

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield on Monday 6th September, 2021 at 7.15 p.m.

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

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) **Proposed new parking area in Russell Jackson Close.** A resident from Russell Jackson Close attended the meeting to express her concerns about the proposal by SOHA Housing to construct some new car parking spaces in Russell Jackson Close. The proposals include removing the mature tree from the open space outside her bungalow and she would prefer this just to be pruned and not removed. The Parish Council informed her that new trees would be planted to replace the tree. She felt that the lights from vehicles parking in the proposed spaces facing the bungalows would shine right into the properties and that residents would be inconvenienced by this and by the noise of the vehicles when being parked in the car parking spaces. She was also concerned that there would not be enough car parking spaces reserved for disabled residents living in the close. The Chairman stated that the application had been submitted by SOHA Housing and that the Parish Council would pass the comments on to them.

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

3. **Declarations of Interest.** Councillor Chrisp declared that he is a Trustee of the Berin Centre.

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.

a) **Councillor Priority Fund** The Parish Council noted the information contained in the report and asked County Councillor Bennett if it might be appropriate for an application to be made to his Councillor Priority Fund to purchase some Flowering Cherry Trees to be planted in the village to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The Parish Council was advised to check the County Council's website for the application form.

b) **20 mph speed limits** There was a short discussion about the proposal by the County Council to introduce 20 mph speed limits. Councillors felt that they would be appropriate in some locations, but not others and also expressed concern as to how the speed limits would be policed.

c) **Highways Department** The Parish Council informed County Councillor Bennett that it had been trying to invite an Officer from the Highways Department to attend a Parish Council meeting in order to be able to raise various concerns, including the fact that

following the resurfacing work on the A4074 an area of footpath has been left level with the road with no kerb to separate pedestrians from vehicles. County Councillor Bennett asked to be copied into any further correspondence between the Parish Council and the Highways Department requesting that an Officer attend a future meeting.

d) **HIF1 Project.** The Parish Council informed County Councillor Bennett that it had been involved in discussions with Officers from Oxfordshire County Council who were dealing with the HIF1 Project, but has not received any more updates about this.

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 Service.** Councillor Mrs. Jones referred to District Councillor Bennett's comments about the cause of the shortage of HGV drivers which has resulted in the garden waste service currently being suspended. She informed the meeting that the shortage of drivers is mainly due to the cost and problems in obtaining HGV licences. Several comments were made about the problems caused by the suspension of the garden waste service.

b) **Afghan refugees.** The Parish Council noted the information contained in District Councillor Bennett's report about the District Council pledging full commitment to work with other services to support the refugees who will be arriving in the U.K. from Afghanistan.

c) **Berinsfield Garden Village.** The Parish Council noted that the District Council Cabinet would be discussing whether the funding allocated to Berinsfield could also be used on capital as well as revenue projects and to consider the requests made from various organisations in Berinsfield for funding.

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 2nd August, 2021.**

a) Minute No. 11 f). The Parish Council noted that it was Councillor Bridge who made the enquiry with regard to scaffolding and skips on the highway and not Councillor Bunyan.

Subject to the amendment to Minute No. 11 f), it was AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd August, 2021 should be APPROVED.

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

a) **Planning Application No. P21/S3307/FUL Installation of extra parking, Russell Jackson Close, Berinsfield OX10 7NW** It was AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that the Parish Council consider the application should be approved, subject to consideration being given to the provision of sufficient disabled car parking spaces to meet the needs of the residents living in Russell Jackson Close.

b) **Planning Application No. P21/S3308/FUL Construction of a new parking area, land adjacent to 1 Westcroft Berinsfield OX10 7NL** It was AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that the Parish Council consider the application should be approved, subject to consideration being given to the provision of sufficient disabled car parking spaces to meet the needs of the residents living in Westcroft.

c) **Planning Application P21/S3502/DIS The Berin Centre, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, OX10 7LZ.** Discharge of condition 3 (Sample Materials) on planning application P21/S2191/FUL. Application to replace current temporary planning consent ref. P11/W1173.CC (R3.998911) expiring on 31st 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. Related Application P21/S2191/FUL for which planning permission has been granted.

