

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield on Monday 1st November, 2021 at 7.15 p.m.

Councillor S. Scott-Ely - Chairman
Councillor P. Bridge
Councillor I. Bunyan
Councillor K. Chrisp
Councillor B. Fearneyhough
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones
Councillor D. Scate
Councillor D. Smith

The following people were present at the meeting :

District and County Councillor Robin Bennett
Mr. K. Broughton, Communities, Oxfordshire County Council
Annette Loveland, Clerk to the Council
Three members of the public

1. Items raised by Members of the Public.

a) Climate actions. A resident attended the Parish Council meeting to request the following actions:

- i) contractors working in the village be asked to turn off their machinery and vehicles when not in use,
- ii) residents be asked to stop paving/concreting over their gardens,
- iii) contractors and residents be encouraged to convert to more sustainable forms of transport,
- iv) more allotment sites be provided in the village to allow residents to grow their own food.

The Parish Council noted the requests and informed the resident that SOHA Housing had provided a site for a community garden in Fane Drive between Ock Drive and Colne Drive. The site is being managed by Mr. M. Light.

b) Damage to gullies at the edge of the layby outside the Church of St. Mary and St. Berin. Reverend Teresa Stewart-Sykes informed the Parish Council that some damage had been caused to the gullies between the lay-by and the road surface in Wimblestraw Road. Councillor Bridge informed the meeting that he would report this to Oxfordshire County Council.

c) Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2nd June – 5th June 2022 The May bank holiday will be moved to the 2nd June and an additional bank holiday will be given on 3rd June 2022 to make a four day weekend to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. Reverend Teresa Stewart-Sykes asked if the Parish Council had any plans to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in the village. The Parish Council informed Reverend Teresa Stewart-Sykes that it had discussed planting trees to celebrate the event, but had not discussed anything else. Reverend Teresa Stewart-Sykes informed the Parish Council that she would like to arrange a Church Service and considered it would be good to hold a street party with food and entertainment in the village. She indicated that the Church would not be able to arrange this on its own, but would be happy to work with other groups in the village to co-ordinate it. The information was noted by the Parish Council.

d) **Wheelie Bins left outside properties in Kennet Close.** It was reported that some residents in Kennet Close are leaving their wheelie bins on the kerbside when they do have access to put them into their own gardens. The situation will be monitored.

e) **Dropped kerb accesses.** There was a short discussion about how to apply for a dropped kerb access. An application has to be made to Oxfordshire County Council and also to South Oxfordshire District Council to check whether planning permission for the access onto the highway is required. The application form and further information can be found on the following link :-

<https://www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/roadsandtransport/streets/VehicleAccessApplicationForm.pdf>

f) **Minerals and Waste Local Plan.** The Chairman welcomed Mr. Kevin Broughton, Minerals and Waste Local Plan Manager from Oxfordshire County Council who had agreed to speak to the Parish Council about the Minerals and Waste Local Plan .

Information about the Minerals and Waste Local Plan can be found on

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/minerals-and-waste-policy/new-minerals-and-waste-plan> and the link to the

Oxfordshire County Council website to view decisions taken by the Cabinet, including those relating to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan is

<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=115&MIId=6381&Ver=4>

The agenda documents for the Cabinet meetings are available to view on line about a week prior to the meeting. The timetable can be found on

<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx>

Mr. Broughton gave a very informative presentation about Oxfordshire County Council's minerals and waste process. The Minerals and Waste Local Plan is the only plan that Oxfordshire County Council has responsibility for. The County Council did an assessment of the sites in the County and came up with reasonable alternatives and it was at that point it was proposed that Nuneham Courtenay was the best option. A consultation then took place on the proposal. The Core Strategy has to be reviewed every five years, but it can be reviewed earlier and Oxfordshire County Council is doing this at the present time. The results of the Core Strategy review should be available in November/December 2021. Oxfordshire County Council will be re-assessing the sites and other sites have been put forward. All sites are now reasonable alternatives and there are no preferred options. Oxfordshire County Council will carry out a consultation on the sites in 2022.

