

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 6th February, 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 Mrs. A. Jones
Councillor D. Scate

Also present:

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

1. Items raised by Members of the public

a) Events held on the recreation ground, Lay Avenue, Berinsfield.

Councillor Bunyan referred to a complaint that had been made to the Parish Council and other organisations in the village about the Beri-fest event held in 2022 and the Beri-fest event that is proposed to be held on 5th August, 2023. Councillor Bunyan informed the Parish Council that the Beri-fest event is not organised by the Berinsfield Community Association. The Berinsfield Community Association had allowed the organisers to obtain electricity from the building and for people attending the event to be able to use the toilet facilities. He confirmed that the Berinsfield Community Association's licence permitted drinks to be taken out of the premises.

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

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

4. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th January, 2023. It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th January, 2023 should be APPROVED.

5. To consider planning applications and decisions received to date.

a) Planning Application No P22/S4625/FUL. Extensions and alterations to existing building to facilitate change of use from public house (sui generis) to residential (Use Class C3) providing seven flats with parking, amenity space and associated works. 19 – 19a Fane Drive, Berinsfield Oxon, OX10 7ND

<https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P22/S4625/FUL#exactline>

The Parish Council considered this application and it was AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that Berinsfield Parish Council support the application, but would like South Oxfordshire District Council to ensure that adequate parking spaces are provided on the site and that one parking space should provide a facility for charging electric vehicles.

6. **Provision of Rugby Posts** The Parish Council considered the quotations for the provision and installation of rugby posts on the recreation ground. The Parish Council has obtained a grant of £1,000 to use towards the purchase, but in view of the cost of purchasing and installing suitable posts it was AGREED that further funding in the form of grants, should be obtained prior to proceeding with the purchase and installation of the rugby posts. The Clerk was asked to investigate what grants are available and make applications for funding on behalf of the Parish Council. 1.

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

a) **Waste and Recycling** The Parish Council noted that the Waste and Recycling Officers from South Oxfordshire District Council will be attending the Parish Council meeting to be held on 5th June, 2023 to make a presentation about the waste and recycling service.

b) **Annual Litter Pick.** Councillor Bridge informed the Parish Council that the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean will be held from Friday 17 March to Sunday 2 April. The Parish Council considered that arrangements for this might be discussed by the Berinsfield Community Group at its meeting to be held on 8th February, 2023.

c) **Events held on recreation ground.** The Parish Council noted the information contained in the agenda about the Parish Council's public liability insurance not covering any events held on the recreation ground that are not organised by the Parish Council. Organisations who use the recreation ground are currently asked to provide their own insurance cover. The Parish Council has agreed to allow events to be held on the recreation ground during 2023 and it was AGREED that the Clerk should be asked to prepare some terms and conditions relating to the use of the recreation ground that organisers of events should be asked to complete and sign in order to ensure that the Parish Council is indemnified against any claims.

d) **South Oxfordshire District Council. Agreement in respect of the Berinsfield Garden Village Capital Grant.** The agreements in respect of the grant of £34,518.00 awarded to the Parish Council towards the cost of improvement works in the Burial Ground have been received and the Parish Council AGREED that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk should sign these on behalf of the Parish Council. The signed documents will duly be returned to South Oxfordshire District Council.

e) **Berinsfield Parish Council Grant Aid Scheme.** The Parish Council noted that the availability of the Parish Council's grant aid scheme has been advertised on the notice board, Spotted Berinsfield and the Parish Council's website, www.berinsfield-pc.gov.uk The closing date for receipt of applications, which must be accompanied by supporting documents and accounts, is 10th March, 2023.

f) **HIF1 (Housing and Infrastructure Fund 1).** The Parish Council noted that a display of documents relating to the HIF1 road scheme is on display in Berinsfield Library until the end of March 2023.

g) **Protecting and restoring the natural world.** A request has been made by the Outreach Worker from the Berin Centre for an area on the recreation ground to be left to grow to promote the return of wildlife, including flowers and natural flora. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk had held a site meeting and suggested that an area at the junction of the diagonal path and the path leading from Chiltern Close to the Roman Road, at the rear of the BMX track would be the most suitable area for this purpose. It was AGREED that the Outreach Worker from the Berin Centre should be informed of the suggested location of the site where the grass could be left to grow during 2023.

h) **The Spinney area adjacent to Abbey Woods Close.** The Parish Council noted that the Tree Surgeons would be commencing work in the spinney area on 7th March 2023 and will be on site for approximately three days. It might be necessary for the Tree Surgeons to close the unauthorised path through the spinney for safety reasons while they are working in the area.

