

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 7th August, 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 I. Bunyan
Councillor K. Chrisp
Councillor S. Crawford
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
Five members of the public
Annette Loveland, Clerk to the Council

1. Items raised by Members of the public

a) **Cremated Remains Section, Berinsfield Burial Ground.** A resident attended the meeting and informed the Parish Council that she did not consider that enough room is left between the plots in the cremated remains section of the Burial Ground. The resident said there was not enough room to kneel in front of the plot. The Parish Council informed the resident that all of the cremated remains plots are 24" x 24" and are located so that there is a maintenance strip between them. Memorials that measure no more than 24" x 24" can be placed on the plots.

b) **Report from Youth Council representative.** The Parish Council was asked if it owned the small goals in the pavilion car park and if so, whether they could be used by young people in the village. The Clerk informed the meeting that the goals were owned by Berinsfield Football Club. The Parish Council owns the large goals, but these are not suitable to be moved around other than for matches.

A request was made for a strip suitable for playing cricket could be cut into the recreation ground near to the area where the memorial bench to Queen Elizabeth II is located. The Parish Council agreed to ask its ground maintenance contractors to cut a suitable strip.

c) **Parking in Berinsfield.** Reverend Teresa Stewart-Sykes referred to the Parish Council's request for residents not to park on pavements in the village and asked if it would be possible for consideration to be given to creating additional parking spaces, in particular on the open space adjacent to the Vicarage in Cherwell Road. The Chairman informed the meeting that the land was owned by SOHA Housing and that the Parish Council had met with Officers from SOHA Housing on two occasions to look at that site and other open spaces owned by them in the village with a view to possibly creating some additional parking spaces. It was AGREED that the Parish Council should contact SOHA Housing again about this matter.

d) **Brambles encroaching on footpath.** Councillor Mrs. Beeby informed the Parish Council that she had received a report of brambles encroaching on the footpath adjacent to Fane Drive. The Parish Council agreed to investigate and take the relevant action.

2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Councillor Henry.

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

4. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 3rd July, 2023.** It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd July, 2023 should be APPROVED.

a) **Treescape.** The Chairman circulated paper copies of the plan of the village that has been prepared by Treescape. The plan will be on line where it will be able to be read in more detail. The Parish Council noted this information.

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

a) **Planning application P23/S1304/LDP Demolition of existing conservatory.** Construction of a single storey extension – 3m deep (max 2.5m high eaves – 4m high ridge), 33 Kennet Close, Berinsfield OX10 7PX. The Parish Council AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that it has no objections to the application.

6. **Casual Vacancy on Berinsfield Parish Council** The Parish Council agreed that the casual vacancy should be advertised for the statutory period and if an election is not called by ten local government electors, the Parish Council should invite eligible residents to apply to be considered to be a co-opted member of the Parish Council.

7. **District Councillor's Report.** District Councillor Bennett had prepared a written report and this had been circulated to all present at the meeting and is on the Parish Council's website. District Councillor Bennett was present at the meeting.

CAB. The Parish Council noted that South Oxfordshire District Council has provided funding to establish a Citizens' Advice Community Hub in the village which will run in partnership with the Berin Centre. Residents are currently able to receive financial advice from an outside agency which is based in the Library on a Tuesday each week between 2 and 4 p.m.

Councillor Community Grants Funding. It was noted that the Councillor Community Grant scheme is now open and local charities and organisations can apply for grants from £250 to a maximum of £5,000. Applicants are advised to speak to District Councillor Bennett to discuss their projects prior to making an application. Further information is available on grants@southandvale.gov.uk

District Councillor Bennett was asked if the Parish Council could apply for funding towards the cost of providing the rugby posts on the recreation ground. He confirmed that he would consider an application from the Parish Council.

Cash boost for rural economy across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse Districts. Both District Councils have secured funding from the Government's Rural England Prosperity Fund which can be used to provide a boost to projects such as creating rural business hubs, setting up community energy schemes and diversifying farm businesses beyond agriculture. Further information is available on <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/business-and-economy/advice-for-businesses/rural-england-prosperity-fund/>

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

8. **County Councillor's Report** County Councillor Bennett had prepared a written report and this had been circulated to all present at the meeting and is on the Parish Council's website. County Councillor Bennett was present at the meeting.

Community EV Microhubs. It was noted that Oxfordshire County Council in partnership with Oxfordshire local authorities is looking to use Government funding to provide a network of public electric vehicle charging points across Oxfordshire, including through a community electric vehicle microhub scheme that would provide one or two chargers in towns and villages across the county. The Parish Council considered that the area outside the Library and possibly the car park adjacent to the Church of St. Mary and St. Berin might be suitable locations in Berinsfield and it was AGREED that the Clerk should submit an expression of interest through the County Council's consultation platform, <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ev-microhubs-eoi>.

HIF1 County Councillor Bennett spoke about the HIF1 scheme which was rejected by the County Council's Planning and Regulation Committee held on 17th/18th July, 2023. The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has called in the decision. There will now be a review by the Government appointed planning inspectorate and the Secretary of State will take the final decision as to whether to approve the application.

Councillor Priority Fund. The scheme is now live and application details can be found on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund. County Councillor Bennett agreed to support an application for funding towards the cost of the rugby posts, subject to it meeting the guidelines for the grant scheme.

