. RO noted that according to the definition grey belt land is supposed to be low quality green belt land, but all agreed that the majority of the redefined land is far from low quality. This redefining grey and green belt land is coinciding with the possible implementation of a Greater Oxford Unitary Authority and is likely related to demand for housing. It was noted that the JLP has been withdrawn and so these changes are occurring outside of the neighbourhood planning framework, contradicting the purpose of the neighbourhood plans and JLP. Councillors asked whether the PCs should combine forces and get some planning advice.

It was agreed that DH will email Michael Tyce and ask what his suggested actions are. The Chair will contact the District Councillor to express the Council's concerns. Clerk to forward details of the forthcoming Neighbourhood planning event.

160/25 **Local Government Reorganisation:**

The Council noted the current consultation on proposals for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and agreed that it is important for residents to express their preferences as this will have a significant impact on how the community is served by their Local Council.

It was agreed that the link to the Consultation will be circulated with the monthly email update and the Clerk will prepare a summary of the three proposals and a statement of the Council's recommendation/preference. The closing date is 26th March.

[Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Oxfordshire - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Citizen Space](#)

161/25 **Mowing Contract**

It was noted that Green and Growing have confirmed they are able to start the mowing contract in March. Councillor Noble will meet with the contractor to agree and sign the contract and talk through any specific historical snagging points.

163/25 **Spring Clean & Highways**

Councillor Harms expressed concern that some of worst areas for litter are also along fast roads so safety is a priority. A potential date of Saturday 21st March may be possible if equipment and insurance is appropriate – but it may need to be a private event rather than Council led. DH to research arrangements, risk assessment and decide whether and how to coordinate.

The Clerk gave an update on her meeting with the Highways Engagement Team where she reported ongoing issues with drainage on Church Road and Thame Road as well as mossy pavements on Oxen Piece.

- The main message from the Highways Team was that they are currently overwhelmed with pothole reports after the wet winter weather and therefore it is taking much longer for them to fix these problems. They have taken on new contractors and teams to improve this but they still have a large backlog.
- **In order to prioritise and address the more serious problems quickly they emphasised that each problem needs to be reported separately and crucially with photos on FixMyStreet and an accurate location.** This allows the team to directly prioritise jobs without needing to send a team to assess first.
- They noted that moss on pavements can be addressed by spreading salt on the area to kill the moss.
- The Highways Team also suggested that Great Milton could recruit their own **“Fixmystreet Super Users”** who are given training and equipment to assess and log problems directly with the OCC contractors who are then able to fix the problem more quickly. The Council agreed that it would be helpful to share this information with residents and ask for volunteer Super Users. Clerk to action.

The Council noted an email received from a resident in Milton Common regarding blocked road gutters, discarded works signs and litter on the roads and verges. The Council acknowledged that these issues do need addressing but will unfortunately not be prioritised by OCC who are so overwhelmed with potholes. It was agreed that the best course of action is for us to pass on these concerns directly to the Highways Team and ask the resident to report the individual issues on fixmystreet as requested. Clerk to reply with this information.

An email was received from the Tiddington Clerk suggesting that the Great Milton owned bus shelter could be included in the professional clean they are arranging in April at a cost of £50 + VAT. The Council agreed to proceed with this – Clerk to reply.

164/25 **Speed Indicator Devices**

The Council agreed to the purchase of another SID from Westcotec at the quoted cost of £4200 (including VAT). Clerk to order.

The Clerk noted that Jon Beale at OCC recommended a speed survey was carried out before considering any additional installations. The Chair noted the possibility of light pollution from a speed sign in the middle of the village so close to houses. It was noted

that in general speeding through the village has been less of a problem since the closure of Le Manoir. The Council agreed to hold off on proceeding with any additional speed mitigation for now.

165/25 Planning Applications

P26/S0077/LB & P26/S0076/FUL

Ashurst Court, London Road, Wheatley OX33 1ER

Installation of electric vehicle charging points and associated infrastructure at Units 7, 8 and 9.

The Council had no concerns regarding this application and are in support of the sustainability goals.

166/25 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the 19th January 2026 and the 15th December 2025 were approved and signed.

167/25 Finance

A The Bank Reconciliation up to 31st January 2026 was approved and signed and the Accounts Summary Report noted.

B The following payments were authorised:

Payee	Element	Amount	Date	Minute Ref Order Agreed	Power to Spend
Shield Maintenance Ltd.	Dog waste – Feb 2026	£100.10	25/02/26		OSA s10
Bibby Financial Servies Ltd.	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd. Feb 26 FINAL	£581.60	25/02/26	150/24	OSA s10
Jonathan Dudley	Bulletin – Feb 26	£283.76	25/02/26		
Elizabeth Spencer	Village Christmas Tree	£200.00	25/02/26		
Castle Water	Allotments Water	£5.73	PAID		
R Mead Skip Hire	Freecycle Skip	£210.00	PAID		

C The following monthly payments made by Direct Debit;

Clerk's salary	£480.00	30/01/26
Scribe Accounts	£37.20	01/02/26
Bank Charges	£6.00	30/01/26
BT plc	£13.82	26/01/26

D Receipts – none.

168/25 Actions

The Clerk noted the response from the Oxford Bus Company following the Council's email requesting that the late night service be reinstated (they said they would forward the request to the directors). RO noted that when OBC's contract is due for renewal they will want to be considered good local stakeholders who are acting in the interests of the local community. It was agreed that the Chair will write to Niall Kingston at Le Manoir, our District Councillor and OBC.

169/25 Security in the village

Nothing to discuss.

170/25 Items for next agenda or information only

It was noted that due to the Clerk relocating in the summer recruitment of a new Clerk should proceed to allow time for a good handover. The Clerk noted that she has already had expressions of interest from several people but would probably need to formally advertise the position before inviting anyone for interview. Clerk to draft an advert and present to the Chair and Vice-Chair for approval before publicising.

A member of the public raised concern over the damage to the triangle of grass on Church Rd from construction traffic. They noted that initial repairs have been made but that the ground has been significantly eroded and stones placed to deter vehicles may need to be made more secure so as not to cause a hazard.

Another member of the public explained how the junction on the green turning towards Thame Road is problematic and queried whether the Give Way sign should be replaced with a STOP sign instead. They also asked whether there is any desire to resurrect the Village Larder with a subscription system to maintain better security.

The Council agreed to look into the road safety concerns but explained that the PC are not in a position to direct a new Larder initiative, but would be fully supportive of the concept.

Meeting closed at 20.40

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

Agenda items for the March meeting are due to the Clerk by Wednesday, 4th March.