

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2022 in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, Oxon.**

**PRESENT :** Councillor S. Scott-Ely Chairman  
Councillor P. Bridge  
Councillor K. Chrisp  
Councillor S. Crawford  
Councillor B. Fearneyhough  
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones  
Councillor D. Scate  
Councillor R. Parsons – with effect from item 7

Also present:

Three members of the public

County and District Councillor Robin Bennett (for part of the meeting)

Annette Loveland, Clerk to the Council

**Mr. Ken Hall.** Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely asked those present to join him in standing for a minute's silence to remember Mr. Ken Hall, former Councillor and Chairman of Berinsfield Parish Council who died peacefully on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in Brookfield Care Home, Oxford. Mr. Ken Hall first became a Parish Councillor on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1969 and was Chairman of the Parish Council for many years. The Parish Council recognised his long service to Berinsfield and he was made an Honorary Freeman of the Parish of Berinsfield. A framed scroll was presented to him by the staff in the Care Home on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Mr. Ken Hall also represented Berinsfield on South Oxfordshire District Council for many years and was Chairman of South Oxfordshire District Council in 1997/98. Mr. Hall's funeral will be held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 at 11.30 a.m. in the Church of St. Mary and St. Berin, Berinsfield followed by an interment of ashes in Berinsfield Burial Ground.

1. **Memorial to Mr. Ken Hall.** Mr. Hall was one of the people who was instrumental in getting the funding to provide the pavilion on the recreation ground in Berinsfield. The pavilion replaced a former portacabin known as "the green hut", which had served as a pavilion for the football teams. The Parish Council considered that it would be a fitting tribute to Mr. Hall if the pavilion was renamed in his memory. It was AGREED that the pavilion should be re-named "The Ken Hall Memorial Pavilion" and that a brass plaque should be purchased and installed on the building near to the main entrance.

2. **Items raised by Members of the Public**

a) **Report from Berinsfield Youth Council.** A representative from Berinsfield Youth Council attended the meeting to report about the matters discussed at its last meeting held at the Youth Club.

i) **Flowering Cherry Trees.** The Youth Council like the new trees that have been planted on the recreation ground and support the proposal to have a flag pole in the village.

ii) **Skate Park and Youth Shelter.** The Youth Council had drawn up a plan showing additional facilities they would like added to the skate park and this was circulated to Members of the Parish Council. The Youth Council also asked if the current youth shelter could be improved by providing proper seating in it instead of the bars and adding sides to make it more comfortable.

The Parish Council noted the requests and will contact the manufacturers of the youth shelter to see if there are any approved modifications that can be carried out. The Parish Council informed the Youth Council representative that there was no funding available for major work to be carried out to the skate park or the youth shelter in the current financial year.

iii) Request for bench in memory of Mr. Mel Corrigan. The Youth Council would like a bench to be installed in memory of Mr. Mel Corrigan. Members of the Parish Council informed the Youth Council representative that they believed the Boxing Club may already have plans in this respect.

3. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.** It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 should be APPROVED.

4. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Pavilion Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.** It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Pavilion Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 should be APPROVED.

5. **District Councillor's Report.** District Councillor Robin Bennett attended the meeting and reported on the following matters:-

a) South Oxfordshire District Council now has a 5 year land supply in place which means that developers cannot put in speculative planning applications in the District.

b) Berinsfield Garden Village Steering Group meeting. District Councillor Bennett informed the Council that a Steering Group meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 at the Berinsfield Community Association. He stated that nine organisations had made applications for grants from the Garden Village Grant Scheme and the outcome should be known in September, 2022.

c) Community Hub. Consultants have been appointed to carry out consultations with regard to a proposed community hub. The proposals for the hub should be available by March 2023.

6. **County Councillor's Report.** County Councillor Robin Bennett reported on the following matters:-

a) HIF1. County Councillor Robin Bennett informed the meeting that the next stage in the HIF1 project will entail submitting a planning application. Councillor Bridge asked if there was any more information about the proposals for the Golden Balls roundabout. County Councillor Robin Bennett informed the meeting that Oxfordshire County Council had been waiting for the new Local Transport Plan to be passed and this had now been done.

b) Minerals and Waste Local Plan. County Councillor Robin Bennett informed the meeting that he did not have any updates with regard to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

c) Request for barriers to be installed on A4074 between Berinsfield and Shillingford. The request received via the Parish Council's website for barriers to be installed on the section of the A4074 between Berinsfield and Shillingford was discussed while County Councillor Robin Bennett was present at the meeting. As this is a matter that comes under the remit of Oxfordshire County Council Highways, County Councillor Robin Bennett agreed to reply to the resident who raised her concerns about this stretch of road.

7. **Casual Vacancy on Berinsfield Parish Council.** Two applications were received from eligible persons who wished to be considered to be co-opted as a Member of Berinsfield Parish Council. One applicant, Ruth Parsons, was present at the meeting and made a short presentation as to why she would like to be co-opted as a Member of the Parish Council. The other applicant was not present at the meeting.

The Parish Council considered both applications and it was AGREED that Ruth Parsons should be invited to become a Member of Berinsfield Parish Council. Ruth signed her declaration of acceptance of office and took her place at the table for the remainder of the meeting.

