

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 5th December 2022 at 7.15 p.m. in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, Oxon.

PRESENT : Councillor S. Scott-Ely, Chairman
Councillor P. Bridge Vice- Chairman
Councillor I. Bunyan
Councillor K. Chrisp
Councillor S. Crawford
Councillor B. Fearneyhough
Councillor S. Henry
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones
Councillor K. Mundy
Councillor R. Parsons
Councillor D. Scate

Also present:

District and County Councillor Robin Bennett for part of the meeting
Two members of the public
Annette Loveland, Clerk to the Council

1. **Declarations of Interests.** There were no declarations of interests.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Councillors Croft
3. **County Councillor's Report.** County Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report which had been circulated to all those present at the meeting. The contents of the report were noted and it is on the Parish Council's website, www.berinsfield-pc.gov.uk.
4. **District Councillor's Report.** District Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report which had been circulated to all those present at the meeting.

a) Funds for Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre. District Councillor Bennett informed the meeting that he cannot make funds available to Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre, but would be able to provide them to a third party for use in the village. It was AGREED that Berinsfield Parish Council would be prepared to hold the funds and pay them out as required.

b) Abbey Sports Centre. It was noted that a tender has been approved to refurbish the wet-side changing facilities at the Abbey Sports Centre and work should commence early in 2023.

The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely thanked County and District Councillor Robin Bennett very much for all of his support during 2022.

5. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th November, 2022.** It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th November, 2022 should be APPROVED.
6. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21st November, 2022.** It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 21st November, 2022 should be APPROVED.

7. **Precept 2023-24.** It was proposed by Councillor Henry, seconded by Councillor Bunyan and RESOLVED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that Berinsfield Parish Council require the sum of £134,610 as its precept for the year 2023-24 in order to provide services in the village.

8. **To consider planning applications and decisions.**

a) **Planning Decision P22/S3941/AG Deacons Field, Abingdon Road, Berinsfield. Proposed new building on floor grain store.** The Parish Council noted that South Oxfordshire District Council has stated that a formal application for planning permission is not required.

b) **Planning decision P22/S3364/HH Front Porch. 57 Fane Drive, Berinsfield, OX10 7NE.** The Parish Council noted that planning permission has been granted.

c) **Reference R3.0138/21. Notice of submission of further information in relation to application for planning permission accompanied by an environmental statement (Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulation 2017 as amended).**

-The dualling of the A4130 carriageway (A4130 Widening) from the Milton Gate Junction eastwards, including the construction of three roundabouts;

- A road bridge over the Great Western Mainline (Didcot Science Bridge) and realignment of the A4130 north east of the proposed road bridge including the relocation of a lagoon;

- Construction of a new road between Didcot and Culham (Didcot to Culham River Crossing) including the construction of three roundabouts, a road bridge over the Appleford railway sidings and road bridge over the River Thames;

- Construction of a new road between the B4015 and A415 (Clifton Hampden bypass), including the provision of one roundabout and associated junctions; and

- Controlled crossings, footways and cycleways, landscaping, lighting, noise barriers and sustainable drainage systems. at A linear site comprising a corridor between the A34 Milton Interchange and the B4015 north of Clifton Hampden including part of the A4130 east of the A34 Milton Interchange, land between Didcot and the former Didcot A Power Station and the Great Western Mainline, land to the north of Didcot where it crosses a private railway sidings and the River Thames to the west of Appleford-on-Thames before joining the A415 west of Culham Station, land to the south of Culham Science Centre through to a connection with the B4015 north of Clifton Hampden

The Parish Council noted that the following new documents had been submitted:

- Response to Regulation 25 Request for Further Information and Other Information, including technical appendices
- Environmental Statement Addendum • Revised/Updated Drawings
- Updated Arboriculture Impact Assessment
- Updated Outline Landscape & Biodiversity Management Plan
- Updated Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment
- Additional information to address some comments received during the previous round of consultation.

It was AGREED that Oxfordshire County Council should be informed that Berinsfield Parish Council support the application. It was also AGREED that Oxfordshire County Council should be asked to keep the Parish Council informed about plans for routing the traffic when it gets to the Golden Balls roundabout.

9. **Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.**

a) The notes of the meeting of the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group meeting held on 9th November, 2022 were noted by the Parish Council.

b) The Parish Council considered the proposals contained in the report prepared by Mr. Neil Homer, the Consultant engaged by the Parish Council to assist with the preparation of a new Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Parish Council were concerned about recruiting sufficient volunteers to form the task teams recommended in the report.

At the meeting of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group held on 9th November, the Neighbourhood Development Plan Officers from South Oxfordshire District Council had indicated that they would be prepared to offer assistance to the Parish Council with regard to the Neighbourhood Development Plan. In order to discuss this, a virtual meeting was held which was attended by the Neighbourhood Development Plan Officers from South Oxfordshire District Council, the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely, the Vice-Chairman Councillor Phil Bridge and the Clerk to the Council.