Mr. Broughton was asked when Berinsfield would know whether the Drayton St. Leonard site is likely to be put forward. He informed the meeting that the site was under consideration, but he was not able to say whether it would be put forward. Mr. Broughton was asked about the site at Clifton Hampden and he stated that two planning applications have been refused on the site and Oxfordshire County Council would probably not consider it.

Mr. Broughton informed the meeting that Oxfordshire County Council would normally object to building on mineral safeguarded areas, but if housing is allocated in another Local Plan they would not object to the houses being built and would ask for the minerals to be dug out beforehand if possible. This normally does not happen. They would not object if the economic development is greater than the loss of minerals. Oxfordshire County Council would only consider sites that have been put forward by land owners. The Drayton St. Leonard site has been put forward by the mineral operator, not the land owner. The County Council do review each year how much sand and gravel is required and use the annual provision rate to do this.

The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely, asked about after care for gravel pits. Mr. Broughton informed the meeting that this would be dealt with by the Development and

Management teams. He would expect parts of the sites to be returned to nature while operators move to another area rather than leaving the whole site to be restored at the end.

The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely thanked Mr. Broughton for attending the meeting and for making his presentation.

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

3. **Declarations of Interest.** Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely declared his interest as a Trustee of the Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre, Minute 8 (d).

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. He was also present at the meeting.

a) **New 20 mph speed limit.** County Councillor Robin Bennett informed the meeting that the new 20 mph speed limit policy had been approved by the Oxfordshire County Council cabinet. The policy is aimed to make streets safer, encourage residents to walk or cycle and reduce noise and pollution. The initiative is not compulsory and will need to be supported by the Parish Council and the County Councillor. The County Council anticipate a lot of demand so requests from parishes will be prioritised by need. The aim is to get all requests done within three years. County Councillor Robin Bennett recommended that the Parish Council should consider whether it would be beneficial to have a 20 mph speed limit in Berinsfield and if so, whether it should cover the whole of the village or just certain parts. The Parish Council agreed to include this item on an agenda for a future meeting.

The contents of County Councillor Robin Bennett's report were noted by the Parish Council and a copy has been put on the Parish Council's website, www.berinsfield-pc.gov.uk

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 was present at the meeting and spoke about the items contained in his report. The Parish Council noted that South Oxfordshire District Council is launching a new round of its Capital Grant Scheme, and that further details can be found on their website <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/community-support/grants/>

A copy of District Councillor Robin Bennett's report has been put on the Parish Council's website www.berinsfield-pc.gov.uk

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

6. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th October, 2021.** It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th October, 2021 should be APPROVED

7. **To consider planning applications and decisions.**

a) Planning application P21/S2098/HH. Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Appeal under S78 against refusal of a householder application. 37 Lodden Avenue, Berinsfield, OX10 7PY. Single and double storey rear extensions. The Parish Council noted that an appeal has been lodged and that it is not able to make any comments to the Inspector.

b) Planning application P21/S3290/FUL (Amended plans) Removal of existing containers and existing building and replacement by the erection of new buildings. Varsity Works, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield OX10 7QX The Parish Council noted the amendments and AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that it has no objections.

8. Correspondence and Items for Information.

a) **Request by South Oxfordshire District Council to use the Parish Council's crest.** The Parish Council considered the request from the Garden Village Team for them to have a copy of the Parish Council's crest. The Parish Council considered the request and AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council could have a copy of the crest and that it could be incorporated in a design that will be a community led logo, subject to the Parish Council approving any final logo before it becomes adopted.

b) **Civil Parking Enforcement.** The Parish Council noted that civil parking enforcement started on 1st November, 2021 in South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and Cherwell Districts. Parking offences in these Districts previously enforced by the Police have become the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council and the parking violations will become civil offences. As well as permit holder parking and on-street pay and display parking, the Council will also be responsible for enforcing:

- Double and single yellow lines
- Limited waiting bays
- Loading bays
- Zig-zag markings at schools (if restrictions apply)
- Pedestrian crossings
- Double parking (parking too far from the kerb)
- Blue Badge bays
- Taxi ranks
- Parking in bus lanes and stops
- Parking across dropped kerbs where there's a crossing point, with or without tactile paving

The Parish Council noted that Councillor Chrisp had been asked at the last meeting to investigate areas in Berinsfield where it might be appropriate for double yellow lines to be installed and he recommended the entrances to Glyme Drive, Colne Drive and Lodden Avenue. These are all areas where vehicles are parked at the junction to Fane Drive causing obstructions to the drivers of vehicles entering or leaving the roads.

