

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on 5th June, 2023 at 7.15 p.m. in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, Oxon.

PRESENT : Councillor S. Scott-Ely Chairman
Councillor P. Bridge
Councillor K. Chrisp
Councillor B. Fearneyhough
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones
Councillor D. Scate
Councillor Mrs. I. Beeby - with effect from item No. 6

Also present:

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

1. Items raised by Members of the public

a) Fane Drive. Members of the public attended the meeting to object to the suggestion that Fane Drive could be opened up to the A4074 to provide a second access into the village. A second access will be required prior to the proposed development of 1700 houses taking place on the eastern side of the village. The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely informed the meeting that the promoters of the land at Mount Farm are reviewing several options for an access. County and District Councillor Robin Bennett informed the meeting that discussions are on going about this matter at the present time and that residents will have the chance to make comments. The members of the public were asked for their preference with regard to receiving communications about on-going projects and they said they would look at the village facebook page, Spotted Berinsfield and read Your Village Voice.

b) Open space areas in Cherwell Road. A member of the public enquired about the use and ownership of a small open space adjacent to 42 Cherwell Road. The Clerk informed the meeting that according to her plans the open space is owned by SOHA Housing and they will be contacted with regard to its use.

Members of the public asked if it would be possible to have a “no ball games” sign erected on the open space between Cherwell Road and Colne Close. The open space is owned by SOHA Housing and request will be forwarded to them.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bunyan, Crawford and Woodington.

3. Declarations of Interests. There were no declarations of interest made in respect of the items on the agenda.

4. County Councillor’s Report County Councillor Bennett had prepared a written report which had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council electronically and copies were available at the meeting.

It was noted that the overnight closure of the A4074 would now take place on the 15th/16th June from 8 p.m. until 5 a.m., but that the times on the signs on the A4074 were incorrect. Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department would be informed about this and asked to amend the times.

County Councillor Bennett also informed the meeting that his County Councillor priority fund was now live and application details could be found on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.councillorpriorityfund.

The contents of County Councillor Bennett's report were noted by the Parish Council.

5. **District Councillor's Report.** District Councillor Bennett had prepared a written report which had been circulated electronically to all Members of the Parish Council electronically and copies were available at the meeting.

Councillor Bridge informed the meeting that the signs installed to inform residents and visitors why the areas of grass had been left to grow had been removed. South Oxfordshire District Council will be informed about this.

The contents of District Councillor Bennett's report were noted by the Parish Council.

6. **Casual Vacancy on Berinsfield Parish Council.** The Parish Council considered an application from Mrs. F. I. Beeby to fill the vacancy on Berinsfield Parish Council. Mrs. Beeby explained that she had lived in the village for 24 years and that she would like to serve on the Parish Council in order to try and make a difference in the village. The Parish Council asked Mrs. Beeby to leave the room while it considered her application. It was AGREED that Mrs. Beeby should be co-opted as a Member of Berinsfield Parish Council. Mrs. Beeby returned to the meeting, signed her declaration of acceptance of office and took her place as a Councillor.

7. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th May, 2023**

a) **Minute No 14 k) Parish LandApp Mapping.** The date of the Zoom meeting should have read 23rd May 2023 and not 23rd June, 2023.

Subject to the amendment to Minute No. 14 k), it was AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 9th May, 2023, should be APPROVED.

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

a) **Naming paths in Berinsfield.** The Parish Council considered the proposal put forward by Councillor Chrisp to name the path that leads from the Library around the recreation ground to the junction with the Roman Road at the rear of Lodden Avenue. Subject to approval being received from South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council it was AGREED that the path should be named Ken Hall Walk and that signs should be put up at either end of the path.

b) **Parish Council's Notice Board.** The Parish Council was informed that its notice board had been removed from the front garden of 39 Fane Drive and was now in storage pending another site being identified for it. The Manager of the Health Centre had agreed that the Parish Council could install a wall mounted notice board on the side wall of the Health Centre facing the wall of the Co-operative Store. A wall mounted notice board has been ordered for this purpose. The Parish Council expressed their concern that the notice board would not be visible to residents and asked if it could be installed on the front wall of the Health Centre. It was AGREED that the Manager of the Health Centre should be asked if the notice board could be installed on the front wall of the Health Centre.

The Parish Council also considered various sites where its free standing notice board could possibly be installed and it was AGREED that the Manager of the Berin Centre should be asked if it could be installed on Berin Centre land close to its own notice board, facing Wimbleslow Road.

c) **Parish Information Boards.** The Parish Council noted that information had been obtained from the Clerk of Dorchester on Thames Parish Council about the information boards that they have in their Parish. The Clerk has contacted the suppliers of the boards and is currently awaiting further information.

d) **Request from resident to set off rockets containing ashes of deceased relative from Berinsfield Burial Ground.** The Parish Council considered a request from a resident for permission to set off four rockets containing the ashes of a deceased relative from Berinsfield Burial Ground. The Parish Council considered and it was AGREED that the request should be declined.

e) **SODC South Capital Grant – installation of Solar Panels on the Pavilion.** The Parish Council AGREED that discussion on this item should be deferred until the next meeting as the report of the audit on the pavilion, which had been arranged by South Oxfordshire District Council, had not yet been received.

f) **Parish Council owned trees.**

i) **Recreation Ground.** The Parish Council noted that the following works are required to the Hornbeam trees located along the path between the Library and the Pavilion :-

Remove one dead Hornbeam tree and grind the stump
Reduce the branches that are overhanging the rear gardens of properties in Colwell Road.
Remove deadwood and broken branches in all remaining trees
Crown lift to 2.5 metres over path and 4 metres over the playing field

It was AGREED that the quotation in the sum of £3155 from Complete Tree Services should be accepted and an order placed for the works to be carried out.

ii) **Burial Ground.** The Parish Council was informed that it should consider having a large Goat Willow tree that is located in the centre of the Burial Ground removed as it is in an area that will be required for future burials. It is also located close to the new tarmac path that is currently being installed to provide access to future graves. It was AGREED that consideration about the future of the large Goat Willow tree should be deferred until the next meeting of the Open Spaces Committee.

g) **Training on Code of Conduct.** It was noted that South Oxfordshire District Council would be running a Code of Conduct briefing session for Clerks and Councillors on 15th June at 7 p.m. by Teams. Joining details will be forwarded to all Councillors.

h) **Neighbourhood Development Plan.** A copy of the updated Neighbourhood Development Plan had been circulated electronically to all Members of the Parish Council for review and comment. Members were asked to review the document and let the Clerk have any comments prior to the next meeting with Mr. Ricardo Rios which will be held on Tuesday 27th June 2023.

9. **Statement of accounts for payment in June.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in June 2023 in the sum of £18,656.51 should be APPROVED.

10. Items of report to Chairman.

a) **Berinsfield Parish Council Standing Orders.** Councillor Chrisp reminded Parish Councillors about the following procedures that are included in the Parish Council's Standing Orders

- i) Members should raise their hands if they wish to speak
- ii) Speakers should not speak for longer than three minutes
- iii) Meetings should last no longer than two hours

This information was noted by the Parish Council.

b) **Salt Bins.** The Clerk informed the meeting that a request had been made for locks to be installed on the two salt bins located on the recreation ground as people are opening them and throwing the salt over the grass. It was AGREED to monitor the mis-use of the salt bins in the first instance as they are meant to be accessible for people to be able to get salt from them when required.

11. Date of next meeting 3rd July, 2023

