

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 7th November at 7.15 p.m. in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, Oxon.

PRESENT : Councillor P. Bridge Vice- Chairman, in the Chair
Councillor I. Bunyan
Councillor K. Chrisp
Councillor S. Crawford
Councillor B. Fearneyhough
Councillor S. Henry
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones
Councillor D. Scate

Also present:

District and County Councillor Robin Bennett for part of the meeting

Ten members of the public

Annette Loveland, Clerk to the Council

1. Items raised by Members of the Public

a) Allotment Hedge. An allotment tenant attended the meeting to inform the Parish Council that following the allotment hedge being cut some of the arisings were left on her allotment plot. The Parish Council agreed to arrange for these to be removed and apologised for any inconvenience caused.

b) Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre. Several members of the public attended the meeting in order to ask if there was anything the Parish Council could do to prevent the closure of the Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre. The Parish Council was informed that a meeting had been called by the Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre on Monday 7th November at 1.30 p.m. and it had been agreed that a Working Group would be set up to look at possible ways of preventing the closure. District and County Councillor Robin Bennett has agreed to provide some funds to allow the Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre to continue to operate until January 2023, but he said that every option should be looked at. The invitations to the Working Group meeting will be sent out by Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre. Councillor Chrisp asked if the Working Party meeting could be held in the evening to allow more people to be able to attend.

c) Request for 20 mph Speed Limit in Berinsfield. A resident asked if it would be possible to have a 20 mph speed limit in Berinsfield. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Parish Council had considered this at its meeting held on the 6th June, 2022 and it was agreed at that time that the provision of a village speed limit was possibly a matter for the Berinsfield Garden Village Team to look at in the future. In the meantime, the Parish Council agreed not to apply to Oxfordshire County Council for 20 mph speed limits in any areas of the village. County Councillor Robin Bennett informed the meeting that it would take approximately two years to get any requests for 20 mph speed limits approved at the present time.

d) Planning application P22/S3941/AG Proposed new building on floor grain store, Deacons Field, Abingdon Road, Berinsfield. The applicant attended the Parish Council meeting to explain why the planning application had been submitted. The application has been submitted for this location to make transportation of the grain easier as vehicles can go straight on to the A415 or A4074. It will also prevent so many tractor and lorry movements on the road from Berinsfield to Drayton St. Leonard.

e) **Burial Ground** A resident asked if it would be possible to lock the pedestrian gate at the Burial Ground in order to try and prevent vandalism taking place. The Chairman informed the meeting that the vehicular gates were kept locked, but in order for the pedestrian gate to be locked from sundown to sunrise it would be necessary to find somebody who could carry out this job. The resident was also informed that not everything that happened in the Burial Ground was as a result of vandalism as animals and birds do forage in the Burial Ground and look for water by taking flowers out of pots. The resident said she would be prepared to volunteer to lock and unlock the gate. The Parish Council will arrange for the necessary works to be carried out to re-align the bolt in the first instance.

f) **Classic Car Show 17th June 2023.** Councillor Bunyan referred to the Classic Car Show that the Parish Council has agreed can take place on the recreation ground on 17th June 2023. He asked for clarification of the following points :-

i) **Request for dropped kerb.** Councillor Bunyan asked if it would be possible to get a dropped kerb installed near to the barrier to make access to the recreation ground easier for vehicles, including the grounds maintenance teams. The Parish Council agreed to inspect the site to see if it is possible to install a dropped kerb and if so, whether permission is required from the Highway Authority.

ii) **Insurance.** The Parish Council's public liability insurance covers any incidents that occur as a result of problems with the surface of the recreation ground, but the Clerk agreed to contact the Insurance Company to obtain clarification as to whether additional cover would be required. The people displaying their classic cars would be doing so at their own risk.

iii) **Car Parking.** Councillor Bunyan was informed that visitors to the classic car show could park in the car park outside the Library/Sports Centre and Mr. Farrant agreed that Councillor Bunyan could contact him to make arrangements to use the field at the junction of the A415 and A4074 for additional car parking.

iv) **Notification to all properties facing Lay Avenue .** It was agreed that flyers giving details of the classic car event would be prepared on Parish Council headed notepaper and would be distributed to all residents of properties facing Lay Avenue to advise them of the event and asking them for their co-operation in keeping the road clear of parked vehicles on the day.

2. **Declarations of Interests.** There were no declarations of interests.

3. **Apologies for absence** were received from Councillors Croft, Mundy, Parsons and Scott-Ely.

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. The contents of the report were noted.

5. **District Councillor's Report.** District Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report which had been circulated to all those present at the meeting. The contents of the report were noted.

