

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2022 at 7.15 p.m. in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, Oxon.**

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

Also present:  
Three members of the public  
Annette Loveland, Clerk to the Council

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

**a) White line markings near to BMX track on recreation ground.** A member of the public attended the meeting to enquire if the white line markings on the recreation ground were to identify the possible site of a new BMX track. The Chairman informed the resident that the lines had been drawn to assess the possibility of improving the existing BMX track, but that at the meeting of the Parish Council's Allotments, Playing Fields, Open Spaces and Burial Ground Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, a recommendation had been made that the Parish Council should carry out more research as to whether there is a need for an improved BMX track and if so, whether there might be other suitable areas for it. The matter has been left in abeyance at the present time, pending further research.

The member of the public pointed out that the while lines were very close to his and his neighbour's properties at the southern end of the recreation ground and that in the past, play equipment had been re-located from this site to its current position, due to noise and antisocial behaviour caused to residents whose properties fronted on to the recreation ground. The Parish Council noted this information.

**b) School Transport.** A member of the public attended the meeting to highlight the problems that are still occurring with the school transport from Berinsfield to the schools in Abingdon. It appears that Oxfordshire County Council have put some temporary measures have been put in place until the October half term when they will then re-tender for the route. The member of the public asked if it would be possible for Mr. Earnshaw, the Oxfordshire County Council Team Leader for Supported Transport Services, to be invited to attend another Parish Council meeting to discuss this matter again and the Parish Council agreed to contact Mr. Earnshaw.

There was a discussion about the amount some parents have to pay for transport in order to send their children to secondary school and of other travel options that might be available to them. The Parish Council considered that as education is compulsory, parents should not have to pay for school transport and it was AGREED that a letter should be sent to Mr. John Howell, M.P. to ask for his help in trying to get free school transport for children to attend secondary education.

**c) Youth Council report.** A representative from the Youth Council was present at the meeting and raised the following matters :-

1.

i) **Site for Table Tennis Table.** A site meeting had been held with a representative from the Youth Council and two Parish Councillors and a new site has been agreed for the installation of the table tennis table. A base will be installed and then the table can be requested for installation.

ii) **BMX Track.** A representative from the Youth Council also inspected the existing BMX track with two Parish Councillors and agreed that the track does not appear to be used very much. It was felt that it might be more appropriate to focus on the skateboard park rather than the BMX track.

iii) **Bench for the Youth Shelter.** A further request was made for a more comfortable bench to be installed in the existing youth shelter. The Parish Council is investigating whether this is possible.

iv) **Existing Basket Ball unit.** The Clerk informed the meeting that FCC Communities had agreed that the Parish Council could retain the whole of the grant that it has made for the bicycle roundabout and new springy animals in the Lay Avenue Play Area, subject to the balance being used to contribute towards the cost of a new base for the table tennis table and a new base under the existing basket ball unit.

v) **Basket Ball Court adjacent to Youth Centre and Sports Centre.** Councillor Chrisp agreed to visit the Sports Centre to ask how residents can gain access to the basket ball court located adjacent to the Youth Centre and Sports Centre.

2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Councillors Bridge, Croft and Henry.

3. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.

4. **County Councillor's Report.** County Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report which had been circulated at the meeting. The contents of County Councillor Bennett's report was noted by the Parish Council.

5. **District Councillor's Report.** District Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report which had been circulated at the meeting. The contents of District Councillor Bennett's report was noted by the Parish Council.

6. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.** It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 should be APPROVED

7. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Allotments, Playing Fields, Open Spaces, Burial Ground and Skateboard Park Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.** It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 should be APPROVED.

