

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 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 R. Parsons  
Councillor D. Scate

Also present:

District and County Councillor Robin Bennett for part of the meeting  
Two members of the public  
Annette Loveland, Clerk to the Council

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

**a) New Outreach Worker at the Berin Centre.** The new Outreach Worker from the Berin Centre, Sarah Dodd, attended the meeting to introduce herself to the Parish Council. Sarah runs YOCO and is also a volunteer at the Youth Club. There is no formal job structure for the Outreach Worker post and the job will evolve as required, including supporting community events.

The Vice-Chairman mentioned that the Parish Council had an item on its agenda to discuss possible celebrations for the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. Reverend Teresa Stewart-Sykes had apologised for not being able to attend the Parish Council meeting, but had sent an email stating that at the moment there is nothing on the national Church of England website about resources for the Coronation in the way of commemorative services, but she suggested the following :-

- i) Live showing of the Coronation in the Church for those who might be on their own and would like some company to watch it.
- ii) A shared celebration lunch after the event for those who would like to stay, to be held either in the Church Hall or on the open space outside. This would be kept quite simple and everyone would be welcome. The Church would invite older people, but it is not expected to be a large event.
- iii) Messy Church on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May with a Coronation theme. Children would have an opportunity to make a crown and take part in a parade with prizes and a children's tea party afterwards.

Councillor Bridge informed the meeting that the Berinsfield Community Association now had a film screen and could also show the Coronation.

The Berin Centre could run a stay and play session and also support wider community events.

Councillor Mrs. Jones emphasised that all events should be publicised so that all residents have the opportunity of participating.

It was noted that the Berinsfield Community Network Group would be meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and it was felt that it would be beneficial to discuss arrangements to celebrate the Coronation together with other events that are already planned to be held in the village during 2023.

b) **Party held for Senior residents at the Berinsfield Community Association premises.** Councillor Bunyan thanked the Parish Council for its donation towards the cost of providing the party for Senior residents at the Berinsfield Community Association. He said it was an enjoyable event.

c) **Christmas Lights.** Councillor Mrs. Jones informed the meeting that there had been many positive comments about the solar lights on the trees around the village and about the lights on the large fir tree at her property.

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

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

3. **County Councillor's Report.** County Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report which had been circulated to all those present at the meeting. County Councillor Bennett went through the items on the report at the meeting.

a) **Minerals and Waste.** The Parish Council noted that Oxfordshire County Council agreed on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to start a new Minerals and Waste Plan to replace the current one which runs to 2031. This is to ensure that the Council has up-to-date plans for both minerals and waste, rather than continue with the current two part process. County Councillor Bennett has asked the County Council Officers to ensure that Parishes that have mineral deposits in their area are offered a briefing on the new process early in 2023.

b) **Planning.** It was noted that the Planning and Regulation Committee meeting to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 has been cancelled. The HIF 1 (Didcot-Culham-Golden Balls road/bridge scheme) was to be discussed at that meeting.

c) **Road surfacing in Evenlode Drive, Lay Avenue and Leach Road.** Councillor Bridge informed County Councillor Bennett that the recent surfacing works carried out in Evenlode Drive, Lay Avenue and Leach Road was not done to a good standard and that there had been a lot of complaints from residents about the loose chippings, some of which were getting caught in their brakes. County Councillor Bennett noted the information.

4. **District Councillor's Report.** District Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report which had been circulated to all those present at the meeting. District Councillor Bennett went through the report and Councillors noted the information about the cost of living and the household support fund. District Councillor Bennett had also provided details of the CIL spending in the District, including the sum of £100,000 that has been allocated for swimming pool improvements at the Abbey Sports Centre and £167,000 for the renovation of the Astro-turf pitch at the Abbey Sports Centre.

District Councillor Bennett mentioned that voters at the local elections to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 will be required to show an accepted form of photo ID in order to vote. This will include a passport or driving licence, but can be a concessionary bus pass. There will be an option for people to apply for a certificate if they do not have an acceptable form of photo ID.

