

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7.15 p.m. in the Pavilion, Lay Avenue, Berinsfield, Oxon.**

**PRESENT**

Councillor S. Scott-Ely (Chairman)  
Councillor P. Bridge (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor L. Sweetland  
Councillor A. Woodington  
Councillor S. Crawford  
Councillor A. Jones  
Councillor L. Jones  
Councillor A. Head

Alex Marasco, Clerk to the Council  
Councillor R. Jones (Oxfordshire County Council)  
Councillor R. Bennett (South Oxfordshire District Council)  
Three members of the public

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

- a) Sewage at the Dentist – A member of the public raised an issue of sewage being visible from the pipe near the front door and onto the path at the dentists. The Chairman asked for clarification on its location and it was AGREED that the Clerk would write to them to open dialogue on this issue.
- b) Parking on Fane Drive – A member of the public raised an issue of cars parking on grass verges around Fane Drive and that it was causing some damage to the grass verges and causing an eye sore. They also raised the issue of cars parking on the bend of Fane Drive near the boxing club and highlighted the potential hazard that it causes. The Chairman informed the member of the public that the Parish Council does not hold any authority to issue enforcement action but that it will request the assistance of Oxfordshire County Council in dealing with the issue.
- c) Dogs Out of Control – A member of the public raised an issue of dogs being out of control around the Recreation Ground and Abbey Woods Close. They informed the Parish Council that dog owners are allowing dogs off the lead without sufficient recall and the dogs are running up to other residents when it is unwanted and it causes a potential hazard. The Clerk informed the members of the public that if they are able to demonstrate a dog that is dangerously out of control then the correct procedure would be to provide such evidence to the Police and Dog Warden at SODC. It was AGREED that the Clerk would post to social media asking residents to be considerate when allowing their dogs to roam off lead.

**2. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bunyan, Eltham, Scate and Chrisp.

**3. Declaration of Interests.** To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001.

Cllr S. Scott-Ely declared an interest in item 9 of the agenda as the owner of BOE Trading is a relative of his and took no part in the discussion. Cllr S. Crawford declared an interest in item 7. B of the agenda as a neighbour of the applicant and took no part in the discussion.

**4. County Councillor's Report.**

County Cllr Jones was in attendance and gave a report on developments at OCC. The Parish Council thanked him for his report and attendance.

5. **District Councillor's Report.**

District Cllr Bennett was in attendance and gave a report on developments at SODC. The Parish Council thanked him for his report and attendance.

6. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

It was proposed by Cllr Bridge, seconded by Cllr Crawford and AGREED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 should be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

7. **To consider planning applications and decisions received to date (if any).**

- a) P26/S0089/FUL - Change of use of building for vehicle servicing and MOT Testing and installation of extraction flue to front elevation. - Unit 4 To 5 Queensford Farm Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7PH.

It was AGREED that the Clerk would submit comments confirming the Parish Council has no objections to this application but does however have some concerns about the level of traffic on a country lane.

- b) P25/S3533/FUL - Subdivision of plot, erection of single storey 2-bedroom self-build dwelling with creation of new vehicle access, car parking and amenity space - 22 Pritchard Close Berinsfield OX10 7QW. TARGET DECISION DATE AMENDED TO 27TH FEBRUARY.

The Parish Council acknowledged the change of target decision date for this application.

- c) P26/S0295/HH - Extension to existing single storey extension and new pitched roof to replace existing flat roof. - 44 Cherwell Road Berinsfield Wallingford OX10 7PA

It was AGREED that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.

8. **Local Government Reorganisation.** To consider a Parish Council decision on signing a petition against the Greater Oxford unitary authority proposal.

Cllr Bridge explained that there is a current petition with many Parish Councils having signed, against the proposed Greater Oxford unitary authority. A motion to request Berinsfield Parish Council be added as a signatory was voted on and passed. It was AGREED that the Clerk should ask the organisers to add Berinsfield Parish Council as a signatory.

9. **To consider the quotations for repairs to wet pour in Recreation Ground Playground.**

Wicksteed has quoted £4,624.00 exc VAT.

BOE Trading has quoted £3,800.00 exc VAT.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should ask BOE Trading if they would be willing to offer a 1 year guarantee on work to repair this wet pour and if so, that the Clerk should accept their quotation. In the event that they are not able to offer this guarantee, the Clerk should bring the quotes back to the Parish Council.

10. **Future Plans for Play Equipment.** To consider a proposal from South Oxfordshire District Council to site sensory play equipment on land opposite Berinsfield Boxing Gym.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should inform SODC that it accepts in principle the idea of putting play equipment on this land but requires more detail before providing express permission. It was AGREED the Clerk should mention the possibility of some parking being provided and enquire as to whether fencing would be offered.

11. **Wood Carvings and Information Boards.** To consider approval of requests from South Oxfordshire District Council to provide new wood carvings and information boards.

a) Does the Parish Council permit the positioning on or near the war memorial of a wood carving in the shape of a poppy and additional information board? Further details have been obtained.

b) Does the Parish Council permit the positioning of a wood carved animal and information board highlighting the Roman Road, near the Pump Track?

c) Does the Parish Council permit the positioning of a wood carved animal and information board on land opposite Berinsfield Boxing Gym?

It was AGREED that in principle that the Parish Council supports the idea of these being put into place as outlined. However, details on which carvings will be placed and exact images of the board should be obtained prior to full approval being granted.

