

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2023 at 7.15 p.m. in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, Oxon.**

**PRESENT :** Councillor S. Scott-Ely Chairman  
Councillor P. Bridge  
Councillor Mrs. I. Beeby,  
Councillor K. Chrisp  
Councillor S. Henry  
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones  
Councillor R. Parsons  
Councillor D. Scate  
Councillor A. Woodington

Also present:

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

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely, informed those present of the death of Councillor Brian Fearneyhough. Councillor Fearneyhough had been a member of the Parish Council for six years. He served as Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee and was the Parish Council's representative on the Public Transport Committee and Neighbourhood Planning Alliance. All present in the room stood for a Minute's silence to remember Councillor Brian Fearneyhough.

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

a) **Councillor Brian Fearneyhough.** Reverend Teresa Stewart Sykes informed those present that Councillor Fearneyhough's funeral would be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 3 p.m. at the Crematorium at Garford near Abingdon.

b) **Classic Car Show** held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. Two representatives from the Society who organised the Classic Car Show attended the meeting and thanked the Parish Council for allowing the show to take place on the recreation ground. The sum of £3,500 was raised for the Pancreatic Cancer charity. The representatives from the Classic Car Show Society asked if it would be possible to hold another Classic Car show on the recreation ground on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2024. The Parish Council AGREED to this request.

c) **Double yellow lines Green Furlong.** County Councillor Robin Bennett spoke about the double yellow lines outside properties No 12 – No 16 Green Furlong and the problems these are causing for residents who do not have off road parking. Residents who park their vehicles outside their properties on the double yellow lines are being given parking tickets. It was AGREED that a letter should be sent to Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department pointing out the problems caused to the residents who have nowhere else to park and asking if the double yellow lines can be removed from this section of Green Furlong.

d) **New residents in Berinsfield** Councillor Chrisp asked if it would be possible for a welcome pack to be prepared to be given to new residents when they move into the village. The Outreach Worker from the Berin Centre, informed the meeting that they are currently working with SOHA Housing to prepare a village directory for all residents. The Berin Centre is also starting a multi-cultural group at the Berin Centre.

e) **Hedges overhanging footpaths in Berinsfield.** Several reports were made at the meeting about hedges in the village that are overhanging footpaths. Reports of this nature have to be forwarded to Oxfordshire County Council who can write to the householders and request that the hedge be cut back from the footpath. These reports have to be made on Fix my Street now and are therefore in the public domain.

f) **Grass left to grow on the recreation ground, Berinsfield.** A request was made for wild flower seeds to be planted in the section that has been left to grow for the summer. The seeds should have been planted prior to the decision being made to leave the area to grow and consideration will be given to planting seeds next season should the experiment to let the grass grow be repeated. Councillor Chrisp asked if a report could be included in the Village Voice to inform residents about the project.

g) **Trees planted by South Oxfordshire District Council in open space between Burcot Lane and Burial Ground, Fane Drive.** The Chairman informed the meeting that the majority of the trees that were planted by South Oxfordshire District Council had died through lack of maintenance and watering. South Oxfordshire District Council will be informed about this.

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

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 Robin Bennett had prepared a written report which was circulated to all Members of the Parish Council and a copy is posted on the Parish Council's website, [www.Berinsfield-pc.gov.uk](http://www.Berinsfield-pc.gov.uk)

a) **County Council's properties.** County Councillor Robin Bennett was informed that Berinsfield Parish Council was still waiting to hear from Oxfordshire County Council with regard to leasing the open space where the War Memorial is located in Wimblestraw Road and the Spinney Area. County Councillor Robin Bennett agreed to look into this on behalf of the Parish Council.

b) **Improvements to the informal crossing point over the A 4074 which connects to the old Oxford Road path into Dorchester, opposite Clovers.** County Councillor Robin Bennett informed the meeting that the area would be scraped back of debris and six bollards would be installed along with "cycles crossing" warning signs on the vehicular approaches. Councillor Mrs. Beeby asked that consideration be given to ensuring that mobility scooters, prams and buggies could still get through the bollards.

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

5. **District Councillor's Report.** District Councillor Robin Bennett had prepared a written report which was circulated to all Members of the Parish Council and a copy is posted on the Parish Council's website, [www.Berinsfield-pc.gov.uk](http://www.Berinsfield-pc.gov.uk)

a) **Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Group.** District Councillor Robin Bennett informed the meeting about this new initiative with a wide range of partners who are developing a community profile for Berinsfield which will have more accurate and relevant information about the community, avoid duplication of activities and also help attract more funding for local services.

