

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

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

District Councillor Robin Bennett
County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Mr. Mike Light
Two members of the public

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

a) **Presentation by Mr. Mike Light about the Berinsfield Wildlife Garden Competition.** Mr. Light informed the meeting about the wildlife garden competition that he is currently organising in the village. There are competitions for under 18's and over 18's and the competition will run until Autumn 2021. There are also bi-weekly children's competitions and Mr. Light is donating seeds so that all children receive a prize. The aim is to get residents to plant areas of their gardens with plants that will attract wildlife. Mr. Light informed the Parish Council that he would like to expand the project if there was an area of land available in the village that could be planted as a wildlife meadow. The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely thanked Mr. Light for his presentation and informed him that the Parish Council would be discussing the competition during the formal part of the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Councillor E. Croft

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 two written reports, which had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council, and she also attended the meeting.

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale's report contained information about the roadmap for the easing of lockdown, together with details of the new testing sites in Oxfordshire. She encouraged the Parish Council to participate in the Consultation on Oxfordshire's draft Transport Blueprint, which runs until 28th March, 2021. Members were interested to note the information about the filthy gully contents being recycled. Oxfordshire produces approximately 1,000 tonnes of gully waste annually and if successful, the new methods of dealing with it could save up to £27,000 a year and prevent four tonnes of CO₂ being released into the atmosphere.

The Parish Council noted the information contained in the report and the Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely, thanked County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale for her reports 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. District Councillor Robin Bennett informed the meeting that South Oxfordshire District Council was supporting Mr. Mike Light with the Berinsfield Wildlife Garden project.

a) Berinsfield Garden Village. District Councillor Robin Bennett informed the Parish Council that Ms. Emily Cockle, the Interim Head of Development and Regeneration at South Oxfordshire District Council had now left the Council and that Ms. Suzanne Malcolm was now leading the Garden Village project. He proposed that an initial meeting be held between representatives of the District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Berinsfield Parish Council, SOHA Housing and possibly Sovereign Housing Association. The aim of the initial meeting would be to compile details of the requirements for the village so that these could be passed to developers who would then be aware of the costs involved. Initial discussions have been held with Homes England and they are interested and supportive and will be watching what is happening. South Oxfordshire District Council has had contact with the land owner and his agents.

District Councillor Robin Bennett informed the Council that the suggested date for the initial meeting is 6 p.m. on 10th March, 2021 and he proposed that two representatives from each organisation should be invited to attend. He stated that the aim of the initial meeting would be to set up working groups who would then hold their own regular meetings. He indicated that there would be no repeat of the previous consultations. The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely asked District Councillor Robin Bennett to arrange for the agenda for the initial meeting to be sent to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

Councillor Chrisp referred to the item about Tree Champions and pointed out that Homes England is encouraging people to plant Cherry Blossom trees. He asked if there was any funding available from Homes England or South Oxfordshire District Council to plant trees. District Councillor Robin Bennett informed the meeting that South Oxfordshire District Council is holding approximately one million pounds on behalf of Berinsfield and that he would like to see it put to useful and visible use rather than swallowed up by larger projects. The Chairman, Councillor Scott-Ely, reminded District Councillor Robin Bennett that the community is getting frustrated by the lack of progress.

Following a query from County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, the Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely, stated that a virtual meeting had been held between Ms. Emily Cockle, Mr. Ricardo Rios and the Parish Council's retained Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultant, Mr. Neil Homer. The recommendation from Mr. Neil Homer was that Berinsfield should prepare a Neighbourhood Development Order, which would give the local community a local voice and it was agreed that Neil Homer should liaise with Emily Cockle and Ricardo Rios with regard to this. District Councillor Robin Bennett informed the meeting that he could now understand why the community was frustrated and he recommended that Mr. Neil Homer should now liaise with Suzanne Malcolm.

The contents of the report prepared by District Councillor Robin Bennett were noted by the Parish Council and the Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely, thanked him for attending the meeting.

6. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council meeting held on 1st February, 2021.**

It was AGREED that the Minutes of the virtual meeting of Berinsfield Parish Council held on 1st February 2021 should be APPROVED.

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. The Parish Council noted this information.
- 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 noted that planning permission had been granted.
- c) 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 noted that planning permission had been granted in respect of this application.

8. Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan. Scoping Note.