8. **To consider planning applications and decisions received to date :-**

a) Planning application P22/S3334/DIS. Discharge of conditions 5 (Construction traffic Management Plan) 6 (Surface Water Drainage Details) and 7 (Contaminated Land Remediation Strategy) on application P21/S3290/FUL (Removal of existing containers and existing building and replacement by the erection of an extension and a new building) Varsity Works, Wimblesstraw Road, Berinsfield OX10 7QX. The Parish Council AGREED to note the information.

b) Planning applications No. P22/S3364/HH, and P22/S3366/PDH Rear extension and porch 57 Fane Drive, Berinsfield OX10. The Parish Council AGREED to inform South Oxfordshire District Council that it has no strong views on these applications.

c) Planning decision No. P22/S1353/FUL. Change of use from public house (sui generis) to a flexible commercial use falling in Use Classes E (a)-(f) of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) 19 – 19a Fane Drive, Berinsfield OX10 7ND. The Parish Council AGREED to note this information.

## 9. Correspondence and Items for Information

a) **Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan.** The Chairman informed the meeting that the Parish Council's retained consultant, Mr. Neil Homer, would like to walk around Berinsfield with representatives from the Parish Council and this has been arranged for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 10 a.m, starting outside the Library. He has also asked the Parish Council to call a Neighbourhood Development Plan meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 at 7 p.m. in Berinsfield (venue to be arranged). Mr. Ricardo Rios and his colleagues from the Neighbourhood Development Plan section of South Oxfordshire District Council will be present. Mr. Neil Homer has recommended that a Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group be appointed, comprising of Members of the Parish Council and representatives from the community, in order that work can start on preparing a new Neighbourhood Development Plan for Berinsfield.

b) **Civility and Respect Pledge.** Berinsfield Parish Council has now signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge. The certificate to this effect will be displayed in the Pavilion and on the notice board. The Parish Council also AGREED to display the Civility and Respect logo on its emails and other relevant correspondence.

c) **Budget 2023-24.** The Parish Council considered projects that it may wish to include in its budget for 2023-24 when it is discussed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 21st November, 2022.

i)	Funds to contribute towards cost of village celebration for the Coronation of King Charles III	£1,000
ii)	Provide two more items of gym equipment on the recreation ground for upper body workout	£10,000
iii)	Two Metal benches to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III	£2,000
iv)	Replace polycarbonate panels in the bus shelters where they have been etched and damaged	£4,000
v)	Install one or more wooden planters on the recreation ground near to the flowering Cherry trees and metal bench	£1,000
vi)	Extension to the existing skateboard park Parish Council to try to obtain additional grant funding	£10,000

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| vii)  | Provision of skip/lorry for residents to dispose of household items (not refrigerators) to assist with tidying up the village. | £1,000 |
| viii) | Provision of a path across the Lay Avenue play area to link the dropped kerbs either side of the narrow end of the site.       | £2,000 |

d) **Dropped Kerb, Lay Avenue Play Area.** The Parish Council was informed that the Clerk had met with the Technical Officer – Traffic and Road Safety, Environment and Place, from Oxfordshire County Council at the Lay Avenue Play Area to discuss the possible installation of a dropped kerb access to the play area. The Officer suggested installing three dropped kerbs, one either side of the narrow end of the play area and one in the kerb on the Evenlode Drive side of Lay Avenue which would allow disabled access from both sides of the road. The Officer agreed that South Oxfordshire District Council would pay for the construction of the dropped kerbs and suggested that the Parish Council may wish to construct a path across the narrow end of the play area to make it easier for wheelchairs or buggies to access the entrance to the play area. Oxfordshire County Council may not be able to fund the works until the new financial year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The Parish Council AGREED to the suggestion of three dropped kerbs being installed and will include funds in the budget for 2022-23 to provide the path.

e) **Xplorer Event, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.** The Parish Council AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that they can organise an Xplorer Event on the recreation ground on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 from 10 a.m. until 12 noon.

10. **Statement of accounts for payment in October, 2022.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in October in the sum of £8,559.74 should be APPROVED.

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

12. **Items for report to Chairman.**

a) Councillor Bunyan proposed that the Shield Group, who now empty the dog litter bins in Berinsfield, should be thanked for the very good service they are providing.

b) Dog litter bin located on the recreation ground at the rear of the Sports Centre. It was noted that the lid had broken off the dog litter bin and it was AGREED that a new bin should be installed in this location.

13. **Date of next meeting** - 7<sup>th</sup> November ,2022

