

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield on Monday 4th October, 2021 at 7.15 p.m.

Councillor S. Scott-Ely - Chairman
Councillor K. Chrisp
Councillor S. Crawford
Councillor B. Fearneyhough
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones

Councillor D. Scate – with effect from item 9

The following people were present at the meeting :

District and County Councillor Robin Bennett
Annette Loveland, Clerk to the Council
Two members of the public

1. Items raised by Members of the Public.

a) 20 mph speed limit. A resident attended the meeting and informed the Parish Council that he thought the proposals to introduce 20 mph speed limits were a good idea and he would support this happening in Berinsfield, possibly from the entrance to the village in Wimblestraw Road around to the junction of Fane Drive and Burcot Lane. The resident also mentioned the problems caused by vehicles being parked at junctions and on bends in the village which cause problems for other drivers who have to negotiate around them without having a clear view of the oncoming traffic.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bridge, Bunyan, Croft, Henry, and Mrs. Stockford

3. Declarations of Interest. There were no declarations of interest.

4. County Councillor's Report. County Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report which had been circulated to all those present at the meeting and he also attended the meeting.

The Parish Council noted that as a result of the change of administration to the cross-party Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance, the County Council are carrying out an intensive period of various public and stakeholder engagement activities to support the development of the Council's new Strategic Plan. A residents' satisfaction survey will be sent to over 4,800 randomly selected households, there will be discussion groups for adults, children and young people, stakeholder workshops and Councillor engagement. It was also noted that the Oxfordshire Growth Board is now known as The Future Oxfordshire Partnership County

Councillor Bennett informed the meeting that there would be more information about the 20 mph speed limits soon.

Councillors asked County Councillor Bennett if there was any possibility of double yellow lines being installed in Fane Drive outside the front of the Church between Green Furlong and Wimblestraw Road and possibly in other locations in the village. He informed the meeting that although the County Council was the authority responsible for obtaining the orders to install double yellow lines, they would be looking for funding from other sources to be able to do this at the present time.

Councillor Chrisp agreed to investigate areas where it might be appropriate for double yellow lines to be installed in the village.

5. **District Councillor's Report.** District Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report and this had been circulated to all those present at the meeting. District Councillor Bennett also attended the meeting.

a) **Garden Waste Collections.** The Parish Council noted that the garden waste collection service would be resuming with a four weekly schedule to be implemented as an interim measure while the situation with HGV drivers is kept under review. Residents' contracts will be extended for three months to compensate for the lack of collections.

b) **Berinsfield Garden Village.** It was noted that the next steering group meeting would be held on 21st October at 6 p.m. The website <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/berinsfield> links direct to the Garden Village information page and is updated as information becomes available. The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely asked District Councillor Bennett if it would be possible for him to take ownership of the budget for Berinsfield and ensure that the funding was used to provide improvements in the village.

c) **Hall floor, Abbey Sports Centre.** District Councillor Bennett informed the meeting that the work had not been carried out to the hall floor due to the fact that the funds allocated for the work were insufficient. This matter is being investigated by South Oxfordshire District Council.

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

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

7. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Allotments, Playing Fields, Open Spaces, Burial Ground and Skateboard Park Committee meeting held on 27th September 2021.**

a) The Parish Council noted that Councillor Crawford had declared an interest as an allotment tenant at the meeting held on the 27th September, 2021

Subject to the amendment to include Councillor Crawford's declaration as an allotment tenant, it was AGREED that the Minutes of the Allotments, Playing Fields, Open Spaces, Burial Ground and Skateboard Park Committee meeting held on 27th September, 2021 should be approved.

8. **To consider planning applications and decisions.** There were no planning applications or decisions to consider at the meeting.

9. **Casual Vacancy on Berinsfield Parish Council.** The Parish Council noted that South Oxfordshire District Council had not received a request for a poll and therefore it could proceed with co-opting a new member to fill the casual vacancy. One application had been received for the vacancy from Mr. Daniel Scate. Mr. Scate presented his information to the Parish Council and left the room while his application was considered. It was unanimously AGREED that Mr. Daniel Scate should be invited to be a Member of Berinsfield Parish Council. He signed his declaration of acceptance of office and took his place as a Member of the Parish Council for the remainder of the meeting.

10. **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21** The Parish Council noted that the External Auditor, Moore, had carried out its review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/21 and confirmed that the information in the Return is in accordance with the Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

11. **Correspondence and Items for information.**

a) **Elaine's ditch maintenance project 2021.** The Parish Council noted that South Oxfordshire District Council has been in discussion with the riparian owners of the ditch and following works that need to be carried out by the owners, South Oxfordshire District Council will undertake a final review of the watercourse in November, including a check on the downstream section to ensure that it continues to flow satisfactorily and identify any issues.

b) **Code of Conduct** The Parish Council noted that South Oxfordshire District Council would be running refresher training sessions on behaviour expected under the ethical standards regime for Parish Clerks and Parish Councillors virtually on 9th November at 7 p.m. and 18th November at 7 p.m. The links will be forwarded to all Members of the Parish Council when received from South Oxfordshire District Council.

12. **Statement of Accounts for payment in October 2021.** It was AGREED that the list of accounts for payment in October in the sum of £8344.57 should be approved.

13. **Items of Report for Chairman.**

a) **Firework display at Queenford Lakes.** A firework display is being arranged by Youth Challenge Oxfordshire on Sunday 7th November 2021 at Queenford Lakes, Berinsfield OX10 7PQ. The gates will open at 5 p.m.

b) **Communication of information about the role and responsibilities and work of the Parish Council in the village.** The Parish Council discussed in some detail ways of circulating information to residents about the role, responsibilities and work of the Parish Council It was AGREED that an item should be included on the agenda for the meeting to be held on 1st November to discuss whether it would be beneficial for copies of Minutes and agendas to be distributed to various locations in the village for residents who do not have access to the internet to read. The Minutes and agenda are already available in the Library.

c) **Proposed improvements to BMX track on the recreation ground.** Councillor Crawford informed the meeting that he had inspected the site and had some proposals as to how it could be improved with re-shaping the mounds and the addition of more soil. Councillor Crawford will draw some plans and these will be circulated to the Parish Council for consideration.

d) **Garages in the ownership of SOHA Housing.** Councillor Fearneyhough informed the meeting that he had met with Mr. John Fox from SOHA Housing at the Wetlands garage complex to show him the poor condition of some of the garages. Mr. Fox informed Councillor Feaneyhough that SOHA had issued instructions to its contractors to replace some garage doors and that this work should be carried out in October/November 2021

14. **Date of next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 1st November 2021 in the Church Hall, Wimplestraw Road, Berinsfield at 7.15 p.m.