The Group is looking for a local Chairperson for the Group and for one or more representative community members to attend who use different village services. The contact email address for more information about the group is [Berinsfieldgv@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:Berinsfieldgv@southandvale.gov.uk)

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

**6. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

a) Minute No. 8 b) Parish Council's Notice Board. It was AGREED that the Parish Council's notice board that was removed from the front garden of 39 Fane Drive should be installed on the recreation ground near to the pavilion and that the Chairman and Clerk should identify a suitable site for this and arrange the installation. The new notice board will be installed on the wall of Berinsfield Health Centre.

Subject to the amendment to Minute No. 8b), it was AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 should be APPROVED.

**7. To consider planning applications and decisions received to date.**

a) Planning application No. P23/S2048/DIS Discharge of conditions 5 (Vision splay details) and 6 (Turning area ) on application P20/S4020/FUL (Grain store and turning area with access from road). Field at Wally Corner, Drayton Road, Berinsfield. The Parish Council noted this application but was not asked to comment on it.

b) Planning decision P23/S1655/HH Demolition of existing single storey extension and garage and construction of new single storey front and rear extensions (as amended by plans received 15.6.23 to remove parapet and offset extension from property boundary) 13 Bullingdon Avenue, Berinsfield OX10 7PL The Parish Council noted that planning permission has been granted.

c) Planning decision P23/S1006/FUL Temporary planning permission for a portacabin unit within existing playground area. The Berin Centre, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield OX10 7LZ The Parish Council noted that planning permission has been granted.

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

a) Invitation to visit the Oxfordshire County Council Highways Depot at Milton. Councillor Chrisp will visit the Depot at 11.30 a.m. on the 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.

b) Hire of recreation ground. The Classic Car Event, the Fete and Hatwells fair all went well and were much appreciated by residents.

c) Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely informed the meeting that a further meeting would be held with Mr. Ricardo Rios of South Oxfordshire District Council on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.

d) Ken Hall Walk. The Parish Council was informed that Ken Hall's family have agreed to the suggestion that the path leading from the Library, running all around the recreation ground and ending at the junction with the Roman Road at the rear of Lodden Avenue can be named Ken Hall Walk. It was AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should now be asked to carry out the necessary consultation with regard to naming the path.

e) 20 mph Speed Limit in Berinsfield. The Parish Council again considered whether it would be beneficial for a 20 mph speed limit to be implemented in Berinsfield. Following a discussion a vote was taken and it was unanimously AGREED that an application should be made to Oxfordshire County Council for a 20 mph speed limit to be implemented in Berinsfield.

f) Grounds maintenance. The Parish Council had received an email congratulating the new grounds maintenance contractors on the way they are maintaining the Burial Ground and the other areas of land in the Parish Council's ownership. This information will be relayed to the grounds maintenance contractors.

g) Future events on the recreation ground. The Parish Council noted that the following events will take place on the recreation ground :-

8 <sup>th</sup> July	Adult sports day	1 p.m. until 3 p.m.
1 <sup>st</sup> August	Oxfordshire Young People – play day	11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Event on Skate Park	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Event on Skate Park	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> August	Young Peoples' football tournament	

9. **Statement of accounts for payment in July.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in July 2023 in the sum of £12,134.89 should be APPROVED.

10. **Items of report to Chairman.**

a) Treescape. The Chairman, Councillor Scott-Ely, informed the meeting that he and the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Bridge had met with Mr. Marcus Simmons from the Oxfordshire Treescape Project, which is a joint initiative between the charity Grown Green Carbon and the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute and during discussions it seems possible that they would be able to prepare site maps of the village which would also be beneficial for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Parish Council AGREED that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should continue to liaise with Marcus Simmons with regard to the preparation of the maps, subject to the cost not exceeding £500.00.

b) Signs to show location of the Roman Road. It was AGREED that Oxfordshire County Council should be contacted to ask if it would be possible for them to erect signs on the bridleway through the centre of the recreation ground to show that it is a Roman Road.

c) Berinsfield Community Facilities Feasibility Study June 2023. The email correspondence from Nicola Wyer, the Garden Communities Team Leader at South Oxfordshire District Council, was forwarded to all Members of the Parish Council on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2023, and members were asked to review the Small Interventions Package on pages 37 and 38 and to list projects in their order of priority. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had a meeting with Nicola Wyer and during the meeting submitted the Parish Council's views on the Small Interventions Package. Further details will be circulated to Members when the Minutes of the meeting are received. The deadline for comments was 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 and therefore it was not possible for this to be considered at a Parish Council meeting.

d) Improvements to Berinsfield Burial Ground. The Parish Council has been informed by South Oxfordshire District Council that its decision not to proceed with the installation of the pond on safety grounds has been approved by South Oxfordshire District Council and will not affect the grant awarded for the works.

11. Date of next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2023

