

## BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Binfield Heath Parish Meeting held at the Scout Hut on Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 7.45pm.

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### The meeting of the Recreation Ground Charities and Allotment for the Labouring Poor Charity

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**010/17 Recreation Ground** The playground has had its regular inspections, both weekly and monthly.

**011/17 Allotments** These were inspected and it was noted that plot 15a has a broken fence and 16b needs grass to be cut.

**012/17 Public Forum** No questions from the floor

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### The meeting of the Parish Council

Present Cllr P Rollason, Cllr L Ransom, Cllr S Summerland, Cllr Hugh Lacey, Cllr P Harrison (SODC) and Cllr D Bartholomew (OCC). Mr Ernie Povey, Debbie Povey, Robert Davis, Peter Woolsey and Roger Roberts.

**049/17 Apologies for absence** Cllr G Englefield

**050/17 Declarations of Interest** Cllr Ransom declared an interest in the discussion of Blossom Cottage.

**051/17 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017** Cllr Ransom proposed the minutes be adopted. Proposal seconded by Cllr Summerland. All agreed.

**052/17 Matters Arising** None, other than those already on the agenda.

**053/17 County Councillor's report** Cllr Bartholomew reported that a) All 63 county council seats will be up for election and residents all over Oxfordshire began to receive polling cards during the last week of March On Wednesday, April 5. The list of candidates for each OCC seat will be published. Polling Day on Thursday, May 4 runs from 7.00am to 10 pm. The election count takes place on Friday, May 5 in Abingdon b) the County Council pre-election period ('purdah') has now started and the Council must comply with restrictions outlined in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986. The Code of Practice recommends that authorities should generally not issue any publicity which seeks to influence voters and that publicity relating to individuals involved directly in the election should not be published unless expressly authorised by statute b) for the reasons above, the County Council, Oxford City Council and the four District Councils have agreed not to promote their standpoint on the issue of Unitary Government for the period of purdah c) OCC has joined forces with Waze, the free crowd sourced traffic and navigation app, in a data-sharing link-up that could help residents get from A to B more easily. Waze is effectively a Sat Nav app used exactly as any in-car navigation device – except Waze has the added benefit of crowd-sourced traffic flow info and OCC roadworks as part of the mix. This means that the app can see the traffic hotspots on the roads and route residents round them where appropriate, saving them time. Waze is FREE to download and use – simply go to <https://www.waze.com/download> d) Part of the A4155 near The Flowing Spring has been coned-off and is subject to traffic lights and one-way traffic. A temporary 30mph speed limit has also been introduced. These measures are required while an investigation into subsidence is conducted.

**054/17 District Councillor's report** Cllr Harrison reported that a) because of the purdah rules surrounding the County Council elections any further discussion on a unitary council will have to wait. However, although the Vale, SODC and Oxfordshire County Council have recommended the proposed unitary council, three other councils are opposed to this: West Oxfordshire District Council, Cherwell District Council and Oxford City Council. An additional problem is that a Unitary Council would demand a significantly increased council tax b) the following press release has been put on the Public Sector Executive web page:-

[http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Comment/a-new-council-for-a-better-oxfordshire/167970?utm\\_source=Public%20Sector%20Executive&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=8225250\\_PSE%20Newsletter%2003%20April%2017%20wk](http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Comment/a-new-council-for-a-better-oxfordshire/167970?utm_source=Public%20Sector%20Executive&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=8225250_PSE%20Newsletter%2003%20April%2017%20wk)

