

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 7th February, 2022 in the Church Hall, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield, Oxon.

PRESENT : Councillor S. Scott-Ely Chairman
Councillor P. Bridge Vice-Chairman
Councillor S. Crawford
Councillor E. Croft
Councillor B. Fearneyhough
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones
Councillor M. Light
Councillor D. Scate

The following people were present at the meeting.

Mrs. A. Loveland, Clerk to the Council
County and District Councillor Bennett
Two members of the public

1. Items raised by Members of the public

a) Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Reverend Teresa Stewart-Sykes attended the meeting to speak about proposals to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Berinsfield. It is proposed to hold a 2 km fun run within the village on Thursday 2nd June. In order to make it a "fun" run it is proposed to have colour fountains for participants to run through at various stages and to invite them to wear fancy dress if they wish.

A discussion took place about purchasing medals or pens for the children to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Parish Council agreed to set a budget of £500.00 to cover the cost of purchasing the coloured dye for the fountain and the souvenirs for the children. Reverend Teresa Stewart-Sykes agreed to get quotations for purchasing the dye and the Parish Council agreed to investigate what type of medals or pens could be purchased.

b) Community Litter Picks. Reverend Teresa Stewart-Sykes informed the meeting that the Church propose to hold community litter picks in the village on the following dates :-

26th March, 28th May, 20th August and 29th October.

Refreshments will be provided at the Berry Youth Centre for all those participating in the litter pick.

c) Meeting between young people from the Youth Centre and Berinsfield Parish Councillors held on 31st January, 2022. Councillor Mrs. Jones informed the meeting that Lilly Jones, one of the organisers of the meeting, wished to thank Parish Councillors for meeting with the young people at the Berry Youth Centre on 31st January.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chrisp, Bunyan and Henry.

3. Declarations of Interest. Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely declared his interest in agenda item 15 b) Tree works on recreation ground. One of the quotations has been submitted by a his tenant.

4. **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th January, 2022.** It was AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th January 2022 should be APPROVED.

a) **Minute No. 1 d) Request for double socket to be installed in Store Room at Pavilion.** Councillor Scate informed the meeting that it was proposed to install the socket in the Store Room at the pavilion and not the Control Room. He had established that the flood light batteries would not pose any risk and he was currently waiting to speak to the Chairman of the Football Club. Councillor Scate was asked to report back to the Parish Council when he had spoken to the Chairman of the Football Club.

b) **Minute No. 8 a) Application No. P21/S5167/LDP Single storey rear extension of 3 m. 37 Lodden Avenue, Berinsfield, OX14 7PY.** It was reported that work appeared to be taking place at the property. The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Planning Department at South Oxfordshire District Council in accordance with Minute No. 8 a) of the meeting held on 10th January, but to date no response had been received. The Parish Council agreed that a letter should also be sent to the Building Control Department at South Oxfordshire District Council regarding this application.

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

a) Planning Application No. P22/S0005/FUL Replacement garage block to re provide seven terraced domestic garages (part retrospective). Garage block to rear of 32-36 Lodden Avenue, Berinsfield OX10 7QB The Parish Council considered this application and AGREED to inform South Oxfordshire District Council that Berinsfield Parish Council has concerns about the planning application for the following reasons:-

- If the garages are built, the vehicles that are currently being parked on the proposed site will be displaced and will then have to be parked along the side of the road in this busy residential area.
- The garages will be too small to accommodate most modern cars.
- There is no information in the application to indicate how the garages will be allocated
- Until the above concerns are mitigated, the Parish Council objects to the application.

b) Planning Application No. P22/S0218/HH Demolition of existing garage & single storey building at rear. Construction of new single storey rear and part side extension. It was AGREED that South Oxfordshire District Council should be informed that Berinsfield Parish Council has no strong views on this application.

6. **Casual Vacancy on Berinsfield Parish Council.** The Parish Council has been informed by South Oxfordshire District Council that they have not received a request for an election. It was AGREED that the casual vacancy should now be advertised to invite eligible persons to apply, by 7th March, 2022, to be considered to be a co-opted Member of the Parish Council.

7. **Youth Council.** The Chairman informed the meeting that all of the Councillors present at the meeting with the young people from the Berry Youth Centre, including District Councillor Bennett, were very impressed with the way the young people conducted the meeting and he wished to thank them on behalf of the Parish Council for arranging the meeting up. Topics discussed included, requests for :-

Extension to the skateboard park
Hard standing for the basketball unit
Replacement Mobilus tyre unit in the Lodden Avenue Play Area
Another youth shelter and polycarbonate panels installed in the existing youth shelter.
BMX Track
A larger slide

Defibrillator at Abbey Woods Academy

Request for consideration to be given for other sports to be played in the village

Members of the Parish Council agreed to inspect the concrete cricket wicket that is located on the recreation ground to see what condition it is in.

Health and Education – teacher-student relationship

Minutes of the meeting will be produced and the next meeting will be held on 30th May 2022.

