

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 13th May, 2024 at 7.15 p.m. in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, Oxon.

PRESENT : Councillor P. Bridge - Vice Chairman – in the chair
Councillor Mrs. Beeby
Councillor I. Bunyan
Councillor K. Chrisp
Councillor Mrs. A. Head
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones
Councillor D. Scate
Councillor Mrs. L. Sweetland
Councillor A. Woodington

Annette Loveland, Clerk to the Council
County and District Councillor Robin Bennett
Three members of the public

1. Items raised by Members of the public

a) **Classic Car event.** Councillor Bunyan asked if the lower section of the recreation ground could be mowed on the 8th June in order for it to be marked out for the Classic Car event that will be held on the 15th June, 2024. Councillor Bunyan also agreed to deliver letters to residents in Lay Avenue and Evenlode Drive to ask for their co-operation in keeping the road clear of parked vehicles on the 15th June.

b) **Fly Tipping** A resident attended the meeting to complain about the fly tipped mattress and sofa that have been left by the charity collection bins outside the former shops at the junction of Chiltern Close and Fane Drive. The fly tipping has been reported to South Oxfordshire District Council, but as it is on privately owned land, it is up to the land owner to remove the rubbish. The resident also reported that rubbish is building up in the yard at the rear of the former shops and he provided photographs of this. The resident was informed that South Oxfordshire District Council is currently investigating both complaints and copies of the photographs taken by the resident recently would be passed to them.

2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Councillors Crawford and Scott-Ely.

3. **Declarations of Interests. Item 15, Applications for grant aid.** Councillor Mrs. Jones, declared an interest in Item 15a, Councillor Bridge declared an interest in item 15b.

4 **Election of Chairman.** It was proposed by Councillor Scate, seconded by Councillor Bunyan and AGREED that Councillor Scott-Ely should be elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the year 2024-25

5. **Election of Vice-Chairman.** It was proposed by Councillor Scate, seconded by Councillor Bunyan and AGREED that Councillor Bridge should be elected Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the year 2024-25.

6. **County Councillor's Report.** County Councillor Robin Bennett attended the meeting. He had submitted a report to the Annual Parish meeting on the 29th April and this can be found on the Parish Council's website www.berinsfield-pc.gov.uk

County Councillor Robin Bennett informed the meeting that Oxfordshire County Council are looking at ways to make the section of the A 4074 between Berinsfield and Dorchester safer by either installing a central barrier or white lines.

Motorcyclists . Councillor Bunyan, who represents the Parish Council on the joint committee which has been formed to monitor the motorcycle activity from H Café, informed County Councillor Robin Bennett that he would ask the organiser to copy him into the invitations to attend the joint committee meetings.

HIF1 Councillor Bridge asked County Councillor Robin Bennett if there was any further news about the HIF1 hearing. County Councillor Bennett informed the meeting that the hearing had concluded and the report should be out by Autumn 2024.

7. **District Councillor's Report.** District Councillor Robin Bennett had submitted a report to the Annual Parish meeting on the 29th April and this can be found on the Parish Council's website www.berinsfield-pc.gov.uk

District Councillor Robin Bennett was informed that the area of land at Kennett Close, Berinsfield, owned by South Oxfordshire District Council, had not been cut this year. It had been left to grow last summer, but was not included in the schedule of areas that should be left to grow this year. The Clerk will send an email to South Oxfordshire District Council about this matter.

8. **To receive and approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 8th April, 2024.** It was AGREED that the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 8th April, 2024, should be APPROVED.

a) **To receive and approve the Confidential Minutes of the Appointments Committee meeting held on the 7th May, 2024.** The Minutes of the Appointments Committee meeting were circulated to Members of the Council at the meeting. It was AGREED that the Confidential Minutes of the Appointments Committee meeting held on the 7th May, 2024 should be APPROVED.

9. **To consider planning applications and decisions received to date.**

a) **Planning decision P24/S0942/FUL** Change of use from amenity land to residential with new drive and single storey extension to side of house. 14 Glyme Drive, Berinsfield OX10 7PD. The Parish Council noted that planning permission has been granted in respect of this application.

10. **Casual Vacancy on Berinsfield Parish Council.** It was with regret that the Parish Council accepted the resignation of Councillor Henry. The casual vacancy will be advertised for the statutory period and if an election is not called, the Parish Council will co-opt an eligible person to fill the vacancy.

