

PRESENT : Councillor S. Scott-Ely - Chairman
Councillor P. Bridge
Councillor K. Chrisp
Councillor S. Crawford
Councillor B. Fearneyhough
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones
Councillor S. Perkins
Councillor D. Smith

The following people were present for part of the meeting :-

District Councillor Robin Bennett
County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Ms. Emily Cockle, Interim Head of Development and Regeneration, SODC
Ms. Edel McGurk
Mr. D. Scate
Three members of the public

1. **Items raised by members of the public.**

a) Litter Picking. The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely thanked Councillor Bridge and resident, Ms. C. Glead, for carrying voluntary litter picking along Burcot Lane and the lane to Queenford Farm.

b) Presentation by Ms Edel McGurk. The Chairman welcomed Ms Edel McGurk to the meeting. Edel introduced herself to those present and explained that she lived in Benson, but wished to help Berinsfield to look after its existing green spaces and create developments that are acceptable to wildlife. Edel gave a slide presentation to those present and referred to the Environment Bill, which should be new legislation by Autumn 2021, which sets out a comprehensive vision to allow the environment to prosper for future generations. Councillor Bridge referred to the Burial Ground and the Solar Farm sites in Berinsfield and suggested that they could benefit from Edel's expertise.

Councillor Scott-Ely asked where funding could be obtained to carry out improvements and Edel mentioned the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment, Heritage Lottery and South Oxfordshire District Council.

Emily Cockle, the Interim Head of Development and Regeneration at South Oxfordshire District Council informed Edel that she had previously seen the presentation and that she felt South Oxfordshire District Council could support Edel and work with her to ensure that they could get some improvements in Berinsfield sooner rather than later.

District Councillor Robin Bennett suggested contacting the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre as they could advise on what wildlife could be encouraged to the village. The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely and District Councillor Robin Bennett thanked Edel for joining the meeting and making her presentation.

c) Garden Village and regeneration scheme. Ms. Emily Cockle, the Interim Head of Development and Regeneration at South Oxfordshire District Council attended the meeting to give an update on the Garden Village and regeneration scheme. Emily confirmed that a meeting would be convened between representatives of the Parish Council, South Oxfordshire District Council,

Oxfordshire County Council, SOHA Housing and any other stakeholders in the village and that this would be held on a date to be confirmed in February 2021. She informed the meeting that Strategic Advisors are speaking to the land owners with a view to starting negotiations and are looking for South Oxfordshire District Council to take the lead with stakeholders. South Oxfordshire District Council has appointed two new Officers to the Development and Regeneration team who will be working with the Parish Council and other organisations in the village. The new Officers are currently reading through documents to acquaint themselves with the work that has already been carried out with regard to the regeneration of Berinsfield. Emily also stated the new Officers are keen to do something for the existing village of Berinsfield rather than waiting for the new development to take place.

The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely asked Emily when she would visit the village and she indicated that under the current Government guidelines she could have a distanced walk around the village with one other person. District Councillor Robin Bennett has spoken to the Chief Executive of South Oxfordshire District Council, Mr. Mark Stone, and he has indicated that he is disappointed that the proposed meeting with the Parish Council and other stakeholders did not take place in January. District Councillor Robin Bennett believes there should be one focussed group and that the Parish Council should be involved in it.

The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely referred to the paused Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan and District Councillor Robin Bennett thought this was something that could be looked at by the group when it is formed. Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely informed the meeting that he thought the village should have a Neighbourhood Development Plan and in this respect, he agreed to introduce the Parish Council's retained Consultant, Mr. Neil Homer, to Emily Cockle. Emily also confirmed that she would be speaking to Homes England in the near future.

The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely thanked Emily for joining the virtual meeting and said he looked forward to hearing from her with regard to the date of the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Councillors I. Bunyan, E. Croft and Mrs. R. Stockford

3. **Declaration of Interests.** Members were advised to make declarations of personal or prejudicial interest on items under consideration during the meeting.