Councillor Chrisp declared an interest in this application as he is a Trustee of the Berin Centre.

It was AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that the Parish Council support the application.

d) **Planning application No. P21/S3611/HH Variation of condition on application P20/S2747/HH (Two storey side extension). Install render to external walls of house including extension. 49 Lodden Avenue, Berinsfield OX10 7PY** It was AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that the Parish Council support the application.

e) **Planning decision P21/S2962/HH First floor extension to side of property. 93 Fane Drive, Berinsfield OX10 7NF.** The Parish Council noted that planning permission had been granted in respect of this application

8. **Casual Vacancy on Berinsfield Parish Council.** The Parish Council noted that Councillor Stephen Perkins had resigned as a Member of the Parish Council. It was AGREED that the vacancy should be advertised for the statutory period of fourteen working days and if a poll is not requested by ten electors for the Parish, the vacancy can be filled by way of co-option. The Parish Council wished to thank Councillor Perkins for all of his work during the time he served as a Parish Councillor.

9. **Berinsfield Fete 2022.** The Parish Council agreed with the suggestion made by the Manager of Berinsfield Information & Volunteer Centre that the village fete should be held on 23rd June 2022 on the recreation ground.

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

a) **The Oxfordshire Plan 2050.** It was AGREED that the Parish Council should participate in the public consultation and Councillor Bridge agreed to undertake this on behalf of the Parish Council.

b) **Parish Council Minute Books.** The Parish Council noted that 16 Minute Books from 1964 until 2016 had been deposited at the Oxfordshire History Centre, St. Luke's Church, Temple Road, Cowley, Oxford, OX 4 2HT for safe keeping. They will be kept there in perpetuity and are available for inspection as required. The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for arranging for the Minute Books to be deposited at the Oxfordshire History Centre.

c) **Gigaclear.** Gigaclear have applied to the Parish Council for permission to carry out the following installations on Parish Council owned land in the village

i) Install cable and two joint cabinets on the recreation ground outside the houses in Wey Road that face the recreation ground.

ii) Install a joint cabinet in the tarmac entrance road to the Burial Ground in Fane Drive. Gigaclear have offered to pay a wayleave fee of £1587.30 in respect of the works.

The Parish Council AGREED that the Clerk should be authorised to sign the agreement in respect of the above works on behalf of the Parish Council and to accept the payment of £1587.30

d) **Gigaclear.** The Parish Council had previously authorised the Clerk to sign the agreement in respect of works over a small area of open space land in Kennet Close, Berinsfield, but had not offered a wayleave fee in respect of the application. The Parish Council has now been informed that it was an oversight that the wayleave fee was not offered and Gigaclear has now asked the Parish Council to sign a new agreement for which there is a one off fee of £100.00. The Parish Council AGREED that the Clerk should be authorised to sign the new agreement in respect of the works in Kennet Close and accept the payment of £100.00.

e) **Joint Local Plan 2041. Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change.** The Parish Council noted that South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils are working together to prepare a Joint Local Plan to 2041 which once adopted would replace the current Local Plans for both Districts, i.e. South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035, adopted December 2020 and Vale of White Horse LPP1, adopted in December 2016 and LLP2 adopted in October 2019. The call for land and buildings available for change is an invitation to landowners, agents, developers, community groups and others to submit potential development sites for the Councils to consider for inclusion in the Local Plan. The call for land and buildings available for change process does not grant planning permission to any sites submitted.

f) **Design Code Pilot Scheme.** The Parish Council noted the information contained in the agenda regarding the Government pilot scheme aimed at supporting the preparation of design codes, but did not wish to submit an expression of interest.

g) **South Oxfordshire District Council new Head of Legal and Democratic & Monitoring Officer.** The Parish Council noted that Mr. Patrick Arran had been appointed as the Head of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer at South Oxfordshire District Council.

h) **Leases for areas of land leased by the Parish Council from South Oxfordshire District Council.** The Parish Council noted that the Chairman and Clerk had had a virtual meeting with Officers from South Oxfordshire District Council with regard to renewing the leases on the land that the Parish Council leases from South Oxfordshire District Council in the village. The Parish Council is currently waiting for further information about this from South Oxfordshire District Council.