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

9. **Correspondence and Items for Information.**

a) **Adult Sports Day.** It was noted that the Adult Sports Day would take place on the 2nd September, 2023.

b) **Purchase and installation of Rugby Posts.** The Parish Council noted with thanks that a further grant of £1,000 had been made under the South Oxfordshire District Council Everyone Active scheme towards the cost of the supply and installation of two Rugby Posts. The Parish Council now has £2,000 towards the cost of £5,186.00. Further grant applications will be made. Councillor Bridge informed the Parish Council that the concrete Cricket strip on the recreation ground will have to be removed to enable a Rugby pitch to be created.

c) **Improvements to the informal crossing point over the A4074** The Parish Council noted the information contained in the agenda with regard to the improvements Oxfordshire County Council will make to the informal crossing point over the A4074. It was AGREED that a meeting should be requested with the County Council Officer overseeing this project.

d) **20 mph Speed Limit in Berinsfield.** The Parish Council noted that the application had been submitted for the 20 mph speed limit in Berinsfield. Oxfordshire County Council will contact the Parish Council with the draft proposals, taking all of the comments made in the application into account. They will engage with the Parish Council to identify proposals to take the application to the formal consultation stage.

e) **Request for traffic calming measures in Fane Drive.** The Parish Council noted that requests have been received from residents living in Fane Drive for traffic calming measures to be installed. The Parish Council discussed the request, taking into account that it has already made an application for a 20 mph speed limit in the village. It was AGREED that Oxfordshire County Council should be contacted and asked to consider installing traffic calming measures in Fane Drive, Berinsfield.

f) **Ken Hall Walk.** The Parish Council was informed that the consultation had started with regard to naming the path around the recreation ground Ken Hall Walk. South Oxfordshire District Council had installed notices at either end of the route to inform residents about the process. Councillor Bridge and Councillor Woodington informed the meeting that the notices had been removed and it was agreed that South Oxfordshire District Council should be asked to replace them.

g) **Berinsfield Local Data Report.** A copy of the report had been forwarded electronically to all Members of the Parish Council. Members considered that the report had been well prepared and that the information contained in it would be a good source of evidence for some of the Neighbourhood Development Plan policies. It was AGREED that a letter should be sent to the Director of the Berin Centre, the organisation who had commissioned the report, asking her to thank the authors, from the University of Oxford, for preparing the report.

h) **Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan.** The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely informed the meeting that he and the Clerk had a virtual meeting with Mr. Ricardo Rios from South Oxfordshire District Council on 3rd August and approved, with him, the contents of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan. A copy of the draft plan was then circulated to all Councillors for review and comment. There are still some minor updates to be carried out to the report before it can go out for consultation and the Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely agreed to carry out the updates. It was AGREED that following the minor updates being carried out, the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan, as circulated to all Members of the Parish Council, should go out for consultation to the community and all statutory consultees.

Mr. Ricardo Rios agreed to provide templates and details of all statutory consultees to assist the Parish Council with the consultation process. The updated Neighbourhood Development Plan will be put on the Parish Council's website and a hard copy will be placed in Berinsfield Library.

i) **Altitude Angel** Members were informed that the Parish Council had been approached by the Manager of Altitude Angel who are looking for a site in the Berinsfield area to erect a 30 metre high mast with associated guy ropes, possibly with access to electricity. The mast would be used to control drones which would be used on a 164 skyway project connecting towns and cities.

The potential uses for the super highway include business use, medical deliveries etc. The Parish Council considered that the only site that it could suggest would be the pavilion compound. It was AGREED that the Manager of Altitude Angel should be informed that the Parish Council have considered his request and would be prepared to discuss with him the possibility of the pavilion compound being put forward as a possible site for a mast.

j) **Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund. Service Level Agreement.** The Parish Council has applied to the Football Foundation for a grant towards the cost of carrying out the maintenance of the football pitches. In order to qualify to apply for a grant, the Parish Council had to undertake a Pitchpower assessment of the pitches which entailed obtaining samples of the ground and taking photographs of them, measuring the length of the grass, taking photographs of different sections of the pitches and entering the information into the Pitchpower system on line. The information was assessed by the Football Foundation and it was agreed that a grant application could be submitted. There was a delay in the application being submitted as the Football Foundation have only recently changed their policy to allow Local Authorities to apply for grants.

One of the requirements for applying for the grant is that the Parish Council and Berinsfield Football Club enter into a service level agreement. The Parish Council was asked if it was prepared to enter into the agreement with Berinsfield Football Club. The general context of the partnership agreement is for the named club to be part of the application to the Football Foundation for funding. The Parish Council reviewed the details contained in the service level agreement and it was AGREED that it would be acceptable to enter into the agreement with Berinsfield Football Club. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Parish Council by the Chairman and Clerk.

k) **Date for the next meeting of the Allotments, Open Spaces and Burial Ground Committee.** It was AGREED that the next meeting of the Allotments, Open Spaces and Burial Ground Committee should be held on 11th September, 2023.

l) **Request to use the recreation ground for a table top sale.** A request has been received from a resident to hold a table top sale on the recreation ground. The Parish Council AGREED that it would allow a table top sale to take place on the recreation ground, subject to the organisers accepting the terms and conditions of hire and the date not clashing with other events that have already been booked.

m) **Coronation bench.** The bench ordered to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III has now been delivered and the Parish Council was asked to confirm the exact location for its installation. It was AGREED that it should be installed on the right hand facing side of the War Memorial in Wimblestraw Road.

10. **Statement of accounts for payment in August.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in August 2023 in the sum of £11,526.01 should be APPROVED.

11. **Bank Statements.** The bank statements for July were circulated at the meeting and the balances were noted by the Parish Council.

12. **Date of next meeting** 4th September, 2023