Councillor Bridge thanked County and District Councillor Bennett for his reports, copies of which are on the website, [www.berinsfield-pc.gov.uk](http://www.berinsfield-pc.gov.uk)

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

6. **To consider planning applications and decisions.** There were no planning applications or decisions to consider.

7. **Provision of a Rugby goal post(s) on the recreation ground.** A site meeting was arranged on the recreation ground to assess where it might be possible to install one, or possibly, two Rugby goal posts. A sketch plan was displayed at the meeting showing a pitch located between the rear of the spinney and the Roman Road. Unfortunately the quotation for two 10 metre high rugby goal posts was not available at the meeting, but pending receipt of the quotation, the Parish Council AGREED that the location as identified during the site meeting should be approved. The Parish Council will review the quotations at the next meeting in order to decide whether one or two posts are purchased.

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

a) **Parish Council's Notice Board.** The Parish Council was asked if it wished to consider locating a new site for its notice board that is currently in the garden of the former Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre building. A suggestion was made that it could go on the open space behind the seat outside the Health Centre. The Parish Council has not yet been asked to remove the notice board, but enquiries will be made to find out if it would be possible to install it behind the seat located outside the Health Centre.

b) **Waste and Recycling.** The Parish Council AGREED to accept the offer made by the Waste and Recycling Officers at South Oxfordshire District Council to attend a Parish Council meeting to make a presentation about the waste and recycling service. The Clerk will liaise with them with regard to arranging a mutually convenient date.

c) **Postal address for properties in Drayton Road, Berinsfield.** The Parish Council was informed that the new property in Drayton Road has now been named and the postal address is Dorchester-on-Thames. There are other properties in Drayton Road that are in the Parish of Berinsfield that also have the postal address of Dorchester-on-Thames and not Berinsfield. This matter had been taken up with South Oxfordshire District Council who have stated that :-

“Unfortunately, the locality name in all addresses is chosen by Royal Mail regardless of the parish it's in.

I think in this case Lakeside View, Drayton Road was offered up by the original commercial properties when the site was accessed off Drayton Road. Royal Mail has always been happy to allow commercial tenants to apply to them directly, so the commercial addresses would have been a legacy of the early days. Then when the access changed to Burcot Lane, Royal Mail continued to allow commercial tenants to join the existing post code with the rest of the address that went with it. Needless to say, the post code for the lakes is now well established so any new address that comes along on the site has to adopt the same dependant thoroughfare, locality, post town and post code.”

The Parish Council considered this information and AGREED that a letter should be sent to Royal Mail and South Oxfordshire District Council asking for the postal addresses for properties that are located in the Parish of Berinsfield to have a Berinsfield address and not a Dorchester on Thames address.

d) **A4074 Corridor Workshop.** The Parish Council noted that the slides from the workshop held virtually are now available on the website <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/a4074>

e) **Grounds maintenance contract 2023-24.** The Parish Council was informed that A & W Grounds have accepted the grounds maintenance contract for the year 2023-24 and have signed the contract documents. The Parish Council AGREED that the Chairman, Councillor Scott-Ely should now sign the contract documents on behalf of the Parish Council.

f) **Enquiry regarding the use of the recreation ground for boot camps.** The Parish Council was informed that an enquiry has been received from two personal trainers about using the recreation ground to run boot camps with a combination of circuit, HHT strength and conditioning training with elements of co-ordination. The Parish Council discussed this and it was AGREED that the two personal trainers should be informed that the Parish Council is in agreement with the request in principle, but would need further information and confirmation that the appropriate insurance cover is in place. The Parish Council would also need to know if the pavilion would be required and if so, there would be a charge for this.

9. **Statement of accounts for January, 2023.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in January 2023 in the sum of £9553.88 should be APPROVED.

10. **To inspect the Parish Council's bank statements for December.** The Clerk apologised that the statements were not available for inspection, as she had not brought the bank statement folder to the meeting.

11. **Date of next meeting 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.**