8. **Correspondence and Items for Information.**

a) **Request for dropped kerb access to the Lay Avenue open space.** The Parish Council was informed that a request had been received from a resident for a dropped kerb access to the Lay Avenue open space where the Lay Avenue Play Area is located. There is currently no low kerb around the Lay Avenue open space which makes access very difficult for wheelchair users. The Parish Council lease this area from South Oxfordshire District Council and they have confirmed they have no objections to a dropped kerb being installed. The Parish Council considered this request and it was AGREED that the Clerk should be authorised to apply to Oxfordshire County Council for permission to install a dropped kerb access to the Lay Avenue open space and to pay the application fee of £205.00.

b) **Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2022-23.** The Parish Council AGREED that Mrs. Jane Olds should be appointed to carry out the internal audit of Berinsfield Parish Council's accounts for the year 2022-23 at a fee of £350.00 plus mileage at .45p per mile.

c) **Purchase of a flag pole.** The Parish Council had previously agreed to obtain quotations for a flag pole and to submit an application to the South Oxfordshire Councillor's Grant Scheme for a grant for the flag pole. The Parish Council considered the quotations and it was AGREED that a 10m high flag pole should be purchased and installed at a cost of £1168.00 plus VAT. It was also AGREED that the Clerk should be authorised to make an application to the South Oxfordshire Councillor's Grant Scheme for a grant for the flag pole.

The Parish Council would like to install the flag pole on the open space area behind the War Memorial in Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, which is owned by Oxfordshire County Council. An application has been made to Oxfordshire County Council for permission to install the flag pole, but in view of the fact that Oxfordshire County Council is currently considering whether it can lease the area of open space to the Parish Council, it has been suggested that the Parish Council wait for the outcome of discussions regarding the lease before applying for a licence to install the flag pole behind the War Memorial.

d) **Request for grant aid.** The Parish Council considered an application from the Village Inn Football Club, based in Berinsfield, for funding towards the cost of providing new footballs, first aid kit and new items of kit for the team. The Parish Council was informed that the team play in the Sunday League. The Parish Council considered the request and it was AGREED that the club should be offered a grant of £200.00 and informed that applications for grant aid are normally considered by the Parish Council in March of each year and that applicants should provide copies of their accounts with their applications.

e) **Code of Conduct.** Following the adoption of the new Code of Conduct by the Parish Council, copies of the new Register of Interests forms were circulated to all Members of the Parish Council present at the meeting for completion and return to the Clerk. The forms have to be submitted to the Monitoring Officer at South Oxfordshire District Council in order that the information can be displayed on their website and that of the Parish Council.

f) **Winter Preparedness.** The Parish Council has been offered a free supply of salt for use in the village during the winter. The Parish Council considered that it had an adequate supply of salt stored at the pavilion and it was AGREED that Oxfordshire County Council should be informed that the Parish Council do not require a delivery of salt this year.

g) **Events being hosted by the Mayor of Didcot, Councillor Pam Siggers.** The Parish Council noted the information contained in the agenda about the fund raising events being hosted by Councillor Pam Siggers during 2022/23.

h) **Installation of Water Heater at the Pavilion** (Minute No. 8 of the Pavilion Committee Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2022). The Parish Council had been informed that the two water heaters currently installed in the pavilion, which provide hot water to 18 showers and the kitchen, have been condemned and need replacing. A quotation had been received to replace one heater in the sum of £10,575.08. The Parish Council considered that one heater would probably be sufficient to provide hot water at the present time and it was AGREED that the quotation from HCS in the sum of £10575.08 should be accepted and an order placed for the supply and installation of the water heater. It was also AGREED to recommend that a similar sum be included in the budget for 2023-24 to replace the second water heater.

i) **Skateboard demonstration.** The Parish Council noted that the Participation Officer at South Oxfordshire District Council had arranged for a skateboarding demonstration to take place at the skate park on the recreation ground on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022 from 1 – 4 p.m.

j) **Settlement Assessment Questionnaire for Town and Parish Councils.** It was AGREED that the email from South Oxfordshire District Council should be sent out to all Members of the Parish Council again and that Councillors should complete the on-line comment form, if they wish.

k) **Financial boost to keep residents active.** The Parish Council noted details of the press release from South Oxfordshire District Council stating that they are providing £50,000 in funding for community organisations and individuals to apply for, with a maximum grant of £1,000. The Parish Council AGREED that an application should be submitted for funding towards the cost of providing one rugby goal post for installation in a suitable location on the recreation ground.

l) **Survey on EV charging.** The Parish Council had submitted the pavilion car park as a possible location for an EV charging point. Unfortunately, this location was not included in the shortlist for a bid for funding.

9. **Statement of Accounts for payment in August, 2022** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for August in the sum of £14,123.17 should be APPROVED.

10. **To Inspect the Parish Council's bank statements.** Copies of the Parish Council's bank statements for July were circulated at the meeting for Members' inspection and Councillors noted the balances for all three of the Parish Council's accounts.

11. **Items for report to Chairman.**

a) **Berinsfield Parish Council's Parish Transport Representative.** Councillor Fearneyhough informed the Parish Council that he would no longer be able to represent the Parish Council on the Parish Transport Representatives Committee due to all future meetings being held virtually. The Chairman thanked Councillor Fearneyhough for representing the Council on the Committee and asked if any other Member would like to take his place. It was AGREED that a request should be made for all notices of future meetings to be sent to the Clerk who should circulate details to all Members to see who would be available to join the meetings.

b) **Missing and damaged bollards, Green Furlong.** Councillor Bridge informed the meeting that there were several missing and damaged bollards around Green Furlong. South Oxfordshire District Council have been made aware of this as they own the area of land.

c) **"No through road".** Councillor Chrisp repeated a request he made some time ago for all of the signs for roads leading off Fane Drive, with the exception of Colwell Road, to have the "no through road" symbol on them to try and prevent unnecessary journeys by drivers into the very crowded roads.

d) **Street light problems in Fane Drive.** It was reported that there were several street lights out in a section of Fane Drive and it was thought to be as a result of a cable breakage. No further information was provided at the meeting about the location.

12. **Date of next meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**

