

BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Binfield Heath Parish Meeting held on Monday 27th October 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 C Viney (OCC), Cllr M Leonard (SODC), + 2 members of the public

413/08 Apologies for absence

Cllr G Englefield. The PC wishes him a speedy recovery from his operation.

414/08 Declarations of interest

Cllr Timms declared an interest for the Parish Plan.

415/08 Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2008

One minor word change was made. Cllr Rollason proposed the minutes be adopted. Proposal seconded by Cllr Ransom.

416/08 County Councillor's report

Councillor Viney reassured the Parish Council that although £30 million was invested by Oxfordshire local authorities and is now frozen in Icelandic Banks, there would be no cuts in funding.

416.01/08 Search for young politicians: Politically-minded youngsters interested in standing for election to the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) are being urged to attend a special open day on October 30th. Elections to return the local Oxfordshire Member will take place in schools across Oxfordshire in February 2009. To find out more about being a Member of Youth Parliament or a Deputy MYP go to: www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk

416.02/08 Promotion of 'plastic bag free' towns: Oxfordshire County Council and the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership are asking towns in the county to come forward with plans to cut plastic bag use and instead encourage residents to take reusable bags when they do their shopping. Oxfordshire's county and five district councils are extending financial support in the form of a grant to buy initial stocks of cotton or jute shopping bags.

416.03/08 Park & Ride: This is now free around Oxford. There have been initial discussions about the possibility of extending public transport between Henley and Reading and providing further Park and Ride sites in South Oxfordshire including one for Reading referred to as at Playhatch. Councillor Viney will arrange a meeting between the Parish Councils possibly involved in this area in November to discuss the impact of any Park and Ride before further discussion takes place.

417/08 District Councillor's report

Cllr Leonard advised:

417.01/08 Planning Applications: The Government has decided to make it easier to obtain planning permission for some applications.

417.02/08 The Travel Token system: A review has taken place and there are to be no changes. Tokens will continue to be sent direct to the disabled person.

417.03/08 The Town and Parish Forum: Councillors were reminded about this. Cllrs Ransom and Summerland are to attend on November 11.

417.04/08 The South East Plan: OCC is endeavouring to obtain some SODC land south of Oxford. The purpose is unclear but despite government backing the plan will be resisted.

417.05/08 Planning Enforcement Notices: It was noted that 27 have been served this year.

417.06/08 One Stop Shops: SODC is no longer to fund the shops with grants. However, the grants will be paid for one last year to provide time for the shops to review their budgets.

417.06/08 Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs: A number of sites must be provided by SODC.

418/08 Public Forum

418.01/08 Tim Coulson brought a sample website to the meeting and discussed the desirability of getting information to the parishioners quickly via a website rather than via a notice board. Discussion continued. (See 423/08)

418.02/08 Len Meddick informed the PC that there had been a further Definitive Map Modification (Dec 2001) not previously referred to by the Rights of Way Officer. He presented a copy of this. He also said he could show the right of way (footpath 18) being established in 1864 as Footpath 63 (part of the Enclosure Awards.) A record of this is in the Public Record office in Kew. A copy of the modification order map is to be sent to each councillor and the original returned to Mr Meddick.

(Clerk to Action) Mr Meddick says that this is the oldest footpath. The path across the Recreation ground is just marked 'path' on this map. Mr Meddick strongly objects to the proposed modifications. Discussion continued. (See 422.01/08)

419/08 Financial Situation

419.01/08 The account balances were circulated.

419.02/08 The accounts were presented for payment. Cllr Pawson proposed the accounts be paid. This was seconded by Cllr Summerland.

419.03/08 The issues arising from the external audit were presented to the Parish Council. The charity account is already established and in use. The budget for 2009 will be formally drawn up at the next meeting and there will be monitoring of the accounts by the parish councillors on a regular basis throughout the year.

420/08 Grant Applications

None

421/08 Planning Matters

New Applications None

Applications granted

P08/E0954 Extension at side to form garage. Iona, Kiln Lane, Binfield Heath RG9 4EL.

422/08 Highways/Transport & General Maintenance

422.01/08 Footpath changes around the recreation ground. The Councillors met the Rights of Way Officer at the recreation ground and discussed the proposed modifications. The Councillors were told that the PC (then Shiplake PC) had been consulted in 1999 but no action had been taken. The Council continues to object to the proposals and it is possible to appeal to the Secretary of State. Replacing some of the stiles with kissing gates was discussed. Some stiles are in a poor state and rather difficult for an elderly walker. The Chilterns Society and OCC are to be asked for the current position for any grants or help with this to encourage walking. **(Clerk to Action)**

422.02/08. Local transport issues were covered in the report from OCC.

422.03/08 Green Pond. The quote from W J Hatt (amount?) has been received and the cost of this was discussed and felt by some councillors to be too high. Cllr Summerland said that she would talk to Mr Hatt to reduce the cost a little. The Green Gym will be asked to put the Green Pond on their work list to keep the pond in good order on a more regular basis. **(Clerk to Action)**

422.04/08 Traffic Calming. Cllr Rollason suggested that a raised area on the road (similar to the Market Place in Henley) around the centre of the village might encourage drivers to slow down rather than signs that have a limited effect. Peter Ronald to be consulted to explore the possibility. **(Clerk to Action)**

423/08 Website

Cllr Pawson expressed concern about the running of any website. Many start well but soon become out of date unless someone keeps it up to date. Management of the website is essential. Minutes and agendas could easily be circulated by e-mail for which parishioners could sign up. Wikipedia or a community website are possibilities. The website must be used if it is to be set up. The Chairman suggested that councillors look at the Shiplake PC website.

424/08 Consultations

424.01/08 Partial Review of the South East Plan; Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs. This was discussed with Cllr Leonard in his report.

424.02/08 The making and enforcement of byelaws. Deferred due to time.

424.03/08 Freedom of Information Act 2000 Publication Scheme. The clerk will complete some of the form and consult the chairman and councillors before completion. **(Clerk to Action)**

424.04/08 BT Adopt a Kiosk Scheme. Deferred due to time.

425/08 Risk Assessment

Deferred until the allotment inspection form has been completed.

426/08 Parish Plan

Cllr Timms reported that the Parish Plan Committee was keen to obtain the parishioners' views on speeding through Binfield Heath; it also wanted to understand the problem with the lack of Broadband speed in the village.

427/08 Matters for future consideration: deferred items; the 2009 budget

428/08 Contract for clerk

The clerk now has a contract that will be signed prior to the next meeting.

Date of next meeting Monday 24th November 2008

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 27th October after the meeting of Binfield Heath Parish Council

25/08 Recreation Ground

George Englefield's report on the Recreation Ground is with the chairman.

25.01/08 The Recreation Ground has been inspected

25.02/08 The climbing frame has been placed in the Recreation Ground.

26/08 Allotments

Cllr Timms reported:

26.01/08 A revised set of rules is circulating around the councillors for their comments.

26.02/08 The tenancy agreement used is to be sent to the councillors for possible revision.

26.03/08 A letter is to be written to one of the tenants answering her query.

Date of next meeting Monday 24th November 2008

The meetings closed at 10.00pm

*****Please note that these minutes are as yet unratified by the Parish Council**