4. **County Councillor's report.** County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale had prepared a written report, which had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council, and she also attended the meeting. County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale's report covered the County Council's proposed budget for 2021-22 and an update on the Covid-19 situation in Oxfordshire.

a) **Flooding** The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely mentioned the flooding that had occurred in the village recently, particularly at the junction of Fane Drive and Burcot Lane by the pumping station, and asked if Oxfordshire County Council could do anything to improve the drainage in the village.

b) **20 mph speed limit.** County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale informed the meeting that any village in Oxfordshire could apply to the County Council for a 20 mph speed limit to be imposed. Further information will be provided by the County Council about this scheme. At its meeting held on 4th January, 2021 the Parish Council indicated that it was supportive of this scheme, subject to Oxfordshire County Council providing signage and road markings. The Parish Council did express its concern as to how the 20 mph speed limit would be monitored.

c) **Laptops** County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale has purchased some laptops from her Councillor Priority Fund for the use of children in Berinsfield.

d) HIF1 Meeting. County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale confirmed that she would be attending the virtual HIF1 meeting along with Councillors Scott-Ely, Bridge, Fearneyhough and Chrisp on 11th February at 2 p.m. She also informed the meeting that tree clearance work would be started soon. Councillor Bridge asked about the Golden Balls roundabout scheme as he felt that houses should not be built until the road infrastructure was in place. County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale informed the meeting that there are now a team of officers and a budget of £1 million pounds to start looking at the Golden Balls roundabout scheme, including plans to widen the road to Chislehampton and build a by pass around Stadhampton and Chislehampton.

The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely, thanked County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale for her report and for joining the meeting.

5. **District Councillor's report.** District Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report that had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council. The contents of the report were noted, including the information about Table Tennis England matching any funding that can be put up to purchase table tennis tables and equipment. More information is available from Cath.Dale@southandvale.gov.uk or 07801203551.

Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely spoke about Elaine's ditch which runs from the open space area in Fane Drive into the Drayton Road and explained that it would really benefit from being cleared and possibly planted to enhance its appearance. District Councillor Robin Bennett indicated that this might be the type of project that could benefit from the expertise of Ms. Edel McGurk.

6. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the virtual Parish Council meeting held on 4th January 2021** It was AGREED that the Minutes of the virtual meeting of Berinsfield Parish Council held on 4th January, 2021 should be APPROVED.

7. **Casual Vacancy on Berinsfield Parish Council.** The Parish Council considered applications from two eligible persons to be co-opted as a Member of Berinsfield Parish Council.

Mr. D. Scate joined the virtual meeting of the Parish Council and as well as providing a written report which had been circulated to Members, he explained why he would like to be considered for co-option as a Member of the Parish Council

Mr. S. Henry had given his apologies for not being able to attend the virtual meeting, but had also provided a report, which had been circulated to Members, explaining why he wished to be considered for co-option as a Member of the Parish Council.

Mr. Scate was asked to wait in the virtual waiting room while Members considered the two applications. A vote was taken and four members were in favour of co-opting Mr. Henry and three were in favour of co-opting Mr. Scate. It was therefore AGREED that Mr. Samuel Henry should be co-opted as a Member of Berinsfield Parish Council.

Mr. Scate was re-admitted to the meeting and the Chairman informed him that his application had not been successful on this occasion, but thanked him for his interest. Mr. Scate stated that if the Parish Council required any assistance with Covid risk assessments, he would be happy to help.

