

BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of Berinsfield Parish Council will take place on
Monday 1st March 2021 at 7.15 p.m.

This will be a virtual meeting hosted on Zoom.

**If you wish to join the virtual meeting, please email the Clerk on
Clerk@berinsfield-pc.gov.uk for the joining details**

22nd February 2021

Annette Loveland
Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. Items raised by Members of the public.
 - a) Garden Village scheme
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declaration of Interests. To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001
4. County Councillor's Report.
5. District Councillor's Report.
6. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st February 2021.
7. **To consider planning applications and decisions received to date.**
 - a) **Planning application P21/S0551/T28** For information only. Notification under the Electronic Communications Code Regulations 2003 (as amended) to utilise permitted development rights for a Proposed H3G (UK) Ltd Base Station upgrade at Berinsfield Water Tower Tower Road, Berinsfield, Wallingford OX10 7LN.
 - b) **Planning decision P20/S4716/HH** Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey extension. Magnolia House, 33A Cherwell Road, Berinsfield, OX10 7PB. The Parish Council is asked to note that planning permission has been granted.
8. **Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan. Scoping Note.** To receive a report from the Parish Council's retained Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultant, prepared

following a virtual meeting with Officers from South Oxfordshire District Council. The report identifies the possible scope of the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan policies that are not likely to be covered in the forthcoming Garden Village Masterplan. The Parish Council is asked to consider the contents of the report in the first instance.

9. **Correspondence and Items for Information.**

a) **Wildlife Garden Group.** A wildlife garden group has been set up in Berinsfield with the aim of encouraging residents to create wildlife areas in their gardens and to encourage children to learn more about nature. There are currently two competitions taking place for wildflower garden of the year. Prizes are being obtained from local businesses and the Parish Council is asked if it wishes to support the group by providing a prize for the competitions. The organisers also hope to expand the wildlife idea to larger plots of land and hedgerows in the village if at all possible.

b) **South Oxfordshire District Council, Ecological Emergency.** The Parish Council is asked to note that South Oxfordshire District Council has declared an ecological emergency. The declaration reflects the Council's commitment to protect and restore the natural world, a key priority set out in the South Oxfordshire Corporate Plan. A copy of the motion which was passed by South Oxfordshire District Council on 11th February, is attached for Members' information and consideration.

c) **Virtual Parish Council meetings.** The regulations allowing virtual meetings of the Parish Council will come to an end on 7th May 2021. Local Government organisations have been lobbying the Government to allow the current regulations to continue. Lawyers in Local Government and the Association of Democratic Services Officers sought Counsel opinion as to whether primary legislation was required. The Government has argued that primary legislation is required to allow virtual meetings to continue and that there isn't sufficient parliamentary time for primary legislation before May.

The National Association of Local Councils' recommendations are detailed below, but the Parish Council is asked to consider which course of action will best fit its needs and manage risks :-

Consider what Council business can be conducted before May so that the Council can dedicate time to those issues in remote meetings. The more discussion and decisions that can be conducted in remote meetings means the Council can aim to hold fewer and shorter face to face meetings after May.

This may require more meeting time than is currently planned, so the Council should look at the meeting schedule in the run-up to May and see if more time or more meetings are required. Where possible, consider holding the Annual Council meeting while the current Regulations permit for it to be held remotely

Consider when the Council does need to meet face to face, and whether meetings can be delayed to later in the year when the potential COVID-19 risk may be further reduced.

The Council might consider holding a remote meeting as late as possible in April so that Councillors who are unable to attend face-to-face meetings will have as much time as possible before disqualification by virtue of s.85 of the Local Government Act 1972 becomes an issue.

It may help the Council's business continuity to implement (or review) a scheme of delegation. This would allow the Clerk to make certain decisions for the Council, which would be especially important if the Council were unable to hold meetings due to COVID-19 risks. In reviewing/adopting a scheme of delegation the Council should ensure there is clarity

around which decisions are delegated and which are not, for how long the scheme of delegation is in place, and when the scheme of the delegation will end or be reviewed.

d) **Local transport and Connectivity Plan. Vision Consultation.** Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan vision document is now out to public consultation and Oxfordshire County Council would welcome feedback on the document. The Local Transport and Connectivity Plan is the first step in developing the updated Local Transport Plan. The vision ensures a clear long-term ambition for transport in the county and will underpin all the policies and schemes included in the full Local Transport and Connectivity Plan. The consultation runs from 15th February until 29th March and can be found on the website <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltcpvision>. The Parish Council is asked if it wishes to participate in the consultation.

e) **HENGE21.** The Parish Council has been informed HENGE21 a community arts event is planned for September 2021 celebrating the first settlement at the Dyke Hills. A video providing more information can be seen at <https://vimeo.com/506469244>. The organisers have asked for Berinsfield Parish Council's support. They have applied to the Arts Council England and other potential sponsors. This is not a specific application for grant aid but the Parish Council is asked if this is a project that it would be prepared to support.

f) **Temporary Road Closure.** This is a reminder that Fane Drive will be closed from the Boxing Club to the junction of Fane Drive and Burcot Lane for carriageway repairs from 6th April to 9th April 2021. The alternative route will be via Wimblestraw Road and Fane Drive. Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the repairs.

10. Statement of Accounts for payment in March 2021 to be circulated electronically prior to the meeting.
11. Items for report to Chairman
12. Date of next Parish Council Meeting - 12th April 2021.
13. **Confidential Item**

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is recommended that the public and press be excluded for the consideration of this item.

- a) Protocol to be adopted in the event of a death of a senior public figure.