8. **Oxfordshire County Councillor’s report.** County Councillor Robin Bennett attended the meeting and had also prepared a written report, which had been circulated to all members of the Parish Council. Members noted the information contained in the report, including information about the County Council’s budget for 2022-23 and the proposal to include £500,000 to support the review into home to school transport to assist in transitioning to any new arrangements, with a particular focus on supporting more active travel and more sustainable transport opportunities.

The Parish Council noted the information regarding the County Councillor Priority Fund and asked County Councillor Bennett if the Parish Council could apply for funds towards the cost of the activities to be held in Berinsfield to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The Parish Council was advised by County Councillor Robin Bennett to submit an application.

The full report is on the Parish Council’s website www.Berinsfield-pc.gov.uk

9. **District Councillor’s report.** District Councillor Robin Bennett attended the meeting and had also prepared a written report, which had been circulated to all members of the Parish Council.

It was noted that South Oxfordshire District Council will allow community groups and Parish Councils to plant trees on land owned by them, subject to an application being made to them for permission.

The contents of the report were noted by the Parish Council and the full report is on the Parish Council’s website www.Berinsfield-pc.gov.uk

The Chairman, Councillor Stuart Scott-Ely thanked County and District Councillor Robin Bennett for attending the meeting and for presenting his reports.

10. **Berinsfield Garden Village Steering Group.** The Parish Council noted that the policy for the grant scheme for organisations based in Berinsfield was still waiting to be signed off by South Oxfordshire District Council. District Councillor Bennett stated that Officers from the District Council would be speaking to community groups about the grant scheme.

The Parish Council proposed that quotations should be obtained for the following facilities, which may qualify for funding from the Garden Village grant scheme :-

Extension to the existing skateboard park
Provision of a flagpole
Neighbourhood Development Plan professional services
New play equipment for Lay Avenue play area
Hard standing for basket ball unit/possible new unit
Provision of better outdoor sports facilities in the village

11. **Correspondence and Items for Information.**

a) **Hatwells Fair 2022.** Mr. Hatwell has asked if he could bring his fair to the recreation ground in Berinsfield from 27th June 2022 until Monday 4th July, 2022, with the operating days being 30th June until 3rd July, 2022. The Parish Council AGREED that Mr. Hatwell should be informed that the Parish Council is in agreement with his request to bring his fair to Berinsfield from 27th June until 4th July, 2022. Residents living in Lay Avenue will be asked if they could keep the road free of parked vehicles to allow the fair vehicles to get to the recreation ground.

b) **OCC Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.** Two members of the Parish Council and the Clerk joined a webinar presented by Oxfordshire County Council regarding the LTCP. The consultation on the Plan runs until 16th March, 2022 and it was AGREED that the following comments should be submitted on behalf of the Parish Council :-

i) Better public transport links for the village. Berinsfield is a large village in a rural area and has a declining bus service. The community relies heavily on public transport and this has been cut over the last ten years. There are plans to build another 1700 houses in the village which will more than double the population and consideration should be given to providing an accessible, sustainable transport hub fit for the future needs of the village.

ii) South Oxfordshire District Council Adopted Local Plan provides for a new cycle route making use of the Roman Road bridleway from Berinsfield to Cowley. There needs to be provision for this in the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

iii) The Parish Council expressed concern over the difficulty in obtaining fast connectivity in rural communities such as Berinsfield.

c) **Berinsfield and Oxfordshire Treescap Project.** The information contained in the agenda regarding the virtual meeting with an Officer from the Treescap Project, was noted by the Parish Council.

d) **South Oxfordshire District Council draft Joint Design Guide.** The information regarding the extension to the consultation on the Joint Design Guide, was noted. <https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/JDG/Guide.html>

e) **Great British Spring Clean.** The Parish Council noted that the Great British Spring clean will be running from 25th March until 10th April. A spring clean has been arranged by the Church and the Youth Centre on 26th March, 2022 from 10.30 a.m. until 2.30 p.m. with refreshments provided at the Youth Centre.

f) **Survey of Parish Council owned trees.** The Parish Council's trees have been surveyed and recommendations made as to maintenance over the next two years. This is in addition to works that have already been identified as being required to the Poplar trees on the recreation ground. The survey will be considered in more details at a meeting of the Allotments, Playing Fields, Open Spaces, Burial Ground and Skateboard Park Committee in due course.

g) **Making Tax Digital** The Parish Council will be required to submit its VAT returns digitally with effect from 1st April, 2022 and in order to do this, an accounting package will need to be purchased. The Clerk has had demonstrations of two packages, and it was AGREED that the decision as to which package should be purchased should be delegated to the Clerk and the Chairman of the Parish Council.

12. **Statement of accounts for payment in February 2022.** It was AGREED that the statement of accounts for payment in February in the sum of £11,881.69 should be APPROVED.

13. **Date of next meeting – 7th March 2022**

14. **Confidential items.**

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was recommended that the public and press be excluded for consideration of these items.

- a) Emptying dog litter bins
- b) Tree works on recreation ground
- c) Two metal benches
- d) Allotment site, Pritchard Close, Berinsfield