During the virtual meeting, the Neighbourhood Development Plan team from South Oxfordshire District Council agreed to review the current Neighbourhood Development Plan and make suggestions as to how it could be revised to make it compliant. The Neighbourhood Development Plan team propose to carry out this work by the end of January 2023. Mr. Neil Homer, the Parish Council's retained Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultant would be asked to review the revised plan in January/February 2023. The Parish Council would need to be prepared to do more work as some things will have changed between the first and second editions of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Parish Council also anticipate that Oxford Architects, who are currently carrying out the feasibility study for South Oxfordshire District Council with regard to the proposed hub in Berinsfield, might be able to provide information to feed into the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The community of Berinsfield would still have to be consulted on the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Parish Council AGREED to accept the offer made by the Neighbourhood Development Plan team at South Oxfordshire District Council to review the current Neighbourhood Development Plan and make suggestions as to how it could be revised to make it compliant. Mr. Neil Homer, the Parish Council's retained Consultant will be asked to review the revised document when it is available in January/February 2023.

10. **Correspondence and Items for Information.**

a) **Calendar of meetings for 2023.** A schedule of dates for meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees for 2023 was circulated to members for consideration. It was AGREED that the calendar of meetings for 2023 as circulated at the Parish Council meeting, should be APPROVED.

b) **Oxfordshire County Council. School Admissions.** The Parish Council was informed that parents and carers of children born between 1st September, 2018 and 31st August, 2019 should apply for a school place by 15th January 2023. The school admission team can be contacted on 0345 241 2487 or admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk

c) **Use of Pavilion.** The Parish Council AGREED that it would be prepared to hire the kitchen and meeting room in the pavilion for one morning per month on a long term basis for £17.50 per hour plus VAT. In this instance due to it being a long term booking, the rate would not increase in April 2023 in line with other charges.

d) **20 mph Speed Limit.** Councillor Bridge spoke about the Target Zero meeting he had attended recently and, in particular about the 20 mph speed limits in Oxfordshire. The Parish Council considered the information provided by Councillor Bridge and were asked if a 20 mph speed limit should be requested for Berinsfield. Upon a vote being taken four members were in favour of having a 20 mph speed limit and six members were against. It was therefore AGREED that Berinsfield Parish Council should not apply for a 20mph speed limit in Berinsfield.

e) **Flag Pole** The Parish Council was informed that the grant is currently being processed and as soon as it is in the Parish Council's account, an order can be submitted for the flag pole. The Parish Council AGREED that the following items should be ordered from Flagpole Express :-

One 10 metre heavy duty fibreglass flagpole complete with internal halyard and locking door, gold finial and hinged baseplate, including delivery and installation.
Two, 2.5 yard hand sawn Union Jack flags
One storm flag for use in bad weather
One ceremonial flag to be used at the time of the Coronation of King Charles III

f) **Rugby Post.** The Parish Council was informed that the grant of £1,000 had been received from South Oxfordshire District Council. The Parish Council considered the information provided at the meeting about the types and heights of rugby posts and the relevant prices. It was AGREED that the Clerk should obtain quotations for the supply and installation of a 10 metre rugby post and that a working party of Councillors, including Councillors Bridge, Henry and Mrs. Jones, should liaise to arrange a site meeting to establish where the rugby goal should be sited. The Parish Council will be asked to consider the quotations and information about the location of the post at the meeting to be held on 9th January 2023.

g) **Spinney Area between Abbey Woods Close and Abbey Woods Academy.** Representatives from the Parish Council had a meeting with an Officer from Oxfordshire County Council at the spinney area earlier this year to discuss maintenance of the brambles that were growing through the fence and causing problems to children in the school playground. At that time the Officer from the County Council agreed to get quotations to get the brambles removed. During the site meeting the Officer from the County Council suggested that it would be beneficial if the County Council were to consider leasing the open space and spinney to the Parish Council. The Officer asked the Parish Council to obtain a quotation from its tree surgeons to carry out works to the trees in the spinney to ensure that they were safe prior to the terms of the lease being discussed. A quotation has been obtained and submitted to the County Council who have approved it and have now issued an order to the Parish Council to get the tree works carried out and make a claim to Oxfordshire County Council for reimbursement of the cost. The Parish Council AGREED that the Clerk should submit an order to Complete Tree Services for the tree works to be carried out and claim the cost back from Oxfordshire County Council.

11. **Statement of Accounts for December 2022.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in December in the sum of £31,619.00 should be APPROVED

12. **To inspect the Parish Council's bank statements.** Copies of the Parish Council's bank statements for November, 2022 were circulated at the meeting for Members' inspection. The balances of all three of the Parish Council's accounts were noted by Members of the Parish Council.

13. Items for report to the Chairman

a) Christmas lights. The new Christmas lights have been delivered and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will hang them on the trees along Wimblestraw Road and in other locations in the village.

b) Social events in Berinsfield. It was AGREED that it would be beneficial for a Social Events Group to be formed, comprising of residents and representatives from the Parish Council to organise the events that have previously been held in the village.

c) Floodlights being charged in the Pavilion. The Parish Council was informed that floodlights are being used for football training sessions being held on the recreation ground. The Parish Council has not given permission for the batteries for the flood lights to be charged in the pavilion and it now appears that they are being charged in one of the changing rooms. The Parish Council had previously agreed that research should be carried out to assess how much electricity would be used to charge the batteries and when this had been clarified, the charge should be passed to Berinsfield Football Club. It was AGREED that a letter should be sent to the Chairman of Berinsfield Football Club to ask him to arrange for the batteries for the floodlights to be removed from the pavilion and charged elsewhere until such time as the Parish Council can let Berinsfield Football Club know what the additional charge will be for electricity.

14. Date of next meeting 9th January, 2023.

15 Confidential Item

a) To receive and approve the confidential Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th November, 2022

b) Grounds maintenance contract for 2023-24