[%204&dm\\_i=IJU,4WAN6,8Z1EVR,IJU6X,1](#) c) both the Vale and South Oxfordshire District Councils have failed the 5 year land supply test, mainly due to developer's land banking significant parts of Didcot which was expected to take 60% of our housing supply. This then leaves a large proportion of our District open to aggressive development often by the same developers who land banked most of the development areas in Didcot. The District Council is therefore keen to bring the 5 year land supply back up to date d) the Gladman's application is a major concern to Sonning Common as it reduces the gap between the village and Reading. A good turnout of residents when it goes before the planning committee is desired as this does influence committee member's view of an application. The major issues are traffic impact on Reading with the lack of capacity on the bridges and the lack of education facilities in either Oxfordshire or Reading e) the Individual Councillor Grant Scheme will launch early summer with every South Oxfordshire District Councillor having £5,000 allocated to them to award in grants for community projects. Grants can be made from £500 to the maximum of £5,000 and must benefit the community in the councillor's ward area f) nominations for this year's OCVA Charity and Volunteer Awards are still open. This annual event celebrates charities, voluntary and community groups as well as not-for-profit enterprise groups and non-statutory groups whose main beneficiaries are in Oxfordshire. g) Miss Jane Elizabeth Cranston was sworn in as High Sheriff of Oxfordshire on 11 April. Jane takes over from Sarah Taylor and will serve for one year h) more than £1million in grant funding is available to 16 community groups, charities and support organisations across the district i) the annual compost giveaway will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 9am-11am at the old SODC car park j) the draft Local Plan consultation closes on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

### **055/17 Public Forum/Correspondence**

Ernie Povey asked if the promised donation could be paid so that it was ready to pay any appointed contractor. The Chairman requested that quotations were passed to the Clerk and then the money could be released. Peter Woolsey asked if a Firestone roof had been considered as it is cheap and long lasting. He offered to put Ernie Povey in touch with another contractor. Debbie Povey explained that the Scout Hut was worth repairing as it could provide the outdoor facilities that Shiplake Memorial hall could not.

Peter Woolsey asked if the PC would support taking over the piece of land opposite the Chapel. It is used as a car park for the Chapel and also by some parishioners for growing flowers. Mr Woolsey has taken responsibility for it for a year or so but wondered if the PC could take this on when circumstances change.

Dr Robert Davis discussed his Planning Application P17/S1167/HH which will be recommended for approval.

Robert Rogers commented on the above application stating that part of the Traffic Assessment Report conflicted with the Thames Valley Police Speed test May 2014. His comments were noted.

### **056/17 Financial Situation**

056.01/17 The April accounts were presented for payment. Cheques to the value of £850.75 were authorised. Payment for these was proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Lacey. **(Clerk to Action)**

056.02/17 Councillor expenses: Cllr Rollason was reimbursed for expenses relating to the work by the Green Gym.

### **057/17 Planning Matters**

#### ***New Applications***

P17/S1145/HH Ground floor rear orangery-style extension Blossom Cottage Binfield Heath RG9 4LE This application will be recommended for approval.

P17/S1167/HH Proposed construction of new habitable first floor to existing bungalow, associated layout and fenestration alterations, extension to existing garage and change to vehicular and pedestrian access to site 11 Heathfield Close Binfield Heath RG9 4DS This application will be recommended for approval with a comment regarding access.

P17/S1248/HH External alterations and conversion of garage in to ancillary residential accommodation re configuring driveway parking and manoeuvring area and provision of additional soft landscaping. Mulberry Cottage Harpsden Road Binfield Heath Oxfordshire RG9 4JT. This application will be recommended for refusal.

***Applications Granted***

**058/17 Community Matters**

058.01/17 Date of Litter pick: to be decided

058.02/17 A joint Neighbourhood Plan has been proposed and the idea needs to be considered. The CLP was discussed and a suggestion was made to find someone – maybe a student - to accumulate the information gleaned so far.

**059/17 Highways/transport and General Maintenance**

**060/17 Consultations** None this month

**061/17 Footpaths** A resident has requested a permissive path to link two paths but Savills have refused this.

Cllr Ransom would like to return to the previous idea of Councillors regularly walking the footpaths in the Parish. The Clerk was asked to find the footpath map online (**Clerk to Action**)

**062/17 Gladman Outline Application:** Cllr Harrison updated the PC. The application is due to go to Committee possibly on 24<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Harrison will be able to speak for 5 minutes.

**063/17 New Councillor Applications** Three residents have indicated their interest in being a Parish Councillor.

**064/17 BT Residue** Expenditure on this had been forwarded to the Councillors prior to the meeting. This will continue to be updated.

**065/17 Matters for future consideration** Neighbourhood Plans, Footpaths

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

**Date of next meeting** Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup>