

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 all or part of the meeting :-

District Councillor Robin Bennett
County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Annette Loveland, Clerk to the Council

Prior to the start of the meeting, The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely, asked all present to mute their microphones and a minute's silence was held in memory of HRH the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh who sadly died on Friday 9th April, 2021

A book of condolence is available in the Church of St. Mary and St. Berin

1. Items raised by members of the public.

a) Community painted stones. Councillor Mrs. Jones informed the meeting that she had collected the community painted stones that had been laid around Green Furlong and that they were now ready to be installed in the Burial Ground. It was agreed that Councillor Mrs. Jones, the Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely and the Clerk should meet at the Burial Ground to agree a Location for the installation of the community painted stones.

b) Planning Application P21/S0849/HH Single storey extension, 26 Lay Avenue, Berinsfield. Councillor Bunyan informed the meeting that the planning application was for his property and confirmed that it would not reduce the number of vehicles that could be parked in front of his property. He would not take part in the discussion about the planning application .

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.

Councillor S. Scott-Ely declared an interest in the following items :-

Item 7, Grant Aid Applications, Finance Committee Minutes. Trustee of the BIVC and Berinsfield Voluntary Day Centre

Item 9, Premises Licence Application for the Wandering Kitchen Cafè, The applicant is a tenant of Councillor Scott-Ely.

Item 12 (h), Application for Grant Aid, Berinsfield Voluntary Day Centre. Trustee of the Berinsfield Voluntary Day Centre

Councillor K. Chrisp declared an interest in the following items :-

Item 7, Grant Aid applications, Finance Committee Minutes. Trustee of the Berin Centre.

Item 12(h) Application for Grant Aid, Berinsfield Voluntary Day Centre. Trustee of the Berinsfield Voluntary Day Centre.

4. **District Councillor's Report.** District Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report that had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council.

a) **New Joint Local Plan.** It was noted that South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils had agreed to develop a joint Local Plan up until 2040/41, which would provide significant cost savings.

b) **Recycling success and litter picking.** The information contained in Councillor Bennett's report about 64% of household waste being sent for recycling was noted as was the information about reducing certain types of waste by channelling it through Repair Cafés. The District Council is now able to support community litter picks again and further information is available on <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/environment-and-neighbourhood-issues/neighbourhood-services/littering-fly-tipping-and-dumping-waste/community-litter-picking-how-we-can-help/>

c) **Berinsfield Garden Village** It was noted that the initial meeting of the Garden Village Project Steering Group was held on 10th March and that another meeting would be held on 13th May, 2021. District Councillor Bennett informed the meeting that he had met with representatives from Ptarmigan recently and he hopes that there will be some progress with regard to the Garden Village scheme before the next meeting on 13th May, 2021. Ms. Suzanne Malcolm is currently the designated officer at South Oxfordshire District Council for the Berinsfield Garden Village scheme.

d) **Recent Council Motions.** The Parish Council noted the information in District Councillor Bennett's report regarding recent Council motions, including reducing light pollution and the undergrounding of high voltage power lines. Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely asked if this would also apply to the cables currently running from Wally Corner to the junction of Burcot Lane and Fane Drive. District Councillor Bennett indicated that pressure should be put on the developers to consider this at the time development takes place in that area.

The Chairman, Councillor Scott-Ely thanked District Councillor Bennett for preparing and presenting his report.

5. **County Councillor's Report.** County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale had prepared a written report which had been circulated to all Members of the Council. Members noted the information about the Covid-19 testing, the vaccination programme and the Libraries re-opening in phases as from 12th April, 2021.

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale informed the meeting that a mental wellbeing hub for young people has been launched in Oxfordshire which will provide support for young people suffering psychological challenges made worse by COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Further information is available from the County Council's young people website, www.oxme.info/wellbeing.

The Parish Council noted that County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale had supported many organisations from her County Councillor's Priority Fund this year including funding for the Berin Centre for COVID measures and providing eight laptop computers for Abbey Woods Primary School.

Gravel Extraction. Councillor Bridge asked County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale if there was any further information about the gravel extraction sites. County Councillor Lorraine

Lindsay-Gale informed the meeting that there would be a meeting of the Cabinet Advisory Group shortly and there should be some news by the end of April, 2021. The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely reminded the Parish Council that it had previously been agreed that Mr. Kevin Broughton, the County Council Officer with responsibility for mineral extraction should attend a meeting of the Parish Council to give an update on the possible sites in the area. County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale informed the meeting that Mr. Broughton should have more information to relay in May and therefore it would be more appropriate to invite him to a meeting in May or June, 2021.

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

6. **To receive and approve the Minutes and confidential Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st March, 2021.** It was AGREED that the Minutes and confidential Minutes of the virtual meeting of Berinsfield Parish Council held on 1st March, 2021 should be APPROVED.
7. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 15th March, 2021** It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15th March, 2021 should be APPROVED.
8. **To consider planning application P21/S0849/HH Single storey extension, 26 Lay Avenue, Berinsfield, OX10 7NX.** It was AGREED that the Parish Council should support this application.
9. **Premises Licence Application** It was noted that a premises licence application had been submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council in respect of the Wandering Kitchen Cafè.
10. **Berinsfield Garden Village Association.** The Parish Council noted that meetings of the Berinsfield Garden Village Association had been held on 16th and 30th March 2021 and that the Minutes from the meetings are on the Berinsfield Garden Village Association page on the Parish Council's website, www.Berinsfield-pc.gov.uk.
11. **Berinsfield Parish Council Accounts 2020-21.**
 - a) Copies of the draft accounts and draft Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020-21 had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council for perusal. It was AGREED that the draft accounts and draft Annual Governance and Accountability Return be approved and should be submitted to the Internal Auditor.
 - b) Bank Mandate. It was AGREED that the following Councillors should be added to the Parish Council's bank mandate as signatories on the Parish Council's bank accounts

