

BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Binfield Heath Parish Meeting held on Monday 24th November 2008 at The Scout Hut from 7.45pm

Present: Councillor E Ransom (in chair), Cllr P Rollason, Cllr R Pawson, Cllr B Timms, Cllr S. Summerland, Cllr G Englefield and Cllr C Viney (OCC).

429/08 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Peasgood (SODC) Leonard (SODC)

430/08 Declarations of Interest

None

431/08 Minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2008

Cllr Rollason proposed the minutes be adopted. Proposal seconded by Cllr Pawson.

432/08 County Councillor's report

Cllr Viney explained that with the present financial climate, difficult times could be ahead for OCC. However, although council tax may be affected, any increase would be kept as low as possible.

On January 15th a meeting has been arranged for councillors of several local PC's to meet with Ian Hudspeth and Peter Mann who are involved in discussions regarding the TIF (Transport Innovation Fund). The purpose is for local parish and county councils' views to be put forward and known prior to the future discussion on any Park and Ride/local transport schemes. Cllr Viney asked to be notified of any particular issue to be put forward at the meeting.

433/08 District Councillor's report

See attached report.

434/08 Public Forum

No members of the public present. However, one parishioner wished Cllr Englefield to speak on his behalf. Mr Meddick wished it to be known that he objects to the addition of Footpath 30 to the Definitive Map. He also wished to point out that under the Countryside Act, the County Council is under an obligation to provide a sign leading to a footpath.

There was much discussion about the footpath issue and the recent reply from Frances Williams. However, the Parish Council does not wish to spend public funds in order to appeal to the Inspectorate as the particular grounds for the Parish Council's objections cannot be taken into account in this respect. It is the opinion of the Parish Council that it ceases to object to the addition of the footpath on the Definitive Map, a signpost to footpath 18 will be required from the road and access restricted to the recreation ground from Dunsden Way. The rights of way officer will be informed of the decision. **(Clerk to Action)**

435/08 Financial Situation

435.01/08 The account balances were circulated.

435.02/08 The Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal (retrospective) It was decided to give a donation of £50.00 to the Poppy Appeal. This was proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Rollason. The accounts were presented for payment.

Cllr Rollason proposed the accounts be paid. This was seconded by Cllr Englefield.

435.03/08 The Budget for 2009/2010 was discussed. As the Parish accounts show a good reserve, it was decided that a reduction in the precept request would be appropriate. Creation of a website and the major work on Green Pond are projects where the some of the reserve will be required. The suggested figures were discussed and it was decided that the precept be reduced by £1,000. A precept of £9,000 for next year was proposed by Cllr Rollason and seconded by Cllr Englefield.

436/08 Planning Matters

New Applications P08/E1209 Erection of a detached garage (revisions to the design of the approved garage (P07/E1184) to increase height) Picture Cottage Binfield Heath RG9 4JY Recommended for refusal on grounds of increased height.

P08/E1210 Erection of a detached garage, (revisions of the design of the approved garage (P07/E1184) to enable use as home office. Picture Cottage Binfield Heath RG9 4JY Recommended for approval

P08/E1219 Single storey front porch to replace existing. Holmwood, Shiplake Row, Binfield Heath RG9 4DP Recommended for approval

P08/E1245/LB (Listed Building Consent) Alterations to main house. Single storey front porch to replace existing. Demolish service yard wall and lean to. Form new windows in front and side elevations. Alter doorway in side elevation. Replace existing principal staircase with new in new location. Alter 1no. roof truss and form access stair to attic to create habitable room. Internal alterations to form kitchen/family room and alter layout of bathrooms and bedrooms. Holmwood Shiplake Row Binfield Heath RG9 4DP Recommended for approval

P08/E1220 Alterations to annex accommodation to incorporate cottage into main dwelling. Alterations to courtyard buildings, including lean-to extension, to allow formation of new flat. Holmwood, Shiplake Row, Binfield Heath RG9 4DP Recommended for approval

P08/E1246/LB Alterations to annex accommodation and courtyard buildings to include new bridge link at first floor level, and to incorporate cottage into main dwelling, alteration and extension to lean-to, alterations to courtyard elevation with new doors and windows and internal alterations to allow formation of new plot. Holmwood, Shiplake Row, Binfield Heath RG9 4DP Recommended for approval