11. **To Appoint Members to serve on Parish Council Committees/Sub-Committees for the year 2024-25.**

It was AGREED that the following Councillors should serve on Parish Council Committees/Sub-Committees and represent the Parish Council on outside organisations for the year 2024-25

<p>Finance Committee Solar Farm Sub-Committee Councillor S. Scott-Ely Councillor P. Bridge Councillor I. Bunyan Councillor Chrisp Councillor Mrs. A. Jones Councillor D. Scate Councillor Mrs. L. Sweetland</p>	<p>Pavilion Committee Councillor S. Scott-Ely Councillor P. Bridge Councillor K. Chrisp Councillor S. Crawford Councillor D. Scate Councillor A. Woodington</p>
<p>Allotments, Playing Fields, Open Spaces, Burial Ground & Skateboard Park Committee Councillor S. Scott-Ely Councillor P. Bridge Councillor K. Chrisp Councillor Mrs. A. Head Councillor Mrs. A. Jones Councillor D. Scate Councillor A. Woodington</p>	<p>Planning, Highways & Public Transport Committee Councillor S. Scott-Ely Councillor P. Bridge Councillor K. Chrisp Councillor Mrs. I. Beeby</p>
<p>Appointments Committee Councillor S. Scott-Ely Councillor P. Bridge Councillor Mrs. A. Jones Councillor Mrs. L. Sweetland</p>	<p>Complaints/Freedom of Information/GDPR Committee Councillor S. Scott-Ely Councillor P. Bridge Councillors to be seconded as required</p>
<p>Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group All Members of the Parish Council</p>	<p>Public Transport Representative Vacant HIF1 (OCC) Councillor S. Scott-Ely Councillor P. Bridge Councillors to be seconded as required</p> <hr/> <p>Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plan Alliance Councillors can opt to attend when notices of meetings are received.</p>

12. **UK SPF Funding for Berinsfield (Minute No. 10 of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th April, 2024)** The Parish Council noted that South Oxfordshire District Council would not allow the UK SPF funds to be used to install drainage in the recreation ground, but has agreed to the funds being used to extend and repair the skatepark and to build a pump track on the recreation ground.

South Oxfordshire District Council has asked Berinsfield Parish Council if it is in agreement with the two projects, extending and repairing the skatepark and constructing a pump track, taking place.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Chrisp and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Sweetland that the two projects should take place. A vote was taken on the proposal and six members were in favour of the proposal and two members abstained.

It was therefore AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that the Parish Council is in favour of the proposal to extend and repair the existing skatepark and to construct a new pump track on the existing BMX track.

The Parish Council also considered the proposed procurement process, as detailed in the agenda, and it was AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that the Parish Council accept the proposals, subject to the tender documents being returned to the Clerk to Berinsfield Parish Council with a view to a contractor being appointed at the Parish Council meeting to be held on the 3rd June, 2024

13. **Abbey Woods Spinney, Berinsfield.** It was noted that South Oxfordshire District Council has additional UK SPF funding available for the arts in Berinsfield and hope to create a nature trail that will connect the new pocket parks in the village, including the proposed Forest School in the Abbey Woods Spinney area.

The Parish Council was asked if it is in agreement with a Forest School being created in the Abbey Woods Spinney area, which it has just leased from Oxfordshire County Council. The Parish Council considered this matter and it was AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that, in principle, the Parish Council agree with the proposal for a Forest School to be created in the spinney area, but that further information about the project should be provided by South Oxfordshire District Council before a final decision can be made.

14. **Berinsfield Parish Council Insurance Policy 2023-2026.** The Finance Committee of the Parish Council had recommended that the Parish Council should review the cover provided by the insurance policy. The policy documents were available at the meeting and the Clerk read out the cover provided under each heading. The Parish Council noted the information and AGREED that the document should be reviewed prior to the next renewal in June 2026. It was noted that new items purchased by the Parish Council are added to the policy as required.

15 **Applications for Grant Aid 2024-25.**

a) **Berry Youth Centre.** At the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th April, 2024, it was agreed that Berry Youth Centre should be awarded a grant of £1,000, subject to a copy of their accounts being provided to support the application. The accounts were provided and were circulated for inspection at the meeting. It was AGREED that the grant of £1,000.00 should be paid to Berry Youth Centre.

b) **Application for grant aid from Riverside Counselling Service.** A further application for grant aid had been received from Riverside Counselling Service. The grant is required by Riverside Counselling Service towards the cost of providing its services in Berinsfield. Riverside Counselling had provided a copy of their accounts in support of their application. The Parish Council considered the application and AGREED that a further grant of £500.00 should made to Riverside Counselling.

c) **Application for grant aid from Enrych.** An application had been received from Enrych for a grant to assist with the cost of providing support for adults with a physical disability across Oxfordshire. Enrych did not submit accounts in support of their application and the Parish Council considered that the service provided was not specific to Berinsfield. It was AGREED that on this occasion a grant should not be made to Enrych.

16. **Berinsfield Burial Ground.**

a) **CCTV and Solar Lighting.** The Parish Council was informed that residents who attended the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April, 2024 asked if an additional CCTV camera and solar lighting could be provided in the Burial Ground in an attempt to deter vandalism. A further camera, with a built-in spot light, was purchased following the Annual Meeting. A quotation was obtained for a solar unit with either a 5 or 10 watt LED on a column at a cost of £1695.00. The Parish Council discussed this matter at some length, but considered that it would not be appropriate to have solar lighting in the Burial Ground.

b) **Surface Flooding.** Residents who attended the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 29th April asked what steps the Parish Council was going to take to alleviate the flooding that occurs in the area where the cremation plots are located when there is heavy rainfall. The water runs into the Burial Ground from the fields at the rear. The Parish Council AGREED to obtain advice and quotations to construct a drain along the boundary between the Burial Ground and the Mount Farm Land to stop the water reaching the cremation plots. This matter will be discussed again when quotations are received.