Councillor Chrisp also considered that the construction of small lay-bys in Fane Drive at the following locations would help to relieve parking problems in the area :-

- i) Between the junctions of Colne Drive and Glyme Drive
- ii) Between the junctions of Leach Road and Ock Drive
- iii) Opposite the Dental Surgery

The Parish Council considered the proposals put forward by Councillor Chrisp and it was AGREED that the Clerk should be asked to contact Oxfordshire County Council with regard to the proposals for double yellow lines to be installed in three locations in the village and if the locations are acceptable to Oxfordshire County Council, to obtain a quotation for the cost of the work.

The Parish Council also AGREED that the Berinsfield Garden Village Team should be informed that the Parish Council has recommended three locations in the village where it would be beneficial to have double yellow lines and three locations in Fane Drive where

small lay-bys could be built in an attempt to alleviate some of the parking problems. South Oxfordshire District Council should be asked if they would provide funds from the Berinsfield Garden Village budget for the work to be implemented.

c) **Clock on the Church of St. Mary and St. Berin.** The clock on the front of the Church of St. Mary and St. Berin is owned by Berinsfield Parish Council and permission was granted for it to be installed on the Church subject to all costs being paid by the Parish Council. Recently the glass covering over the clock has become misted and the manufacturers of the clock attended last week, removed the cover, cleaned it and replaced it. They have submitted a report to say that they recommend that a new cover glass should be manufactured and installed and the cost for this would be £1938.00. The Parish Council does not have funds for this work in the budget for the current financial year and it was AGREED that in the first instance the Clerk should try to find external funding towards the cost and the matter would be reviewed by the Finance Committee at its next meeting.

d) **Request to use the recreation ground on 6th August, 2022.** The Manager of the Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre had asked if the Parish Council would allow a music event to be held on the recreation ground on 6th August, 2022, subject to the relevant licences etc being obtained. The Parish Council discussed the request and it was AGREED that the Manager of the Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre should be informed that the Parish Council agreed, in principal, to the request to use the recreation ground on the 6th August, 2022 for a music event, subject to clarification of the following points :-

- i) What plans would be put in place with regard to security?
- ii) What licences will be required?
- iii) What other businesses will be involved?
- iv) What will the hours of operation be?

e) **South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse New Joint Local Plan 2041.** The Parish Council noted that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk met virtually with Countryside Properties who had asked for a meeting to inform the Parish Council that they propose to put the land to the north of Berinsfield forward for inclusion in the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse New Joint Local Plan 2041. The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely, informed the meeting that he had advised Countryside Properties to attend a future Parish Council in order to discuss this further and to obtain the views of the Parish Council.

f) **Capital Grant funding available to help good causes in South Oxfordshire.** The Parish Council noted the information about the grant scheme being launched and AGREED that applications should be submitted for funding towards replacing the bicycle roundabout in the Lay Avenue Play Area and funds towards tree maintenance and replacement.

g) **Communication of information about the role and responsibilities and work of the Parish Council in the village.** The Parish Council considered how it could circulate its minutes and other information to more residents in the village. It was AGREED that a link to the agenda and minutes for each meeting should be put on Spotted Berinsfield.

9. **Statement of accounts for payment in November.** It was AGREED that the list of accounts for payment in November in the sum of £9,423.08 should be APPROVED.

10. **Items for report of Chairman.**

a) **Resignation from Parish Council.** Councillor D. Smith informed the Parish Council that due to an increase in work commitments he would have to resign as a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council reluctantly accepted Councillor Smith's resignation and the

Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely thanked Councillor Smith for all the work he had carried out during his time as a Councillor and wished him well for the future.

The Parish Council will advertise the casual vacancy for the statutory period.

11. **Date of next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 6th December 2021 in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield at 7.15 p.m.