Applications granted

P08/E1013 Two storey rear extension, new front porch and loft conversion. As amended by plan number RGP/204/02, and RGP/204/03, accompanying Agent's letter dated 21st October 2008 at 5 Spring Cottages Binfield Heath RG9 4LU

437/08 Highways/Transport & General Maintenance

437.01/08 Signage: Heathfield Avenue, Heathfield Close and Kiln Lane signs have been replaced. One of the Heathfield Close signs has been removed. The Parish Council is to request a new village fingerpost and to request that the Arch Hill sign is put onto the fingerpost sign and the one outside Heathfield Close removed. Both the existing Shiplake Row signs are in good order. It is suggested that these are painted black and one resited as requested. **(Clerk to Action)**

437.02/08 Green Pond: The clerk has written to the Green Gym to request putting the Green Pond on their work list as soon as possible.

Meanwhile Pricketts will be asked to tidy around the pond but to inform Cllr Summerland when the work is to be commenced in order for her to be present. **(Clerk to Action)** They will also be asked to tidy around the bus shelter.

Beryl Hunt, a Wildlife and Heritage adviser met with councillors at Green Pond. The Parish Council thanks Beryl for her thorough report with ways forward to restore the pond.

437.02/08 Flooding around Dragon Cottage and The Wood Yard has been an issue recently. The ditch is flooding along Dunsden Way between Prospect House and Wychwood. There is also a lack of drainage in the field south of Dragon Cottage. Both of these areas to be reported to the Estate. **(Clerk to Action)**

438/08 Website

Councillors have looked at a series of websites recently. Cllr Pawson recommended that a static website be set up initially to assess how much it is accessed. Cllr Pawson offered to set up a website with an address of binfieldheath.org.uk. It will incur a small monthly cost. This expenditure was proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Summerland.

439/08 Consultations

Communities in control: Real people, real power: Codes of conduct for local authority members and employees – A consultation. The content of this was noted.

440/08 Risk Assessment

The revised risk assessment was accepted by the Parish Council. The value of the playground equipment appeared to be too low and will be discussed when the Insurance Renewal is due in the New Year.

441/08 The Freedom of Information Publication Scheme This was approved and is to be adopted.

442/08 Parish Plan

Cllr Timms reported that the Parish Plan Committee had not met this month. Lack of Broadband is an issue to be pursued. It was suggested that the Parish Plan Committee avoid issues that are those that the Parish Council deals with on a regular basis.

443/08 Matters for future consideration: Insurance and the value of playground equipment;

Date of next meeting Monday 26th January 2009

The meeting of the Recreation Ground Charities and Allotment for the Labouring Poor Charity
Minutes of the meeting held at the Scout Hut on Monday 24th November after the meeting of Binfield Heath Parish Council

27/08 Recreation Ground

25.01/08 The Recreation Ground has been inspected. 2 pieces of timber need replacement. On the Toddler Multiplay 2 of the uprights have split. This item is out of guarantee.

25.02/08 Cllr Englefield had made enquiries at SODC about replacement litter bins on the recreation ground. Nothing received by the clerk as yet. A quotation for the cost of 3 bins will be sought. **(Clerk to Action)**

28/08 Allotments

Cllr Timms reported that the allotments were looking well cared for. An apple tree is to be cut down. There are some new tenants. The rules have now been circulated and Cllr Timms will check them before they are forwarded by the clerk to the tenants with the requests for rent. The tenants will be reminded that by renting an allotment they are accepting the new rules. One tenant is to be reminded that subletting an allotment is against the allotment rules. **(Clerk to Action)**

Date of next meeting Monday 26th January 2009

The meetings closed at 10.30 pm

Please note that these minutes will not be ratified until the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Cllr Peasgood from SODC was unable to make the meeting. However, this is his report:

Free Christmas Parking: SODC is providing free parking in its car parks from 6th December: free from midday every Saturday afternoon up to Christmas Day.

New rules for planning permission: Details are available from the DC by visiting the building control section of the website or by contacting a Planning Enquiry Officer on 01491 823272/01491 823663.

A new alarm database: This free service is available for local businesses or residents with loud intruder alarms installed to avoid disturbing the neighbourhood if they go off by accident. If an officer has to force entry to silence an alarm it can cost about £400.00.

My South Oxfordshire: This is a new search feature on the DC's website. It makes it easier to find information on council services relating to a particular property.

New Children's Rights website: A new website giving children and young people a voice and a chance to find out more about their rights has been launched. (www.bigvoiceoxfordshire.com)