The report prepared by Mr. Neil Homer, the Parish Council's retained Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultant, which he prepared following his meeting with Ms. Emily Cockle and Mr. Ricardo Rios, had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council for consideration. Mr. Homer stated that Policy STRAT10 made no reference to, or provision for, the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan and nor did the Berinsfield Garden Village proposal and as a result, the policy, the final version of which is embedded in the Berinsfield Garden Village principles, has already :-

- Defined the Green Belt inset boundary of the village, making no provision for the Neighbourhood Plan to modify it.
- Designated the central park as a Local Green Space, which must endure beyond the plan period, ruling out proposals for development encroaching into the space.
- Established the key principles for the mix of housing types and tenures, for the elements of the regeneration package and for delivering and phasing the development and infrastructure delivery and phasing.
- Required community engagement of a breadth and depth that would be expected of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr. Homer suggested that it might be possible for one or more of the Masterplan or Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan site allocation proposals to be delivered through a Neighbourhood Development Order, rather than a planning application. An Order grants automatic planning permission for the development described. He considered that it might be suited to delivering a specific community facility or types of infill development that do not already benefit from permitted development rights. It might also allow for development on the edge of the village that remains in the Green Belt, as Orders are exempt from the "very special circumstances" test if the development they provide for will not undermine the open character of the Green Belt.

The Parish Council considered the information provided in the report prepared by Mr. Neil Homer and it was AGREED that Mr. Neil Homer should be retained as the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultant and be instructed to continue engaging with South Oxfordshire District Council on behalf of Berinsfield Parish Council to bring forward a Neighbourhood Development Order for Berinsfield.

9. Correspondence and Items for Information.

a) **Berinsfield Wildlife Garden Group.** Following the presentation made by Mr. Mike Light during the open part of the meeting, the Parish Council agreed to support the competitions being run by him to encourage residents to plant areas of their garden to attract wildlife. It was AGREED that the Parish Council should support the Wildlife Garden Group and the competitions they are organising and that it should donate garden vouchers to the value of £50.00 to be used as prizes in the two competition categories, under 18's and over 18's. It was also noted that Mr. Light would like a Member of the Parish Council to assist with judging the competitions.

b) **South Oxfordshire District Council, Ecological Emergency.** The Parish Council noted that South Oxfordshire District Council has declared an ecological emergency and a copy of the motion which was passed by South Oxfordshire District Council on 11th February had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council for information.

c) **Virtual Parish Council meetings.** The Parish Council noted that the regulations allowing virtual meetings of the Parish Council will come to an end on 7th May, 2021. Primary legislation is required to allow virtual meetings to continue and there is not sufficient parliamentary time for primary legislation before May. The Parish Council considered the information contained in the agenda and it was AGREED that the Parish Council meeting due to be held on 10th May 2021 should be brought forward to Tuesday 4th May 2021 in order to be able to hold the meeting virtually. The Parish Council will make a decision with regard to the date of the June Parish Council meeting when further information is available.

d) **Local Transport and Connectivity Plan. Vision Consultation.** The Parish Council noted that Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan vision document is out for public consultation and the closing date for responses is 29th March, 2021. It was AGREED that the following comments should be submitted on behalf of Berinsfield Parish Council :-

- i) Berinsfield Parish Council would like Oxfordshire County Council to consult with it with regard to the location and size of the park and ride site proposed for the area.
- ii) That consideration should be given to making the Roman Road into a cycle route to Oxford
- iii) Connectivity and use of public transport.

e) **HENGE21** The Parish Council noted that HENGE21 a community arts event is planned for September 2021 celebrating the first settlement at the Dyke Hills. A link to a video giving more information about the project is available on <https://vimeo.com/506469244>. The Parish Council AGREED that the organisers should be informed that it is in favour of the project.

f) **Temporary Road Closure, Fane Drive from the Boxing Club to the junction with Burcot Lane.** The Parish Council was reminded that a section of Fane Drive from the Boxing Club to the junction with Burcot Lane would be closed for carriageway repairs from 6th – 9th April. In view of the fact that many residents would require access to the roads located off Fane Drive during this period, it was AGREED that Oxfordshire County Council should be asked for further information as to how the road closure will be handled.

g) **Road from Didcot to Golden Balls Roundabout.** The Parish Council noted the information contained in the agenda from the County Council Officers involved with the optioneering exercise that will look at potential schemes to address transport related issues at the A 4074/B 4015 Golden Balls roundabout. The study will also look at the potential efficacy of a Park and Ride at Golden Balls and whether this would be viable in addition to/instead of a Park and Ride at Grenoble Road.

10. **Statement of Accounts for payment in March 2021.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in March in the sum of £10,127.77 should be APPROVED.

11. **Items of report to Chairman.**

a) **Damage to walls of garages, Colne Drive, Berinsfield.** Councillor Chrisp informed the Parish Council that vehicles delivering to properties in Colne Drive have reversed into garage walls causing damage to the brickwork. Councillor Chrisp asked if permission would be required for the owners of the garages to install bollards to prevent vehicle damage to their property. Councillor Chrisp was advised to check his deeds in the first instance to ascertain whether the land around his garage is in his ownership. If not, he was advised to contact SOHA Housing to establish if they owned the land around his garage.

12 **Date of next meeting – 12th April, 2021. This will be a virtual meeting.**

13. **Confidential item.**

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

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.