

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on
Monday 2nd March 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 K. Chrisp
Councillor S. Crawford
Councillor A. Jones
Councillor A. Head
Councillor D. Scate
Councillor A. Woodington
Councillor I. Bunyan
Councillor T. Eltham

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

1. Items raised by members of the public.

- a) Donny's Classic Car Show – Two members of the public attended and raised Donny's Classic Car Show. They confirmed that the date it was to be held was 30th May and asked if this was still permitted by the Parish Council. The Clerk informed them that the booking system for the Pavilion shows the date booked for Donny's Classic Car Show. The members of the public informed the Clerk that they would soon send the required documentation.
- b) Memorial Permission – Two members of the public attended the meeting to petition the Parish Council on acceptance of a memorial application at Berinsfield Burial Ground. The Clerk explained that as the colour was not permitted in the Burial Ground Regulations, he was unable to accept the application and the Parish Council would need to consider. It was AGREED that the application would be allowed and the Clerk should write to Oxfordshire Memorials explaining this.
- c) Fees for Berinsfield FC – Three members of the public representing Berinsfield FC attended and raised the issue of their finances and charges for hire of the Pavilion. They explained that they believe the fees to be very high and that they are struggling to afford to pay them, they offered the possibility of members of their teams being able to assist with building maintenance to keep costs down. The Chairman thanked them for their attendance and asked them to send details of contractors from within their football club to the Clerk, so that he could obtain quotes when required. The Chairman explained that the fees are set at the level to assist with the costs of running the building and that the Parish Council has taken extensive steps to raise revenue and cut costs wherever possible. It was AGREED to keep an open dialogue with Berinsfield FC.
- d) Flooding at Kennet Close – A member of the public asked for an update on the flooding at Kennet Close and if the Parish Council has any news on measures to be taken. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance and asked that he wait until item 9 of the agenda, to hear and update.
- e) Flag at War Memorial – Cllr Jones raised an issue that she had been asked to on behalf of a resident. She mentioned that the flag that is flying at Berinsfield War Memorial is looking tatty and that it could do with being replaced for a new one. It was AGREED that the Clerk should purchase a new flag and swap it for the one currently flying.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs L Jones.

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.

No declarations of interest were made.

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

County Cllr Jones was in attendance and provided a written report on updates from OCC. The Parish Council acknowledged its contents and thanked him for his attendance.

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

District Cllr Bennett was in attendance and provided a written report on updates from SODC. The Parish Council acknowledged its contents and thanked him for his attendance.

6. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st December 2025.**

It was proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Sweetland and AGREED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th February 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. DECISION – PLANNING PERMISSION.

The Parish Council acknowledged this decision.

- 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. AMENDMENT TO APPLICATION LODGED.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should submit further comments stating that although the details of the amendment have been received, the concerns of the Parish Council still stand and as such its position as objecting to this application remains.

8. **Future Stewardship.** To discuss the different proposals for future stewardship of community assets in Berinsfield.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council's position is that it should be the future steward of all community assets and open spaces in Berinsfield. This agreement was reached because the Parish Council feels that it is the most sustainable, transparent and democratic entity available to become steward.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should draft a paper on the Parish Council becoming steward of these assets in the future, what it would look like, why it would be suitable and how it would be financially sustainable. It should be submitted for Parish Council approval at its April meeting.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council should open dialogue and engagement with all village organisations and groups to discuss this matter. The Clerk should arrange meetings with each of these groups to outline its position and ask if they support the concept.

9. **Drainage at Kennet Close.** To receive an update on works from Oxfordshire County Council on works to ease drainage issues at Kennet Close.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had received information from an officer at OCC that they plan to create an attenuation pond in this area that would accept run off from the surface water and they hope, ease the flooding concerns.

The Parish Council noted this information and it was AGREED that the position of the Parish Council is that it has not been involved in the design of the plans for this work and would watch any results as an interested observer.

10. **Berinsfield Welcome Sign.** To receive an update on the Berinsfield Welcome Sign project.

The Clerk reported that he had been told by SODC officers that they have halted work on producing a welcome to Berinsfield sign. The work of the artist contracted would be completed and used for future projects. The team will review the funding retained and decide if it could be transferred to the Parish Council to procure a sign, or to be used on a different project based in Berinsfield.

11. **Berinsfield History and Nature Trail.** To receive an update from the Clerk after feedback provided to South Oxfordshire District Council and to consider any recommendations to SODC about items to be included.

The Clerk provided feedback from SODC officers regarding carvings to be placed at Roman Road, opposite the boxing club and near the war memorial.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should give acceptance to SODC officers of these proposals and with the recommendation that the carving opposite the boxing club should be a fox, the information board at the Roman Road should include a position of where on the Roman Road it is sited, showing the full road and that the carving and board near the war memorial should go between the memorial and Abbey Woods Spinney.

12. **Sensory Play Equipment.** To receive an update on potential plans to install sensory play equipment working with South Oxfordshire District Council.

The Clerk explained that after feedback from the Parish Council, SODC officers asked how important the Parish Council believe fencing to be. It was AGREED that the Clerk should inform SODC officers that the Parish Council believes fencing of this play equipment to be vital.

13. **Takeaway Pitch at Berinsfield Sports Pavilion.** To receive details of proposals from businesses wishing to hire a takeaway pitch at Berinsfield Sports Pavilion.

The Clerk presented two applications for hire of a takeaway pitch at Berinsfield Sports Pavilion. The Parish Council AGREED to make an offer to Pitstop Burgers for a 7 days a week pitch, operating from the hours of 5pm-9pm and with conditions including the obtaining of a valid street trading license. The offer should be for a one month trial only.

14. **Advertising at Berinsfield Sports Pavilion.** To consider a draft Advertising Policy to be adopted for use at Berinsfield Sports Pavilion.

It was AGREED that the Chairman would work with the Clerk to refine the size offerings detailed in the Advertising Policy and that Cllr Sweetland would assist the Clerk in setting recommended pricing.

15. **Open Spaces Committee.** To set a date for the next meeting of the Open Spaces Committee.

It was AGREED that the next meeting of the Open Spaces Committee would be held at 7pm on Thursday 19th March at Berinsfield Sports Pavilion.

16. **Finance Committee.** To set a date for the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

It was AGREED that the next meeting of the Open Spaces Committee would be held at 7.15pm on Tuesday 31st March at Berinsfield Sports Pavilion.

17. **Drainage at Berinsfield Recreation Ground.** To receive an update on funding allocated to complete drainage works at Berinsfield Recreation Ground.

The Clerk explained that he had been given an update from officers at SODC that the funding agreement would be formally amended by their legal team and executed in due course.

18. **Berinsfield Regeneration Strategy.** To consider a response to the draft Regeneration Strategy document.

The Chairman drafted a response to the draft Regeneration Strategy document and it was AGREED that there are no further comments from the Parish Council and that this response constitutes a response on behalf of the Parish Council as a whole.

19. **Lighting at Berinsfield Burial Ground.** To consider a proposal from residents to fundraise for solar lighting at Berinsfield Burial Ground to improve visibility in the dark.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should go back to the residents that proposed this and explain that the Parish Council respectfully rejects this request and reiterates that the hours for visiting to the Burial Ground are from dawn until dusk, there should not be visitors during dark hours.

20. **Cricket Pitch.** To consider a proposal for a roll out, temporary cricket pitch from Flicx for £3,290.00 + VAT.

It was AGREED that this item should be considered at the next meeting of the Open Spaces committee.

21. **Correspondence and items for information.**

a) Street Lighting at Abbey Woods Close – The Clerk has been working with County Councillor Jones to raise the faulty issue with Sovereign Housing.

b) Oxfordshire Arts Week – The Clerk has received details of Oxfordshire Art Week to be held on 2nd – 10th May at Chantry House, Ewelme.

c) Allotment Tenancy Renewals – Tenancy renewals have been sent to all allotment tenants for the year 2026-2027.

These items were noted by the Parish Council.

22. **Statement of Accounts for payment in February.** To be circulated at the meeting.

It was AGREED by the Parish Council that payments totaling £9,120.02 and receipts totaling £1,863.39 should be accepted.

23. **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.

24. **Items for report to Chair.**

a) Netting on Solar Panels – Cllr Crawford asked whether the Parish Council should consider netting as a protective measure for the solar panels. He mentioned that he had seen footballs kicked against them. The Clerk said that the company that installed them said a cricket ball could be hit at them and they would remain undamaged. Cllr Scate also said that they are durable enough to not be damaged by a football.

b) Allotment Tenancy – Cllr Head mentioned that she has an agreement for payment of her allotment plots for many years and asked if this could be formalised. The Clerk explained that he could not find a letter nor minutes of a meeting where any arrangement was made and that if an arrangement was to be made, it would need to be considered by the Open Spaces committee and a recommendation made to the full Parish Council for consideration.

25. **Date of next ordinary meeting – 13th April 2026.**