17. **Correspondence and Items for Information.**

a) **Installation of drainage in the recreation ground at the rear of the Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield.** The Parish Council noted the information contained in the agenda that it would be able to apply for funding from the South Oxfordshire District Council CIL scheme to provide drainage in the 8.27 acres of the lower recreation ground and that relevant links to the application forms would be forwarded to the Parish Clerk.

b) **Wind turbine located in the grounds of Abbey Woods Academy.** A resident had enquired whether the wind turbine was being serviced as it did not seem to be working. Enquiries were made and the Parish Council has been informed by the Regional Operations Manager of the Anthem Trust, that the school is responsible for servicing the wind turbine and this is done every two years. Following a recent survey, there is an issue with the turbine, which is why it is not working. The cost to repair the wind turbine is not something that the school can afford to do at the present time. A quotation has been obtained to decommission and remove the turbine, which is cheaper than the cost to repair. The turbine provides power to the side of the school that is not currently used and therefore the cost of servicing and repairing the turbine does not benefit the school. The Anthem Trust has asked the Parish Council if it sees a benefit in keeping the wind turbine, whether it would be willing to take on the costs of servicing and repairing the turbine. The Parish Council considered the information and AGREED that the Anthem Trust should be informed that the Parish Council is not in a position to take on the costs of servicing and repairing the turbine.

c) **Portrait of King Charles III.** A portrait of King Charles III has been provided by the UK Government to mark the start of the new Reign. The Berinsfield Community Association currently has a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II in its premises and would also like to have the portrait of King Charles III. It was AGREED that the portrait of King Charles III should be displayed in the Berinsfield Community Association premises.

d) **D Day 80th -6th June 2024.** Those present at the meeting were reminded that a beacon will be lit at 9.15 p.m. on 6th June, 2024 by the War Memorial, to commemorate 80 years since D Day. This will be publicised on the notice boards and on Spotted Berinsfield.

e) **Solar Panels -Pavilion Roof.** The grant that was awarded by South Oxfordshire District Council towards the cost of providing solar panels on the roof of the pavilion has expired. The Parish Council has not been able to accept it as it is still waiting to hear if it has been successful in obtaining further funding towards the scheme from the De-carbonisation Scheme administered by South Oxfordshire District Council. The Parish Council has been asked if it wishes to renew its application for a grant and it was AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that the Parish Council do wish to renew their grant application.

f) **Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Grant Scheme. Community-led Approach.** The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Bridge, read out an email from the Garden Communities Team Leader regarding a new Public Health funded £25,000 grant scheme which is due to be launched in July 2024 for local groups and organisations to deliver projects and services which address recommendations to enhance health and wellbeing within the Berinsfield Community. The Parish Council has been asked if it would be willing to take a lead on administering the scheme.

South Oxfordshire District Council have stated that they would continue to support the project and are developing a draft grants policy and application form for the scheme. The policy aims to encourage applications from the voluntary and community sector. It was AGREED that the Garden Communities Team Leader should be informed that the Parish Council agree in principle to administering the scheme, but would like more details before actually making a commitment. The Parish Council would like to know if they would be eligible to apply for funding for a project and if so, whether they would be precluded from applying due to being involved in the administration.

18. **Statement of accounts for payment in May, 2024.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in May 2024 in the sum of £33,694.23 should be APPROVED.

19. **Bank statements.** The bank statements for April were circulated at the meeting and the balances were noted by the Parish Council.

20. **Items for report to Chairman.**

a) **Requests from South Oxfordshire District Council to carry out projects in Berinsfield.** Councillor Mrs. Jones informed the meeting that she felt the Parish Council should be careful when considering requests from South Oxfordshire District Council to carry out projects in Berinsfield.

b) **Documentary about Berinsfield.** Councillor Bridge informed the meeting that filming for the documentary will take place on the 22nd May.

c) **Service of Remembrance.** Councillor Mrs. Jones informed the meeting that relatives of servicemen who were based at Mount Farm would be attending the Service of Remembrance in 2024.

d) **Request for a battery operated strimmer for use in the Allotment Site.** Councillor Mrs. Head asked if the Parish Council would consider purchasing a battery operated strimmer that she and possibly other allotment tenants could use to keep the grass cut on paths in the allotment site. She has regularly cut the grass on the paths with her own petrol strimmer, but this is no longer available. It was AGREED that a battery operated strimmer up to a maximum cost of £150.00 could be purchased, for use in the allotment site.

21. **Date of next meeting – 3rd June 2024**