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

7. To consider planning applications and decisions received to date

a) Planning application No. P22/S3574/HH Demolition of existing garage and outbuilding and construction of new two storey side and rear extensions and canopy to front elevation. 17 Shadwell Road, Berinsfield OX10 7PN
<https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P22/S3574/HH> The Parish Council AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that the Parish Council does not have any objections to this application

b) Reference P22/S3366/PDH 57 Fane Drive, Berinsfield OX10 7NE The Parish Council noted that the application is now being dealt with under the new permitted development rights.

c) Reference P22/S3334/DIS Varsity Works, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield OX10 7QX. The Parish Council noted that an application had been submitted for discharge of conditions 4 (Biodiversity Enhancement Plan) 5 (Construction Traffic Management Plan) (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). Related application P21/S3290/FUL.

d) Planning application P22/S3941/AG Proposed new building on floor grain store, Deacons Field, Abingdon Road, Berinsfield.
<https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P22/S3941/AG> The Parish Council considered this application and it was AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that the Parish Council does not have any objections to this application.

8. **Berinsfield Garden Village Scheme** The Parish Council noted that the following grants had been awarded for revenue and capital purposes from the Berinsfield Garden Village Scheme :-

- Revenue grant of £7,000 towards the cost of preparing a Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- Capital Grant of £34,518 to construct a new path and install drainage in the Burial Ground.

The Parish Council was informed that only one quotation was received for the works in the Burial Ground and in view of the time lapse since the quotation was prepared in May 2022, it was likely that the contractor would wish to re-quote. It was AGREED that in the first instance the Clerk should contact the contractor who submitted the original quotation to ask him to update his quotation.

9. Correspondence and Items for Information.

a) **Deep Cleanse Service, Berinsfield.** The Parish Council noted that South Oxfordshire District Council will be spending a few days in Berinsfield from 20th – 22nd December, 2022 to perform a deep cleanse. They will litter pick, sweep and remove weeds and moss on pavements. They will only clear land to which the public is permitted access and that is under the direct control of the District Council.

b) **Lay Avenue Play Area.** The Parish Council is currently awaiting the report from the Inspector who has to approve the installation of the new play equipment before it is handed over to the Parish Council.

c) **Hatwells Fair.** The Parish Council AGREED that Hatwells Fair can hire the recreation ground on which to hold its fair from 26th June 2023 until 3rd July, 2023. The fee will be £100 per day for the days of operation, which will be 29th June until 2nd July, 2022.

d) **OCC Local Transport Connectivity Plan, Didcot Area Travel Plan stakeholders workshop.** The Parish Council was informed that Councillor Bridge had offered to attend the online workshop on 22nd November, 2022.

e) **Dropped kerb access to the Lay Avenue Play Area.** The Parish Council noted that Oxfordshire County Council had agreed to install dropped kerb accesses at either side of the Lay Avenue Play area as well as a dropped kerb access to the pavement in front of the Evenlode Drive houses facing Lay Avenue. The work should be carried out before the end of the financial year.

f) **Request to Oxfordshire County Council for advance notice of highway works in the village.** It was AGREED that Oxfordshire County Council should be asked again to contact the Parish Council when any highway works are planned in the village. Letters have recently been delivered to houses in Lay Avenue, Evenlode Drive and Leach Road warning of resurfacing works, but the Parish Council has not been informed of the proposed works. No date has been specified for the works to be carried out.

g) **Signage required on road to Drayton St. Leonard.** It was AGREED that the Parish Council should contact Oxfordshire County Council to ask for “Pedestrians walking in road” warning signs to be erected from the junction of Fane Drive and Burcot Lane along the road to Drayton St Leonard, particularly in the area between Berinsfield and the entrance to Queenford Lakes.

h) **Berinsfield Garden Village Newsletters.** It was noted that Berinsfield Garden Village Newsletters can be found on the link <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/business-and-economy/garden-communities/berinsfield-garden-village/> It is also possible to go on the mailing list to receive the newsletters. The email address is BerinsfieldGV@southandvale.gov.uk

i) **Berinsfield Garden Village Community Facilities Project.** The Parish Council noted that South Oxfordshire District Council has appointed Oxford Architects to undertake the Berinsfield Garden Village Community Facilities project. The Oxford Architects project team includes specialist expertise from the following organisations :-

Oxford Architects – design, project management and engagement

Gleeds – cost consultancy

Stantec – structural/condition surveys

Berrys – commercial input

MP Consultancy – management and stewardship modelling (plus specialist Garden Village expertise)

10. **Statement of Accounts for payment in November 2022.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in November in the sum of £21,650.42 should be APPROVED.

11. **To inspect the Parish Council’s bank statements.** Copies of the Parish Council’s bank statements for October, together with the current account reconciliation, 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) **Everyone Active Grant Scheme 2022.** The Parish Council was informed that the application for funding towards the cost of providing a rugby post on the recreation ground had been successful. South Oxfordshire District Council has awarded the Parish Council the sum of £1,000.

b) **Enforcement case VE21/104 37 Lodden Avenue, Berinsfield.** The Parish Council was informed that the Parish Council's correspondence regarding this property has been forwarded to an Enforcement Officer and she is engaging with the owner's agent and will notify all third parties of the outcome in due course.

13. **Date of next meeting** - 5th December, 2022

14. **Confidential item.** In view of the confidential nature of the following item, the press and members of the public were asked to leave the meeting.

a) Salary awards.

