

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 5th September, 2022 in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, Oxon.

PRESENT : Councillor S. Scott-Ely Chairman
Councillor P. Bridge
Councillor I. Bunyan
Councillor K. Chrisp
Councillor S. Crawford
Councillor B. Fearneyhough
Councillor S. Henry
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones
Councillor R. Parsons
Councillor D. Scate

Also present:

Two members of the public

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

Annette Loveland, Clerk to the Council

1. Items raised by Members of the Public

a) **Table Tennis Table.** A representative from the Youth Council was present at the meeting and asked what the current position was with regard to installing the table tennis table. The Chairman informed the meeting that the table tennis table cannot be delivered until a suitable base has been installed for it. The Parish Council proposed to install the table tennis table on the recreation ground between the diagonal path and the end of the skate park to give it some protection from the wind. There was a discussion about this and the Chairman agreed to visit the recreation ground with Youth Council representatives in order to agree the best site for the table tennis table.

b) **School half term week, October, 2022.** Reverend Teresa Stewart Sykes attended the meeting and informed the Parish Council that she would be meeting with Caroline Wade from the Information Centre and Laura Harte from the Berin Centre to discuss the cost of living crisis. One of the items they will be discussing is the possibility of arranging children's activities during the half term week and providing a hot meal for the children attending. She asked if the Parish Council would consider providing a grant towards the cost of the project. The Parish Council has a small amount left in its grant aid budget and it was **AGREED** that a grant of £100 should be allocated for the half term week project, which will include the provision of hot meals for the children attending.

c) **Rear garden of property in Lodden Avenue.** The Parish Council was informed that a resident in Lodden Avenue might need some assistance with maintaining their back garden. Several Councillors agreed that they would be prepared to assist with the maintenance, subject to the resident being in agreement. Further investigations will be made in the first instance.

d) **Classic Car Show.** Councillor Bunyan asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to allow a classic car show to take place on the recreation ground in Lay Avenue on 17th June, 2023. The Parish Council discussed this and **AGREED** that a classic car show could be held on the recreation ground on 17th June, 2023, subject to the organisers having their own insurance cover in place. It was noted that the Parish Council would need to discuss the arrangements with the organisers in more detail prior to the event.

e) **Turning area in Windrush Road.** It was reported that there had been some problems with residents not being able to get to their garages or in or out of their parking areas due to other vehicles being parked inconsiderately in the turning area in Windrush Road. The area is privately owned by South Oxfordshire District Council and some residents have approached them to enquire if it would be possible to have a single white line painted on the road to indicate that access to their parking area should be kept clear. They have been informed that this is possible, but the fee for obtaining the permission would be in the region of £1,000 per property. It was AGREED that the Parish Council should contact South Oxfordshire District Council to reinforce the request for residents to be given permission to have a single white line across their vehicular access and to possibly review the fee charged for this. If residents are unable to use their parking spaces it will result in more vehicles being parked in the already very congested road.

It was also AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be asked to install a dropped kerb access to the footpath located to the side of 41 Windrush Road which provides access to a further three properties.

2. **Apologies for absence were received from** Councillors Croft and Mundy.

3. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st August, 2022** It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st August, 2022 should be APPROVED.

4. **District Councillor's Report.** District Councillor Robin Bennett had provided a written report and attended the meeting. The contents of District Councillor Robin Bennett's report were noted. A copy of the report is on the Parish Council's website, www.berinsfield-pc.gov.uk

5. **County Councillor's Report.** County Councillor Robin Bennett had provided a written report and attended the meeting. The contents of County Councillor Robin Bennett's report were noted and a copy of the report is on the Parish Council's website.

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

a) **Planning application No. P22/S2909/LDP** Demolition of existing 3m rear flat roof extension and replace with a full width 2.5m single storey rear extension with pitched roof. 2 x roof windows. 5 Kennet Close, Berinsfield OX10 7PX. The Parish Council noted that South Oxfordshire District Council had certified the application as lawful within the meaning of Section 192 of the T & CP Act 1990 (as amended).

7. **Correspondence and Items for Information.**

a) **Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Development Plan and Order.** The Parish Council noted that the first round of consultation is taking place on the Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Development Plan and Order until 29th September 2022. The pre-submission draft can be viewed on www.cliftonhampden.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan and comments can be submitted via the website.

b) **Civility and Respect Project and Pledge.** The Parish Council noted the information contained in the agenda about the Civility and Respect Project and Pledge and AGREED that the Parish Council should sign up to the Pledge.

c) **Option to opt out of the SAAA Central External Audit appointment arrangements.** The Parish Council considered the information contained in the agenda regarding the option to opt out of the SAAA Central External Audit appointment arrangements. It was AGREED that the Parish Council should continue to be opted-in to the central procurement scheme for the period until 31st March, 2027

d) **External Audit of the Parish Council's Accounts for 2021-22.** The Parish Council was informed that the external audit had been completed and that the Auditor had reported :- "On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with the Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met"

The Parish Council noted the information from the External Auditor.

e) **Business Energy Contract for Pavilion.** The Parish Council noted that the business energy contract with SSE terminates on 31st October, 2022. A new offer has been received and in view of the possibility of information regarding energy charges being made available in the near future, it was AGREED that the decision with regard to the business energy supply for the pavilion should be deferred for consideration by the Allotments, Playing Fields, Open Spaces, Burial Ground and Skateboard park Committee on 19th September, 2022.

f) **South Oxfordshire District Council Capital Grant Scheme 2022-23.** The Parish Council considered projects that might fit the criteria for a grant from the South Oxfordshire District Council's capital grant scheme for 2022-23. A suggestion was made that it might be advisable to look at the possibility of installing solar panels on the roof of the pavilion. A discussion took place regarding this and it was AGREED that the Clerk should be authorised to obtain quotations for the supply and installation of solar panels on the roof of the pavilion in Lay Avenue, Berinsfield with a view to using the quotations to submit an application for a grant from the South Oxfordshire District Council's capital grant scheme.

g) **Berinsfield Garden Village.** A copy of the Feasibility Study Project Brief for the procurement of a Consultant to develop the community facilities project in Berinsfield had been forwarded to all Members of the Parish Council electronically. The information contained in the Feasibility Study Project Brief was noted by the Parish Council.

8. **Statement of Accounts for payment in September, 2022** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for September in the sum of £23,601.71 should be APPROVED.

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

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

a) **Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan.** The Parish Council noted that the grant application made to the Berinsfield Garden Village grant scheme had not yet been determined, but that the Parish Council had obtained a grant of £10,000 from Locality towards the cost of preparing the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Parish Council AGREED that its retained Consultant, Mr. Neil Homer, should be asked to proceed with the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development plan and in this connection should contact Mr. Ricardo Rios and Mr. Elliott Ward at South Oxfordshire District Council.

b) **Proposed new BMX Track.** The Parish Council AGREED that an item should be included on the agenda for the Allotments, Playing Fields, Open Spaces, Burial Ground and Skateboard Park Committee meeting on the 19th September regarding the proposed new BMX track.

c) **Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils Training Courses.** Members of the Parish Council were advised to look at the details of the training courses offered by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in the OALC Update that is forwarded to them each month. Bookings should be made through the Clerk and the Parish Council will pay the course fees.

10. **Date of next meeting – 3rd October, 2022**

