

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE of BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 15th November, 2021.

Present Councillor P. Bridge
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones
Councillor S. Scott-Ely

Also in attendance A. Loveland, Clerk to the Council

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Councillors Bunyan, Henry and Mrs. Stockford.
2. **Election of Chairman.** It was proposed, seconded and AGREED that Councillor P. Bridge should be Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the year 2021-22.
3. **To receive the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15th March 2021** The contents of the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2021 were noted by the Committee.
4. **Declarations of interest.** Councillors were asked to declare their interest in any items that appeared on the agenda.
5. **To receive details of the income and expenditure to date.** Details of the expenditure to the 31st October 2021 had been circulated to Members of the Committee, together with the predicted expenditure to 31st March 2022. The Committee noted the information and the explanations for any predicted budgets being overspent.
6. **To receive draft proposals for the budget for the financial year 2022-23** A copy of the draft proposals for the budget for the financial year 2022 - 23 had been circulated to all members of the Committee for consideration.

The recommendations made by the Allotments, Playing Fields, Open Spaces and Burial Ground Committee at its meeting held on 27th September 2021, were taken into account and funds had been included in the draft budget.

a) **Burial Ground Improvements.** The Finance Committee agreed to recommend that the Parish Council should consider building up a fund to provide the new wide path through the centre of the Burial Ground in order that it could be completed before burials had to be carried out in the area near to it. It was therefore AGREED to recommend that the £5,000 included for the year 2021-22 should be retained in the budget for 2022-23 and that an additional £5,000 should be added, making the budget £10,000 for the year 2022-23. The Parish Council hoped that it would be possible to obtain grants towards the cost of providing the wide path.

b) **Neighbourhood Development Plan.** It was AGREED to recommend that the sum of £2,000 should be included in the budget for 2022-23.

c) **Play Equipment, Safety Surface, Skate Park.** The Open Spaces Committee had recommended that the sum of £8,000 should be included for the year 2022-23 in order to purchase a new piece of play equipment. The Parish Council had been successful in obtaining a grant from District Councillor Robin Bennett's grant scheme which will enable one new piece of play equipment to be purchased during the year 2021-22. Since the Open Spaces Committee met in September, it has been necessary to remove the bicycle roundabout from the Lay Avenue Play Area as the central spindle broke and it could not be repaired. The cost of providing a replacement bicycle roundabout is £14,000 and therefore the Committee AGREED to recommend that the Parish Council should increase the budget for 2022-23 to £10,000 which would provide approximately £7,000 to be available to allow the Parish Council to apply for match funding grants in order to replace the roundabout. The remaining £3,000 would cover any repairs to existing play equipment.

7. **Fees for 2022-23.** The Finance Committee reviewed the schedule of fees charged for the Pavilion, Burial Ground and Allotments and it was AGREED to recommend that the fees should be increased by approximately 2% for the year 2022-23 as follows :-

PAVILION

Berinsfield Teams/Organisations	Fees with effect from 1.4.22		
	Net	Vat	Total
Football matches boys/girls	£34.00	£6.80	£40.80 per day
Football matches men/women	£53.50	£10.70	£64.20 per match
Friendly matches to be charged at half of the fee.			
Hire of meeting room & kitchen (Minimum hire of 2 hours)	£17.50	£3.50	£21.00 per hour
Outside organisations			
Football matches	£76.50	£15.30	£91.80 per match
Hire of meeting room & kitchen (Minimum hire of 2 hours)	£17.50	£3.50	£21.00 per hour

BURIAL GROUND Charges apply to residents of the Parish of Berinsfield. Double fees apply for non-residents VAT does not apply to the purchase of graves or interments.

Purchase of Grave for person over 12 years of age (immediate interment or reservation on 100 year lease)	
Purchase of single grave	£510.00
Purchase of plot in cremated remains section for interment of ashes (single or double depth)	£255.00
Interment in a purchased plot	£370.00
Interment of ashes in a purchased plot	£165.00
Purchase of Grave and interment of still born baby or child up to 12 months	No charge
Purchase of Grave and interment for child 1 year - 12 years	No charge

Fees for Erection of all Memorials in Burial Ground (exclusive of VAT at 20%) Fee with effect from 1.4.22 plus VAT at 20%

	Net	VAT	Total
Headstone or tablet book	£210.00	£42.00	£252.00
Kerbing, including headstone	£370.00	£74.00	£444.00
Flat stone or book over casket	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00
Additional inscription	£85.00	£17.00	£102.00
Addition of kerbs to existing headstone	£170.00	£34.00	£204.00

ALLOTMENT

Rent per plot with effect from 1.4.23	£52.00
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8. **Precept for 2022-23.** The Finance Committee considered the proposed income and expenditure in the draft budget for 2022-23 and AGREED to recommend that the Parish Council should increase its precept for 2022-23 by 2% to £126,990.

9. **Any Other Financial Matters.**

a) **Proposed list of projects to be put forward to Garden Village Team for consideration for funding from Berinsfield Garden Village Funds.**

The Committee was informed that one of the Garden Village Officers had contacted the Clerk with regard to the Parish Council stating that it had not been directly consulted as to what its requirements were with regard to grants from the Berinsfield Garden Village funds. The Garden Village Team had used information obtained from various sources and meetings to compile its own list of the Parish Council's requirements. The grant scheme criteria should be issued by South Oxfordshire District Council in December with a view to grant applications being made in January 2022. In view of the short time scale, the Clerk had distributed a copy of the list of projects she had been given by the Garden Village Team to all Members of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration and to eliminate those projects that would require input and funding from Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and SOHA Housing. The items that the Members of the Finance Committee considered might be suitable for consideration for funding from the Garden Village Funds were :-

- i) Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultancy fees
- ii) Legal fees for strategic land review
- iii) Provision of cycle racks
- iv) Provision of electric charging points for vehicles
- v) Provision of wide path in centre of Burial Ground, to incorporate drainage.
- vi) Provision of location maps in village
- vii) Provision of two benches in Burial Ground
- viii) Provision of new bicycle roundabout in Lay Avenue Play Area
- ix) Maintenance of large Poplar trees on recreation ground and new tree planting

It was AGREED to recommend that the Parish Council should consider the above list of projects and decide if grant applications should be made in respect of all of them, or whether any should be eliminated from the list.

b) **Christmas lights for trees in the village.** It was AGREED to recommend that a set of mains powered Christmas tree lights should be purchased and put up on a tree in Fane Drive in the vicinity of the allotment site.

10. **Date of next meeting – to be agreed.**