

## BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Binfield Heath Annual Parish Meeting held at the Scout Hut on Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017 at 7.30pm.**

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Present Cllr P Rollason, Cllr L Ransom, Cllr S Summerland, Cllr Hugh Lacey, Cllr G Englefield, Peter Woolsey and Roger Roberts.

**Chairman's Report** The Chairman read out his report. He thanked Cllr Ransom and Mark Dobson for their work on the new website. He listed some of the village improvements particularly the picnic tables outside the Village Stores and the reconditioned telephone kiosk. More shrubs and bulbs have been planted. He thanked the Green Gym and the Village in Bloom group for their hard work. He also thanked the Village Society for arranging the Queen's Birthday Celebrations. Good wishes were sent to the new tenants of the Bottle and Glass.

Roger Roberts and Robert Davis were thanked for their work with the CLP and Roger Roberts was thanked for his work on the PC while he was a Councillor. He expressed the PC concern with the problems still unresolved regarding planning and concern over the respect for Neighbourhood Plans. The PC will need to decide whether to join Eye & Dunsden and Kidmore End in a joint Neighbourhood Plan. The playground repairs were undertaken successfully. The PC is very grateful for all the volunteers who help Cllr Englefield to keep the Recreation Ground tidy and help with minor repairs. With one or two exceptions the allotment site is looking tidy and productive. There are 2 plots available for rent.

**Financial Report** This last year the precept was kept at the same amount as the planned expenditure was greater for 2017. A new website was set up in 2016 at an additional set up cost as the old site was not fit for purpose. In addition a one off donation was made towards the renovations of Dunsden Village Hall. The usual donations have also been made to the Royal British Legion, CAB, Sue Ryder and Shiplake Memorial Hall this financial year. With a large donation from the Village Society, village improvements have continued to be the focus of expenditure. Money has been spent on bulbs and shrubs and tables were purchased for outside the shop. The new telephone kiosk was the most expensive purchase. A major repair was undertaken in the recreation ground.

The amount carried forward March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 was £10,314 + £1778 in the Charity Account.

VAT has been claimed and the accounts have been scrutinised by the internal auditor and certified as correct. Paperwork is now being prepared for the external audit.

**Public Question Time** No questions.

This meeting closed at 7.40pm

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

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**013/17 Recreation Ground** The playground has had its regular inspections, both weekly and monthly. On occasions Cllr Englefield still has to remind visitors to keep dogs on a lead and away from the children's play area.

**014/17 Allotments** These were inspected and it was noted that two plots are still in need of attention.

**015/17 Public Forum** No questions from the floor.

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### **The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**

Present Cllr P Rollason, Cllr L Ransom, Cllr S Summerland, Cllr Hugh Lacey, Cllr G Englefield, Peter Woolsey and Roger Roberts.

**066/17 Apologies for absence** Cllr P Harrison (SODC) and Cllr D Bartholomew (OCC)

**067/17 Minutes of the Annual meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016.** Tabled. These had been accepted as a true record in June 2016.

**068/17 Matters Arising** None

**069/17 Appointment of Chairman** The Chairman handed the meeting over to the Vice Chairman. As Cllr Rollason was willing to stand again as Chairman, his position was proposed by Cllr Summerland and seconded by Cllr Englefield. All agreed. The Chairman returned to the Chair.

**070/17 Appointment of Vice Chairman** Cllr Englefield proposed that Cllr Ransom continued as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Summerland. All agreed.

**071/17 Councillor responsibilities**

Cllr Ransom: website, planning & neighbourhood plans

Cllr Summerland: allotments, Green Pond

Cllr Englefield: recreation ground

Cllr Lacey: planning, footpaths, transport & minerals

**072/17 County Councillor's report** Cllr Bartholomew had sent a report: a) The CC election results were as follows: Conservatives 31; Labour 14; liberal Democrats 13; other 5 Cllr Bartholomew had increased his share of the vote and now appointed to the Cabinet with Finance and Communication b) the section of collapsed road coned off near the Flowing Spring will be closed for about 2 months for repair and diversions will be put in place c) Cllr Bartholomew attended the recent CAGE meeting d) he will continue to offer support to address the issues raised by Ofsted and to find a suitable sponsor in order to keep Chiltern Edge School open e) the steering group for the possible 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Bridge will not meet until late June.

**073/17 District Councillor's Report** Cllr Harrison had sent a report: a) South and Vale Districts are looking for private landlords who might be interested in housing families under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme b) £3million in grants were awarded for a variety of projects. For more information contact the Grants Scheme on 01235422405 or by e-mail c) The new CCTV operator report provides information on how CCTV cameras have produced evidence for arrests and court proceedings d) because of the purdah rules surrounding the County Council elections any further discussion on a unitary council will wait until after the election e) Shiplake PC has submitted its proposed neighbourhood plan area application to the Council f) Cllr Harrison will be supporting the push to keep Chiltern Edge School open g) he now ends his chairmanship of SODC.

**074/17 Public Forum** Peter Woolsey mentioned that he had put Ernie Povey in touch with the company who are now employed to undertake the repair to the Scout Hut Roof. He also repeated his request for support for the piece of land opposite the Chapel. The Chairman said that he had spoken to Adrian Beales of Savills and that he will raise this for discussion at the next quarterly meeting of the Estate.

**075/17 Minutes of the PC meeting April 24<sup>th</sup> 2017** Cllr Summerland proposed the minutes be adopted. Proposal seconded by Cllr Ransom. All agreed.

**076/17 Matters Arising**

058.01/17 Date of Litter pick: to be decided

**077/17 Declarations of Interest** None

**078/17 Financial Situation**

078.01/17 The May accounts were presented for payment. Cheques to the value of £888.95 were authorised. Payment for these was proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Englefield. **(Clerk to Action)**

078.02/17 Internal Audit: The Clerk reported that the internal auditor had certified that the accounts were correct. The paperwork will now be prepared for the external audit.

078.03/17 External Audit: The Annual Governance Statement was read and approved by the Parish Council. The Audit Commission Accounting Statements were presented to the Parish Council. These were read and approved. Paperwork will now be prepared and submitted to the external auditor. **(Clerk to Action)**

**079/17 Planning Matters**

**New Applications**

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 A working party will look at the amendment.

P17/S1037/HH Convert existing garage and workshop to part workshop with work/living space plus outshut for domestic ancillary. Change rooflights for dormers. BY Pond Cottage Binfield Heath RG9 4JT This application was recommended for approval.

**Applications Granted**

P17/S1145/HH Ground floor rear orangery-style extension Blossom Cottage Binfield Heath RG9 4LE

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.

Cllr Ransom & Cllr Lacey attended the meeting at Shiplake to hear Paula Fox and Adrian Duffield discuss planning problems with Shiplake Parish Council in relation to neighbourhood plans. It was reported as interesting.

**080/17 Highways/transport and General Maintenance** The Sonning Common Road is breaking up in the centre 1/2 mile from the Coppid Crossroads as the bend is approached. The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Bartholomew to report this.

**081/17 Community Matters**

081.01/17 The Bottle and Glass Public House is now up and running.

081.02/17 The area around Green Pond is overgrown. The Clerk was asked to contact Pricketts.

**082/17 Neighbourhood Plan** This was discussed briefly. The Clerk reported that she had arranged for someone from SODC to come to talk at the July meeting of EDPC and suggested that some of the BHPC Councillors might attend the meeting.

**083/17 Casual Vacancy** The three candidates interested in the vacancy had submitted a statement and these had been looked at by the Councillors. The clerk explained the process and each Councillor then voted for one candidate. The votes were 1, 1, and 3 so Keith Maher had the majority of the votes and was duly elected to become a Parish Councillor. The Clerk will forward the Declaration of Office and other paperwork.

**Matters for future consideration** Neighbourhood Plans, Footpaths

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

**Date of next meeting** Monday June 26<sup>th</sup>