

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 16th March 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors Bill Fox (Vice Chair, BF), David Harms (DH), Andrew Noble (AN) and Sarah Macmahon (SM).

In attendance: Jacqueline Wren (Clerk), Georgina Heritage (District Councillor, GH).

171/25 Apologies for absence

Councillor Malcolm Horsley (Chair, MH) and Councillor Richard Oliver (RO).

172/25 Variation of order of business: None.

173/25 Declarations of members' interests

It was noted that Councillor Richard Oliver is the applicant for The Dell planning application, but he was not present at the meeting.

174/25 Reports

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

The monthly report from District Councillor Georgina Heritage (GH) was noted and the Council agreed that it was positive news that The Crown in Stadhampton has been purchased by the company who run The White Hart in Dorchester and will remain a pub.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

It was noted that County Councillor Judith Edwards is still on compassionate leave while she undergoes treatment. The Council agreed to send their best wishes and GH offered to liaise with OCC in her absence should the Council have anything to raise.

175/25 Correspondence and Public Discussion

Correspondence was addressed in following agenda items.

176/25 Greenbelt Network – Threat of the Grey Belt

Councillor Harms explained that the Council are feeling unsure of what the position is with regard to 'Grey Belt land' and have noticed it is coming up frequently in recent planning applications. The District Councillor noted that the concept of Grey Belt originated in 2024 but acknowledged the Council's concerns with regard to recent applications. She noted that she is in contact with a Senior Planning Officer who is aware that the Council have questions and would be happy to answer them. Councillor Heritage emphasised that each application will be assessed on a case by case basis rather than a blanket approach or precedent. She noted that decisions are always guided by the assessment which forms part of the Joint Local Plan.

Councillor Harms explained the recent correspondence from Michael Tyce in Waterstock which has raised concern regarding the increasing mention of Grey Belt land. The overall impression being that although legislation hasn't changed the protections for Green Belt land are seemingly being eroded. The Council noted that recent planning applications which have been approved have all followed a similar pattern. The statements have all made a similar argument for the land being Grey Belt but Consultee concerns are not being acknowledged. Councillor Harms expressed that there seems to be little guidance as to how the Council can mitigate this risk to Green Belt land since there is no overriding SODC policy which covers it. The District Councillor noted that national policy will always "trump" local policy so SODC can't always influence a decision made within the planning policy framework. Councillor Harms asked whether SODC will develop a policy for this

and GH noted the recent study of the Green Belt and explained that SODC will use this to inform their consideration of Grey Belt land.

The District Councillor expressed her concern that the bigger threat is not the definition of green or grey belt land but the housing targets and the tilted balance. It was noted that recent decisions have seen the Planning Inspectorate overriding District Councillors who are representing their communities.

There was discussion on the influence of Neighbourhood Plans (NHP) and the Council noted several recent planning applications which have been granted in direct contradiction of the NHP. GH said that she still believes an NHP provides a level of protection but does appreciate the amount of work involved in putting it together.

There followed discussion regarding new Permission in Principle (PIP) applications and that the Council are concerned these do not seem to be scrutinised in the same way as full planning applications. It was noted that for one of the recent PIP applications on Thame Rd there were a lot of valid objections which seemed to be disregarded.

It was agreed that the Clerk to send the District Councillor references to these recent applications for her to review the reports. GH also agreed to liaise with Councillor Harms to set up a meeting with a Planning Officer to discuss the Council's concerns and questions.

177/25 Spring Clean & Highways

It was confirmed that the village litterpick will take place on Saturday 21st. DH has ordered the equipment. It was also noted that the recent fly-tipping on Sworford Lane has been quickly collected by Biffa.

178/25 Community Governance Review

The Council noted the consultation with regard to Community Governance but since the proposed changes (increasing the number of Councillor positions or minor parish boundary changes) do not affect Great Milton they agreed a response was not necessary.

179/25 Planning Applications: To discuss the following planning applications.

[P26/SO400/HH](#)

The Dell, Church Rd, Great Milton OX44 7PB

Erection of a single storey rear extension to replace the 2002 additions.

- Response due by 17th March (Extension granted)

The Council discussed the application and the letter received from an immediate neighbour. The Council agreed that they have no concerns regarding the nature of the work but agree with the Neighbour's concerns that disruption from the construction should be minimised. The Council therefore resolved to respond to the consultation positively but request that a construction management plan is approved prior to work commencing.

[P26/SO340/HH](#)

Pasteur House, Stadhampton Road, Great Milton OX44 7PE

Proposed 2 storey side extension, loft conversion and replacement porch.

- Response due by 17th March (Extension granted)

The Council were not aware of any concerns regarding this application but had not been able to confirm with the immediate neighbours. The Clerk will try and obtain a contact number to confirm that there are no concerns before responding to the consultation.

The following SODC planning decisions were noted:

[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.

- PERMISSION GRANTED

[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.

- PERMISSION GRANTED

180/25 Minutes of the previous meeting

To minutes of the meeting of the 23rd February 2026 were approved and signed.

181/25 Finance

A The **Bank Reconciliation** and Accounts Summary Report up to 28th February 2026 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 – Mar 2026	£100.10	17/03/26		OSA s10
Bibby Financial Servies Ltd.	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd. Feb 26 FINAL	£581.60	17/03/26	150/24	OSA s10
Castle Water	Allotments Water	£5.18	17/03/26		SH&AA s23

It was noted that last month's payment to Tactical Facilities Management was also annotated as 'FINAL' – however this was an error and this month's payment is in fact the last.

C To note 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.

182/25 Actions

1. It was noted that Green & Growing started mowing this week. AN has the contract ready for signature. The Clerk noted they only hold £5m public liability insurance but the Council also have £12m cover. The Council agreed this was adequate considering the risk.
2. The Clerk noted the arrival of the new SID – stored in the Pavilion. Installation to be arranged – will require at least 2 people and a ladder.

183/25 Forthcoming Dates

The following dates were agreed:

- **Year End Accounts** – the be finalised at meeting on 20th April
- **Annual Parish Meeting** – Monday 18th May (to precede the GMPC monthly meeting)
- **2025-26 Audit Timeline**
 - Internal Audit (To start in April)
 - Parish Council to receive Internal Audit report (18th May)
 - AGAR return to be approved and signed (18th May)

- AGAR return and associated information submitted to External Auditor by 30th June.
- Exercise of public rights – 30 working days in June and July: Dates to be confirmed.
- Accounts to be approved and published/required info displayed on the website by 30th June.
- Receipt of External Auditor's response and Notice of Completion: August.

184/25 Items for next agenda or information only

The Clerk will draft a job advert for her position and seek approval from the Chair before posting online and in the Bulletin.

Councillor Bill Fox announced his resignation at the end of the financial year and expressed what a privilege and honour it has been to serve on the PC for the last 13 years. The Council expressed their sadness to lose his valuable guidance and experience but gave their best wishes and thanks for such diligent service to our community. Clerk to receive a formal letter of resignation and declare a Casual Vacancy to SODC.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 20th April 2026 starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Agenda items for the April meeting are due to the Clerk by Wednesday, 8th April.