

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 8th January, 2024 at 7.15 p.m. in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, Oxon.

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

Annette Loveland, Clerk to the Council
Representative from Berinsfield Youth Council

1. Items raised by Members of the public
 - a) **Berinsfield Youth Council** The Youth Council representative was present at the meeting and gave a brief update on the Council's activities to the Members of the Council.
 - b) **Parking on pavements near to the Chequers Public House at Burcot.** Councillor Bunyan reported that vehicles are being parked on the pavement near to the Chequers at Burcot and these are causing an obstruction to other vehicles leaving the car park and to pedestrians who wish to use the pavement. The Parish Council agreed to liaise with Clifton Hampden and Burcot Parish Council about this in the first instance.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Councillor Crawford.
3. **Declarations of interest.** There were no declarations of interest on any 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. The comments regarding the recent flooding 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. The information about the consultation on the South and Vale's Joint Local Plan was noted, together with the details about the renewal of the waste contract with Biffa for two years until 2026.
6. **To receive the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of Berinsfield Parish Council held on 4th December, 2023.** It was AGREED that the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4th December, 2023 should be APPROVED.

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

a) **Planning Application No. P23/S3696/HH Erection of patterned concrete panelled fence 22 metres long 5 ft high (retrospective) 210 Fane Drive, Berinsfield OX10 7QL** The Parish Council considered this application and it was AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that the application should be refused on safety grounds. The fence restricts the view of neighbouring properties to the highway and has been erected on the highway boundary.

8. **Casual Vacancy on Berinsfield Parish Council.** Councillor Ruth Parsons informed the Parish Council that she would be resigning from the Parish Council following the meeting as she was going to be spending more time on her studies at Cambridge University. The Chairman thanked Councillor Parsons for all the work she has carried out on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was AGREED that the vacancy should be notified to South Oxfordshire District Council and advertised for the statutory period to see if an election is called. If not, the Parish Council will be able to advertise for an eligible person to be co-opted as a member of the Parish Council.

9. **Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan.** The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely informed the Parish Council that he and the Clerk had attended an on-line meeting with Mr. Ricardo Rios and Ms. Cheryl Soppet from South Oxfordshire District Council who are assisting with the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Consultant, Mr. Neil Homer, who is also assisting the Parish Council, has provided a submission version of the plan which will be forwarded to Mr. Ricardo Rios and Ms. Cheryl Soppet for perusal. Councillors asked to see South Oxfordshire District Council's comments submitted during the consultation period and these will be circulated by email.

10. **Correspondence and Items for Information.**

a) **South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils Joint Local Plan to 2041.** The Parish Council noted that the consultation would commence on 10th January and would run until 21st February, 2024. Members were asked to look at the Joint Local Plan on line in order that the Parish Council could discuss its responses at the Parish Council meeting to be held on the 5th February, 2024.
<https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/jlp/>

b) **Gas contract renewal for the Pavilion, Lay Avenue, Berinsfield.** The Parish Council was asked to consider the rates obtained for renewing the gas contract for the pavilion. The current contract expires on 13th February, 2024. The Parish Council AGREED that the quotation from British Gas of a standing charge of £1.391 per day and 6.83 per k/wh should be accepted for the period 2024 – 2027.

c) **Lease relating to Land at the Former Abbey School Site, Berinsfield.** The Chairman informed the Parish Council that the lease had been completed and required signature by himself and the Clerk. It was AGREED that the Chairman and Clerk should be authorised to sign the lease for the land at the former Abbey School Site, Berinsfield. The lease will run until 6th October 2103, with a 12 month break clause on either side and the rent is one peppercorn.

The Council has also been asked to sign a declaration relating to sections 24 and 28 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 which will preclude the automatic renewal of the lease at the end of the term in 2103. It was AGREED that the Clerk, Annette Loveland, should be authorised to sign the declaration on behalf of the Parish Council and arrangements will be made for her to meet with another Solicitor in order to sign in their presence.

11. **Statement of Accounts for payment in January 2024.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in January 2024 in the sum of £15,429.75 should be approved.

12. **Bank statements.** The bank statements for December were circulated at the meeting and the balances were noted by the Parish Council.

13. **Items for report to Chairman.**

a) **Grant Aid to Berinsfield Community Association.** Councillor Bunyan thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the Berinsfield Community Association for the grant made in 2023 towards the cost of providing the children's party and party for elderly people. The parties have taken place and all who attended enjoyed them.

b) **Roman Road bridleway through the centre of the recreation ground.** It was reported that the tree roots are making the tarmac on the bridleway rise and it was AGREED that this should be reported to Oxfordshire County Council, who are responsible for the surface of the bridleway, with a view to it being resurfaced.

c) **Christmas tree lights.** Councillor Bridge informed the Parish Council that he had removed the chargers and solar panels from the lights on the trees in the village. Some of the sets of lights will not be reusable due to their age and damage due to them being caught on branches when wrapped around the trees. It was AGREED that the Parish Council should investigate other types of lights or decorations for Christmas 2024.

14. **Date of next meeting – 5th February 2024**