

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 25th April, 2022 in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, Oxon.

PRESENT : Councillor S. Scott-Ely Chairman,
Councillor P. Bridge
Councillor I. Bunyan
Councillor B. Fearneyhough
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones
Councillor D. Scate

A. Loveland, Clerk to the Council

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Councillors Chrisp, Crawford, Croft, Henry, Light and Mundy.
2. **Declaration of Interests.** It was noted that some Councillors are Trustees or Committee Members of charity organisations based in Berinsfield who might be applying for grants from the Berinsfield Garden Village grant scheme. Whilst attending this meeting the Councillors were only acting in their capacity as Parish Councillors.
3. **Berinsfield Garden Village Grant Scheme.** Details of the Berinsfield Garden Village grant scheme had been circulated to Members of the Parish Council prior to the meeting. Several suggestions had already been made at the Finance Committee meeting held on 15th November and Parish Council meeting held on 7th February, 2022 as to projects that might be suitable for funding from the Garden Village grant scheme.

The Parish Council noted that it was possible to apply for capital and revenue funding from the Berinsfield Garden Village grant scheme.

a) **Capital grant funding.** The Parish Council discussed the benefits of applying for funding for a Burial Ground improvement scheme to include the construction of a tarmac path through the centre of the Burial Ground. The area being used for burials at the present time can be accessed from the existing tarmac path on the eastern edge of the Burial Ground, but a new path will be required to provide access to the next burial area to avoid the need for grave diggers, mourners and visitors to the Burial Ground having to walk from the existing path through the area already used for burials. The grave diggers have to get mini-diggers in to dig the graves and a new central tarmac path would allow them to have better access to Row 5 onwards (towards Fane Drive). The Parish Council has already planted trees to define the line of the new path. It is anticipated that drainage would be installed under the line of the proposed new path to take surface water away from the burial area. Surface water is a problem in certain areas of the Burial Ground when there has been heavy rain. Much of the surface water comes the fields on the eastern side of the Burial Ground which are at a higher level than the Burial Ground.

The Parish Council also discussed the need for a storage facility at the Burial Ground for gardening equipment and considered that a composting toilet facility could be incorporated in the same building. As there is not an electricity supply to the Burial Ground, Members suggested including solar panels to provide light for the storage facility and composting toilet and installing a living roof on the proposed building. The Parish Council also considered the possibility of providing bicycle racks in a section of the car park.

It was AGREED that quotations should be obtained for providing the following facilities as part of the Burial Ground improvement scheme. When received, the quotations should be submitted with the Parish Council's application for funding from the Berinsfield Garden Village Grant Scheme.

i) the provision of a path to be constructed through the centre of the Burial Ground to incorporate a drainage system to remove surface water.

ii) the provision of a suitable wooden building to house a storage unit for equipment and a compostable toilet

iii) the provision of bicycle racks

b) Revenue grant funding. The Parish Council discussed projects that might qualify for revenue grant funding from the Berinsfield Garden Village Grant Scheme. A discussion took place about the benefits of progressing with the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development plan and the need to obtain professional help in order to be able to do this. It was AGREED that :-

i) Berinsfield Parish Council should make an application for £25,000 revenue funding to be used over five years to purchase support from a Consultant to produce a Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan which would align with South Oxfordshire District Council's Corporate Plan and the aspirations of the local community. The proposed Plan should deal with the current status of the village plus future Local Plans and amendments would be required as the village evolves. The proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan would also deal with concerns in the community about the climate emergency as well as affordable housing aspirations.

ii) The Clerk should be asked to contact Mr Neil Homer, the consultant who was retained to assist the Parish Council previously with preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan, to ask for his assistance in providing a quotation to prepare a Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan, including costings for the new consultation work that would be required.

4. **Oxfordshire County Council survey regarding Electric Vehicle chargers.**

The Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils have been liaising with Oxfordshire County Council to see if there is a way to collaborate or assist in the installation of EV points and to see if there might be funding or possible economies of scale that Parishes could benefit from. In connection with this a survey has been prepared and Jenny Figueiredo from the EV Charging Projects, iHub Innovation Team at Oxfordshire County Council will be speaking at the OALC Annual General Meeting in July, 2022.

The Parish Council AGREED that the Clerk should complete the survey on behalf of the Parish Council to indicate that Berinsfield Parish Council would be interested in having EV charging points in Berinsfield.

5. **Berinsfield Parish Council – Safeguarding Policy.** The Berinsfield Parish Council Safeguarding Policy that was prepared in 2015 was reviewed by the Council. Some minor amendments were made to update it and it was AGREED that subject to the amendments being made, the Parish Council should APPROVE the Berinsfield Parish Council Safeguarding Policy and publish it on its website.

6. Date of next Parish Council meeting – 9th May, 2022