The Parish Council was also informed that Gigaclear has applied to South Oxfordshire District Council carry out some works on land leased to the Parish Council at Glyme Drive and adjacent to Fane Drive on the Lay Avenue Play area. South Oxfordshire District Council will negotiate with Gigaclear with regard to the applications.

i) **Berinsfield Garden Village Stewardship Sub-Group.** The Parish Council noted the information contained in the agenda that South Oxfordshire District Council would like the Parish Council to appoint representatives to attend the Berinsfield Garden Village Stewardship Sub-Group. The Parish Council AGREED that Councillor P. Bridge and the Clerk should be appointed to attend the Berinsfield Garden Village Stewardship Sub-Group meetings.

j) **Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE).** The Parish Council noted that Civil Parking Enforcement is coming to South Oxfordshire. Enforcement will start on 1st November when warning notices will be issued to raise awareness and full implementation

will take place in January 2022. Parking enforcement will be carried out by Conduent Parking Enforcement Solutions Ltd. who currently carry out on-street enforcement on behalf of the County Council within Oxford City.

In Berinsfield enforcement will be carried out where vehicles are parked on double yellow lines or in disabled bays without a permit. No action can be taken about vehicles parked on pavements at the present time, but this could change in the future as the Department of Transport have recently consulted on the issue of whether to make footway parking an automatic offence.

k) **Berinsfield Football Club – application for grant aid.** Berinsfield Football Club had submitted an application for grant aid in the sum of £1200.00 to cover the cost of engaging their own contractor to mow the football pitches on the recreation ground for a period of eight weeks. The Parish Council had previously been informed by the Football Club that they had decided to engage their own contractor to carry out the work and had given an undertaking that they would cover the cost of this. The Parish Council noted that there was only £750.00 left in the grant aid budget for the year 2021-22.

The Chairman of Berinsfield Football Club had also asked if the Parish Council could discount the charges of £1599.60 for the teams using the pavilion for the 2020-21 season due to the fact that they had not been able to use the kitchen or open the tuck shop.

The Parish Council considered the requests from Berinsfield Football Club and AGREED that a grant of £600.00 should be made to the Berinsfield Football Club towards the cost of them engaging their own contractors to mow the football pitches for eight weeks. It was noted that the Parish Council had not been given the opportunity to go to tender to obtain quotations to provide extra cuts of the football pitches as the Football Club had already engaged a contractor by the time the Parish Council was informed of this. The grant would be made on the condition that the invoices for the 2020-21 season are paid in full.

11. **Statement of Accounts for payment in September 2021.** It was AGREED that the list of accounts for payment in September in the sum of £6727.67 should be approved.

12. **Items of Report for Chairman.**

a) **Activities organised by the Berin Centre on the recreation ground.** Councillor Bridge informed the meeting that the Berin Centre is organising activities on the recreation ground on a Tuesday afternoon each week. Further information can be obtained from the Berin Centre.

b) **Vehicles parking on Lay Avenue Play area.** The Parish Council was asked if a “no parking” sign could be erected on the railings at the Lay Avenue play area to prevent vehicles parking behind the railings on the verge adjacent to Fane Drive. Vehicles parked on the verge prevent the grass from being cut and pose a hazard to drivers exiting from Lay Avenue into Fane Drive. The Parish Council AGREED to look into this request.

13. **Date of next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 4th October 2021 in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield at 7.15 p.m.