2

i) **Oxfordshire County Council tree planting.** The Parish Council noted that Oxfordshire County Council is carrying out a tree planting scheme on highway land it owns in the County. They propose to plant one Pedunculate Oak tree in the highway verge in Fane Drive next to the path leading from Fane Drive into the car park located by the Church. The Parish Council did not wish to propose any alternative sites for the tree. The County Council would like the community to look after the tree and ensure it is watered, kept free of weeds and that the ties and cage are maintained.

j) **Salt Bin and Litter Bin.** The Parish Council considered the quotation received for installing the salt bin and litter bin on concrete bases. It was felt that the salt bin could be dug into the bank by the path and just fixed into the ground with stakes rather than on a concrete base. A concrete base would still be required for the litter bin. It was AGREED that the Clerk should be asked to contact the contractors who provided the quotation to see if it would be possible for them to re-quote to dig out a section of the bank by the path to place the salt bin in and to secure it to the ground with metal stakes.

k) **The Pavilion** The Parish Council considered the information contained in the agenda regarding funding that South Oxfordshire District Council has secured and which they wish to use to carry out some site decarbonisation assessments for a number of community buildings. It was AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that the Parish Council would like to have a site decarbonisation assessment carried out at the Pavilion and that this information should also be made available to the Team currently working for South Oxfordshire District Council with regard to the proposed hub for Berinsfield.

l) **Table Tennis Table and Flag Pole.** The Parish Council noted that the table tennis table and flag pole were installed during the week commencing 30th January, 2023.

The table tennis table is located on the recreation ground to the rear of the children's play area. Unfortunately the bats and balls provided with the table tennis table had been damaged and replaced twice since the table was installed. The Parish Council considered that anybody wishing to use the table tennis table should use their own bats and balls in future.

The flag pole is located next to the War Memorial. Councillor Bridge kindly met the installation team and was shown how to hoist the flags. Councillor Bridge would be happy to pass this information on to other Councillors upon request. The Parish Council will consider applications from organisations who might have their own flags and who may wish to fly them for special events.

m) **Dropped kerb access to the recreation ground from Lay Avenue.** The Parish Council was asked to consider if it would be beneficial to arrange for a dropped kerb to be installed from Lay Avenue to allow safe vehicular access into the recreation ground through the barrier. The Parish Council considered this and it was AGREED that a dropped kerb access would be beneficial and the Clerk was asked to contact Oxfordshire County Council and SOHA Housing to obtain consent to carry out the works. Quotations will be requested upon receipt of the relevant consents for the work to be carried out.

n) **Basket Ball court on recreation ground** It was AGREED that quotations should be obtained to provide a hard surface for the basket ball court that is located on the recreation ground. FCC Communities had kindly allowed the Parish Council to retain the full grant that was awarded when the bicycle roundabout and springy animals were installed in the Lay Avenue Play area as long as it was used to enhance play facilities.

o) **Path between the dropped kerbs on the Lay Avenue Play Area.** Oxfordshire County Council kindly provided two dropped kerbs at the narrow end of the Lay Avenue Play Area and the Parish Council considered whether it would be beneficial to construct a path between the dropped kerbs to allow access for mobility aids, buggies, to the entrance to the play area. The Parish Council considered that it would be beneficial to have a path from the dropped kerbs to the gate of the play area and it was AGREED that quotations should be obtained for carrying out this work.

8. **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 was noted by the Parish Council.

9. **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 Parish Council noted that work would start week commencing 13th February to refurbish the pool changing rooms at the Abbey Sports Centre.

The information contained in the report regarding the Berinsfield Garden Village project was also noted by the Parish Council. The latest updates with regard to the Berinsfield Garden Village scheme can be found at www.southoxon.gov.uk/berinsfield

10. **Statement of accounts for February 2023.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in February 2023 in the sum of £10,415.59 should be APPROVED.

11. **To inspect the Parish Council's bank statements for January.** The bank statements were circulated to those present at the meeting and the balances were noted by the Parish Council

12. **Items of report to Chairman.**

a) 47 Lay Avenue. The Parish Council was informed that the boundary fence has been removed from this property. Enquiries will be made about this matter.

b) 39 Windrush Close. A request had been made to South Oxfordshire District Council for a dropped kerb to be installed on the path that serves this property. A further request will be made to this effect.

c) 37 Lodden Avenue. The Parish Council was informed on 13th June 2022 that the enforcement case VE21/104 had been re-allocated to an Enforcement Officer. Despite reminders being sent to South Oxfordshire District Council on 24th October, 2022 and 12th January 2023, no update has been received. A further reminder will be sent to South Oxfordshire District Council to ask what action is being taken.

d) **Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan.** The Chairman and Vice-Chairman attended a virtual meeting with Mr. Ricardo Rios from South Oxfordshire District Council on Friday 3rd February to discuss the suggested amendments to the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development plan that previously failed examination. Councillor Bridge asked Councillors to review the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan and suggested amendments and to email their comments to the Clerk before 27th February, 2023.

e) **Card from King Charles III.** A letter of condolence was sent to King Charles III from the Parish Council on behalf of the Parish Council and residents of Berinsfield. The Chairman circulated a card from King Charles III acknowledging the letter of condolence. The card contained a photograph of HM Queen Elizabeth II with young Prince Charles.

King Charles III wrote the following message in the card :-

“It was so very kind of you to send me such a wonderfully generous message following the death of my beloved mother. Your most thoughtful words are enormously comforting, and I cannot tell you how deeply they are appreciated at this time of immense sorrow.”

13. **Date of next meeting 6th March, 2023.**