12. **Youth Shelter.** To consider the dismantling and removal of the existing youth shelter to be held in storage at the Pavilion for a fee of £120.00.

It was AGREED that the fee is approved and the Clerk should inform the contractor of this decision.

13. **Welcome Sign.** To further consider the progress of the Welcome Sign project.

The Clerk displayed the latest drafts of the sign that had been received from SODC, along with details of the engagement that the team at SODC had during their engagement period. It was AGREED unanimously that the Parish Council does not approve of the concept of any designs as it does not believe that they represent the community sufficiently, omits key information about the village's status as Berinsfield Garden Village and does not have a design that provides the maximum possibility of being reused in other parts of the parish on other signage and amenities in the future.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should contact SODC to inform them of this and to add that none of these designs, nor iterations thereof would be permitted to be sited on land belonging to Berinsfield Parish Council. It was AGREED that the Clerk should also inform them that it is the will of Berinsfield Parish Council that SODC if possible, transfer any remaining budget to the Parish Council so that it can procure a sign that it believes encompasses all of these things.

14. **Solar Energy Export at Pavilion.** To receive an update on Solar Energy at the Pavilion and deals available for export.

The Clerk explained that the company which previously mentioned a rate of 10p kwh had now stopped responding to his emails and phone calls. He told the Parish Council that OVO Energy were able to offer 4p kwh. It was AGREED that the Clerk should sign a deal with OVO for this rate on the understanding that it can be reviewed in 12 months.

15. **Open Spaces Committee.** To set a date for the postponed Open Spaces Committee meeting that was due to be held on 23rd January 2026.

As the Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee had sent his apologies it was AGREED that the date of its next meeting should be decided at the next Parish Council meeting.

16. **Garden Village Steering Group.** To receive an update on the last meeting of Berinsfield Garden Village Steering Group.

The Clerk explained that at the last meeting of the steering group, the issue of future stewardship in Berinsfield was raised and a series of workshops between village organisations was agreed. He also mentioned that there was some confusion about cycle paths and bus stops and that further clarification was needed. The Clerk explained the different vehicles for stewardship that were shown at this meeting and explained what they may look like in practice.

It was AGREED that it remains the position of Berinsfield Parish Council that it believes it should be the default steward of all open spaces and community assets in Berinsfield and any future development that comes to Berinsfield for the reason that it believes it is the single most sustainable body or vehicle for stewardship. It was AGREED to inform the next meeting of the steering group that this is the position of the Parish Council.

17. **Berifest.** To receive an update on the progress of plans for Berifest 2026.

Cllr L. Jones gave an update from the last meeting of the Berifest 2026 committee and explained that plans were progressing well and it is shaping to be a family event.

18. **Grounds Maintenance Contract.** To consider a proposal for ongoing maintenance from A&W Grounds.

It was AGREED that this is a matter which should be looked at by the Open Spaces Committee and that the Clerk should invite A&W Grounds to the next meeting, once a date has been arranged.

19. **Future Stewardship.** To consider forming and delegating power to a working group or committee responsible for responding to consultation on the stewardship of existing and future community assets.

It was AGREED to invite members of Berinsfield Parish Council to a discussion meeting with no delegated authority to examine and investigate the potential options of future stewardship. It was AGREED that the Clerk should invite all councillors to the meeting to be held at 19.15 on February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Pavilion.

20. **Correspondence and items for information.**

a) Scented Meditation Garden – A request has been received from a resident for ongoing maintenance of the scented meditation garden at the Burial Ground.

b) Allotment Visits – Classes from Abbey Woods Academy have visited the allotments as part of their studies.

c) Allotment Hedge – The Allotment hedge has received a flail cut on the road side.

d) Hole at Recreation Ground – The Clerk acted to engage the services of a contractor to complete works to “make safe” a hole that opened up on the Recreation Ground, to safeguard health and safety.

e) Ramadan Community Iftar at Didcot Aureus School – The Parish Council is invited to attend this event on 24<sup>th</sup> February at 5pm.

f) Hatwells Fair – The fair will be held in Berinsfield from 11th to 14th June.

g) Rock Choir Live! A Charity Concert for Wallingford Family Centre & Sue Ryder Oxfordshire – The Parish Council has been invited to this event at 6.45pm on 28th March at Dorchester Abbey.

h) Non-Sports Booking – The Pavilion has been booked for its first non-sports based event.

The Parish Council acknowledged this correspondence and information.

21. **Statement of Accounts for payment in January.** To be circulated at the meeting.

It was AGREED that payments totaling £16,232.72 should be accepted by the Parish Council.

It was AGREED that receipts totaling £2,159.22 should be accepted by the Parish Council.

22. **Bank Statements.** To inspect the balances on the bank statements for the Parish Council's three accounts and to sign the reconciliation.

The bank statements and reconciliations for all accounts were inspected and signed by Cllr Sweetland.

23. **Items for report to Chair.**

a) Grass Verges near Gasworks – Cllr Bunyan asked the Clerk to report that multiple residents had complained about the condition of grass verges along Wimblestraw Road as contractors completing works had parked on them and left damage. It was AGREED that the Clerk would monitor this and if necessary write to the contractor to request reinstatement.

b) Takeaway Pitch at Berinsfield Sports Pavilion – Cllr Scate asked the Clerk to report that the work to bring a takeaway business to the carpark of Berinsfield Sports Pavilion should be reconsidered. It was AGREED that the Clerk would source some businesses and report back to the Parish Council.

24. **Date of next ordinary meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026.**