

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 5th July, 2021 at 7.15 p.m.**

Councillor S. Scott-Ely - Chairman
Councillor P. Bridge
Councillor I. Bunyan
Councillor K. Chrisp
Councillor S. Crawford
Councillor B. Fearneyhough
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 and County Councillor Robin Bennett
Annette Loveland, Clerk to the Council
One member of the public

1. Items raised by Members of the Public.

a) Disposal of domestic waste in litter bins. It was reported that a Member of the Public was disposing of domestic waste in the Parish Council's litter bin located on the recreation ground close to the end of Evenlode Drive. The Parish Council will put a notice on the bin stating that the bin is for litter only and that domestic waste should be disposed of in the appropriate household bins provided by South Oxfordshire District Council.

b) Presentation by Lesley Montague from Community First Oxfordshire. The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely welcomed Lesley to the meeting. She informed the Parish Council that Community First Oxfordshire has been supporting individuals and communities for 100 years. The staff at Community First Oxfordshire are able to provide advice and support on various topics including:-

Community led housing.
Town planning service
Community reviews
Community development
Community shops
Community transport
Bulk oil buying scheme for residents to purchase central heating oil at competitive prices.

The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely thanked Lesley for attending the meeting and making her presentation.

2. Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Croft and Councillor Henry.

3. Declarations of interest. Councillor Crawford declared an interest in agenda Item No. 5 (a), school transport from Berinsfield to Abingdon schools. Councillor Chrisp declared an interest in agenda item No. 7 (a), Planning Application No. P21/S2191/FUL, the Berin Centre, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield.

4. **District Councillor's Report** District Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report which had been circulated electronically to all members of the Parish Council. Members noted the information contained in the report, including the following items.

a) **Levelling-up fund bid for Berinsfield.** A bid has been submitted by South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council Officers for funding for the Berinsfield-Oxford, Roman Road cycle/active travel route. Each parliamentary constituency is able to submit one bid. The bid is likely to require support from Mr. John Howell, M.P. and it was AGREED that the Parish Council should write to Mr. Howell to ask for his support for the bid.

b) **Oxfordshire 2050 Plan.** The Parish Council noted that the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan is a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan, which, once adopted, will form part of the Development Plan for five councils in Oxfordshire. It will provide a long term (30 years from 2020 – 2050) overarching and high-level spatial planning framework for Oxfordshire. The Parish Council should be consulted about this in due course.

c) **Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy.** The Parish Council noted that the Oxfordshire wide Park and Charge Scheme has been extended and is likely to be launched in South Oxfordshire in late autumn or winter. The Parish Council expressed an interest in taking part in the pilot.

d) **Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan and Master Planning.** The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely informed District Councillor Robin Bennett that if some of the Garden Village and other funding held by South Oxfordshire District Council for the village, could be made available towards the cost of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan/Order, that it would be beneficial for the village. There was a short discussion about the need to ensure that the existing village of Berinsfield retains some of the facilities and that they are not all provided on the proposed new site by the developers. It was felt that the Parish Council's retained Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultant should have further discussions with Mr. Ricardo Rios, the Planning Policy Team Leader (Neighbourhood) Planning at South Oxfordshire District Council and the Clerk was asked to arrange this.

5. **County Councillor's Report.** County Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report which had been circulated electronically to all Members of the Parish Council. The Parish Council noted the contents of the report.

a) **School transport from Berinsfield to schools in Abingdon.** A resident had written to the Prime Minister, and had forwarded a copy of the letter to the Parish Council, setting out the problems residents of Berinsfield have with regard to the cost of getting their children to secondary schools in Abingdon. Oxfordshire County Council will provide free transport from Oxfordshire homes to the nearest available school and according to the statistics, the Oxford Academy is the nearest school to Berinsfield. At the present time it costs residents £719.00 per year to send one child on a school bus from Berinsfield to Abingdon, but Oxfordshire County Council do point out that there is also a public bus service from Berinsfield to Abingdon that works out slightly cheaper than the designated school bus.

County Councillor Robin Bennett informed the meeting that the County Council has been assured that there are enough places on the school bus from Berinsfield to Abingdon for the number of children wishing to use it. He indicated that there is a possibility that Oxfordshire County Council will review the school bus policy, but that this cannot be done before September 2021 and there would have to be a public consultation which might result in the matter being looked at during the following year. It could be difficult to get a policy

that has a specific exception for Berinsfield. County Councillor Robin Bennett will speak to County Councillor Liz Brighthouse, the Deputy Leader of the Council about this matter.

b) **Highways** Councillor Bridge informed the meeting that the Parish Council had not been aware of the highway works taking place on the A4074 during the week commencing 28th June, 2021 until the signs were erected indicating that there would be overnight road closures. He asked County Councillor Robin Bennett if it would be possible for the appropriate Highways Officer to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council in order that the Parish Council could reiterate its previous request of being made aware of any planned highway works in the village. County Councillor Robin Bennett confirmed that it would be in order for the Clerk to invite the appropriate Highway Officer to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council.

c) **Cycle track from Berinsfield to Abingdon.** Councillor Bunyan informed the meeting that the cycle track between Berinsfield to Abingdon was not able to be used at the moment due to the need for the hedgerows to be cut back. County Councillor Robin Bennett stated that the cycle track was in the area that was subject to the HIF1 bid and that it should get upgraded. In the meantime, it was agreed that a report regarding the hedgerows should be made on Fix my Street.

The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely thanked District and County Councillor Robin Bennett for preparing his reports and for attending the meeting.

6. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th June 2021.

a) **Minute 9 (a) Community Litter Pick.** Councillor Mrs. Jones informed the Parish Council that there should be amendments made to Minute No. 9 (a) regarding the Community Litter Pick and that it should read :-

“a) **Community Litter Pick.** Councillor Mrs. Jones arranged for residents of the village to carry out a community litter pick on Saturday 29th May, 2021.

Councillor Mrs. Jones reported that approximately 30 young people from the Berry Youth Centre had participated in the litter pick, but she was surprised that no Members of the Parish Council attended. The Chairman, Councillor Scott-Ely thanked Councillor Mrs. Jones for taking the lead on running the community litter pick and it was AGREED that letters of thanks should be prepared and given to all of the young people who participated in the litter pick.”

Subject to the amendment to Minute No. 9 (a), it was AGREED that the Minutes of the virtual meeting of Berinsfield Parish Council held on 7th June 2021 should be APPROVED.

7. To consider planning applications and decisions received to date.

a) **Planning Application No. P21/S2191/FUL. The Berin Centre, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, OX10 7LZ.** Application to replace current temporary planning consent ref : P11/W1173/CC (R3.9989/11) Expiring on 31 October 2021. Existing building to be continued to be used for education and welfare for residents of Berinsfield and surrounding areas. Existing building to be over clad. The Parish Council AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that this application should be APPROVED.

b) **Planning Application P21/S1443/FUL Conversion of existing bungalow to a pair of 4 bedroom semi-detached dwellings. 13 Bullingdon Avenue, Berinsfield OX10 7PL.** The Parish Council noted that the application was withdrawn prior to the determination Date 22nd June 2021.

c) **Planning Decision No. P21/S2098/HH Single and double storey rear extensions. 37 Lodden Avenue, Berinsfield OX10 7PY.** The Parish Council noted that planning permission had been refused.

d) **Details pursuant to condition 7 (landfill gas control plant restoration) of Planning Permission P92/W0013/CC (MW.001/93) Wally Corner Landfill site, Burcot Lane, Dorchester OX10 7BJ. (OCC ref: MW.0076/21)** The Parish Council noted that the application had been approved.

e) **Oxfordshire County Council's Local List of Information Requirements for validation of planning and related applications. LL.0073/21** Consultation on proposed updates to the Local Validation Requirements for applications submitted to the County Council. The Parish Council noted that it is a statutory requirement for the County Council to update the list at least every two years. It was noted that no major changes were proposed to the items which feature on the list. In view of the fact that no major changes were proposed, the Parish Council agreed not to make any comments.

8. **Audit of Accounts for the year 2021-22.** The Parish Council AGREED to appoint Mrs. Jane Olds to carry out its Internal Audit for the year 2021-22. It was noted that the fee would be £280.00 plus mileage at .45p per mile. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the Agreement of Terms 2021-22.

9. **Correspondence and Items for Information**

a) **Berinsfield Garden Village.** The information contained in the press release from Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils that they will receive the sum of £405,000 of Government funding to help continue work on three garden community projects was noted by the Parish Council. Berinsfield Garden Village will be allocated the sum of £150,000. The Parish Council felt that it should have a greater say with regard to the Garden Village project at this early stage and also agreed that South Oxfordshire District Council should be made aware that the money should be spent on something tangible for the village.

b) **South Oxfordshire District Council Children's Activity Trails.** The Parish Council has agreed that South Oxfordshire District Council can organise an activity trail on the recreation ground during the school summer holidays. It will consist of them preparing a route, creating a map and putting up laminated posters at each point. They will issue certificates to children who complete the trail. Information about activity trails that have been held in other towns can be found at www.southoxon.gov.uk/litter-bug-detectives-trail

c) **Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan. Minute 4 (d)** The information contained in the agenda provided by Mr. Neil Homer, the Parish Council's retained Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultant was noted by the Parish Council. It was AGREED that the Parish Council should instruct Mr. Neil Homer to liaise with Mr. Ricardo Rios, the Planning Policy Team Leader (Neighbourhood) Planning at South Oxfordshire District Council with regard to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan/Order and to report back to the Parish Council.

d) **Pedestrian gates to the Lay Avenue and Lodden Avenue Play areas.**

The information contained in the agenda regarding the need for new springs to be installed on the pedestrian gates at both play areas, was noted by the Parish Council. It was AGREED that an order should be placed with Fensecure the company who provided the fencing and gates in 2002 for new springs and for these to be installed by their fitters at a cost of £444.00 plus VAT.

10. **Accounts for payment in July 2021.** It was AGREED that the list of accounts for payment in July in the sum of £14,278.28 should be APPROVED.

11. **Items of Report for Chairman.**

a) **Scented meditation garden.** Councillor Mrs. Jones asked when the scented meditation garden in the Burial Ground would be completed and planted. The Chairman informed the Parish Council that it would be completed during week commencing 12th July and then arrangements would be made to fill it with soil and purchase the scented plants for it.

b) **CCTV camera.** Funds have been included in the budget for 2021-22 to purchase another mobile CCTV camera. It was AGREED that the Clerk should be authorised to purchase a second mobile CCTV camera.

c) **Allotments, Playing Fields, Open Spaces, Burial Ground and Skateboard Park Committee.** It was AGREED that a meeting of the Allotments, Playing Fields, Open Spaces, Burial Ground and Skateboard Park Committee should be held on Monday 26th July, 2021 at 7 p.m. at the Pavilion.

12. **Date of next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 2nd August 2021 in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield at 7.15 p.m.