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

a) **Planning Application P21/S0043/FUL** Rear and roof extension to include front façade changes to unit 3, with replacement of a roller shutter to glazed curtain walling and canopy. Williams Jet Tenders Vogue Business Park, Tower Road, Berinsfield, OX10 7LN The Parish Council AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that it supports the application.

b) **Planning Decision P20/S4020/FUL** Grain store and turning area with access from road (As amended by drawings received 9th December 2020 re-orientating the building). Field at Wally Corner, Drayton Road, Berinsfield. The Parish Council noted that planning permission has been GRANTED

c) Street numbering. The Parish Council noted that the shop adjacent to the supermarket at the junction of Fane Drive and Chiltern Close which has now been converted to a flat, has been re-numbered as 182 Fane Drive, Berinsfield.

d) **Planning application No. P20/S4551/HH** Loft conversion with associated dormer. 5 Glyme Drive, Berinsfield OX10 7PD The Parish Council noted that planning permission has been GRANTED

e) **Planning application No. P20/S4685/HH** 93 Fane Drive, Berinsfield OX10 7NF The Parish Council noted that planning permission has been GRANTED.

9. **Berinsfield Parish Council internal audit 2020-21.** It was AGREED that Jane Olds should be appointed to carry out the internal audit of the Parish Council's accounts for the year 2020-21.

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

a) **Request for dropped kerb.** The Parish Council noted that a resident had asked if it would be possible to have a dropped kerb installed on the edge of the car parking area at the top of Colne Drive to allow access into the footpath that leads to Ock Drive. This would allow people who use mobility scooters, aids, prams, buggies, etc. to be able to get into Ock Drive and then on to the path around the recreation ground without the need to go out of Colne Drive to Fane Drive and then into Ock Drive. The request has initially been referred to SOHA Housing who own the car park in Colne Drive.

b) **Scroll for Ken Hall in recognition of his appointment as an Honorary Freeman of the Parish of Berinsfield.** The Parish Council noted that the scroll had been presented to Ken by staff in his care home on Monday 25th January. A video and photograph of the presentation had been forwarded to Members of the Parish Council.

The staff at the care home were also able to play the video that Councillor Danniell Smith took of Members of the Parish Council for Ken. The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely thanked Councillor Smith for carrying out the filming and for preparing the video.

c) **Grant Aid 2021-22.** The Parish Council noted that the Parish Council's grant aid scheme was currently being advertised and that the closing date for applications will be 5th March, 2021.

d) **Vehicles parked on bend opposite Corrigan Gym.** It was reported that two vehicles are regularly parked half on the pavement and half on the road on the bend opposite the Corrigan Gym in Fane Drive, Berinsfield. Members discussed whether it would be appropriate to prepare a leaflet to be placed on the windscreens of vehicles that are parked on pavements or causing an obstruction. In this instance the Parish Council considered that as the matter had been brought to its attention it would be appropriate to refer the matter to Thames Valley Police. It was AGREED that the matter should be reported to Thames Valley Police. The Chairman, Councillor Scott-Ely, AGREED that he would prepare a draft leaflet for Councillors' consideration at the next meeting.

11. **Statement of Accounts for payment in February 2021.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in February in the sum of £12,673.89 should be APPROVED.

12. **Items of report to Chairman.**

a) **Didcot Garden Town Advisory Group** Councillor Bridge informed the Parish Council that he had joined the virtual meeting of the Didcot Garden Town Advisory Group. He said it is a sounding forum for residents and businesses. To join email didcotgrdentown@southandvale.gov.uk

b) **Climbing frame with slide, Lay Avenue Play Area.** The older climbing frame and slide in the Lay Avenue Play area is now showing signs of wear and tear on the wooden platforms and would require a new scramble net as the plastic coating is split. As it is now 19 years old, the Parish Council considered that as there is a similar newer piece of equipment in the play area that it would be more appropriate for it to be removed. It was AGREED that the Clerk should take the relevant action to get the older climbing frame and slide in the Lay Avenue Play area removed.

c) **Wide path in Burial Ground.** Councillor Bridge informed the Parish Council that a guide price had been obtained for the construction of a wide path through the centre of the Burial Ground that would be wide enough for a hearse. The Parish Council had been considering providing a second path through the Burial Ground since it opened in 1997, but funding would have to be raised in order to provide this. The matter will be discussed by the Finance Committee when it meets to discuss the budget in November 2021.

13 **Date of next meeting – 1st March, 2021. This will be a virtual meeting unless Government guidelines change.**