Councillor P. Bridge, Councillor K. Chrisp,
Councillor S. Henry, Councillor Mrs. R. Stockford.
12. **Correspondence and items for information.**
 - a) **Virtual Meetings.** The Parish Council noted the information in the agenda about the Government not extending the date for holding virtual meetings beyond 7th May. The next meeting of Berinsfield Parish Council will be on Tuesday 4th May, 2021. It was AGREED that the Parish Council should make a decision at its meeting to be held on 4th May as to how to hold the meeting scheduled for 7th June, 2021. The Clerk was asked to enquire if the Church Hall will be available for hire on 7th June, 2021.

b) **SSEN Resilient Communities Fund.** The Parish Council considered the information in the agenda about the SSEN grant scheme being available for applications. SSEN will support local projects that :

- Protect the welfare of vulnerable community members through enhancing their resilience and improving community participation and effectiveness.
- Enhancing community facilities, services and communication – particularly to support local response to a significant emergency event.

The Parish Council considered suitable projects and it was AGREED that an application should be submitted for funding for the provision of a defibrillator to be located to the north of the village.

c) **Road markings in Berinsfield.** The Parish Council considered the information contained in the agenda about the possibility of having parking restrictions from the Health Centre to the junction of Westcroft and Fane Drive. There is a bus stop opposite the Health Centre and Information Centre and there are times that the road becomes blocked due to a bus being parked at the bus stop and vehicles parked on the opposite side of the road. The Parish Council discussed this matter at length and upon a vote being taken, it was AGREED that the Parish Council should not apply and pay for double yellow lines to be installed from the Health Centre to the junction of Westcroft and Fane Drive.

d) **Replacement wheels for moveable football goal posts.** The Parish Council was informed that the wheels on the moveable goal posts that were purchased by the Parish Council in 2014 only turn in one direction which means that the goals have to be carried through the double gates from the pavilion car park to the recreation ground. It was AGREED that the Parish Council should purchase four sets of wheels that can turn 360 degrees to fit to the existing goals at a cost of £344.99 per set.

e) **Glyme Drive open space area.** The Parish Council noted that damage had been caused to the open space area by a skip lorry driving over it to collect a full skip from one of the properties. The Parish Council had not been asked for permission for the lorry to go across the area and therefore had not imposed conditions on the ground being reinstated should any damage occur. The Parish Council has arranged for the area to be repaired.

f) **Berin Centre.** The Parish Council noted that Linda Champion has retired from her role as Manager of the Berin Centre and Laura Harte has been appointed as her successor. The Parish Council expressed its thanks to Linda Champion for all the work she had carried out at the Berin Centre during her time as Manager and for the support she had given to other organisations in the village. The Parish Council wished Linda a happy retirement.

g) **Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice. Temporary Road Closure and “No Waiting” restriction at Newington, A 329 Newington Road 9th – 10th July 2021.** The Parish Council noted this information and that the diversion will be via the A 4074 and B 4015.

h) **Applications for Grant Aid.**

i) **Berinsfield Voluntary Day Centre.** Councillor Scott-Ely had declared his interest as a Trustee of Berinsfield Voluntary Day Centre and Councillor Bridge took the Chair for the discussion of this item.

Councillors considered the application submitted by Berinsfield Voluntary Day Centre for grant aid for 2021-22 to assist with the re-opening of the Day Centre which will take place in the first week of July 2021. It was proposed by Councillor Bridge, seconded by Councillor Bunyan and AGREED that a grant of £500.00 should be made to the Berinsfield Voluntary Day Centre.

i) **Meeting of Bikers at the H-Café.** The Parish Council has been contacted by Dorchester Parish Council with regard to the bikers who meet at the H-Café as they are concerned about the excessive engine noise from the bikes and the way some of the bikers speed along the Dorchester by-pass. They wanted to know if Berinsfield Parish Council has any concerns about the gatherings. Dorchester Parish Council's main concern is about the noise and speeding on Dorchester by-pass. Pedestrians (including bus users) and cyclists cross the by-pass to get into Dorchester. Two members of the Parish Council who are bikers, expressed their concern about the way a minority of the bikers who meet at the café ride in the area. It was noted that Thames Valley Police do visit the café on days the bikers meet there and that the majority of the riders are very respectful of the neighbourhood. It was AGREED that Dorchester Parish Council should be informed that Berinsfield Parish Council is supportive of encouraging the bikers to maintain neighbourly behaviour whilst attending their meetings at the H-café.

13. **Statement of Accounts for payment in March and April 2021.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in March and April 2021 in the sum of £12383.41 should be APPROVED.

14. **Items of report to Chairman.**

a) **Grass cutting on recreation ground.** Councillor Perkins informed the Parish Council that he was concerned about the speed at which the contractors who cut the recreation ground drive the mower and about the poor quality of the grass cutting. It was AGREED that the Clerk should be asked to speak to the Grounds Maintenance contractors to express Councillor Perkins' concerns about the standard of grass cutting on the recreation ground.

b) **Annual Parish Meeting.** The Chairman reminded members that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held virtually on 26th April, 2021 and that the Clerk should advertise this on Spotted Berinsfield with a link to the Parish Council's website.

c) **New Adult Gym Equipment.** Councillor Mrs. Stockford informed the meeting that she had received a compliment from a resident about the new equipment.

15. **Date of next Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 4th May, 2021.**