

BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Binfield Heath Annual Parish Meeting held by Zoom on Monday April 26th 2021 at 6.30pm.

Present Cllr P Rollason, Cllr L Ransom, Cllr S Summerland, Cllr Hugh Lacey, Cllr Sarah Fulton-Urry, Cllr Robert Davis, Cllr David Bartholomew (OCC & SODC), Cllr Leigh Rawlins (SODC) and 4 residents of Binfield Heath.

Chairman's Report The Chairman read his report:

COVID

A difficult year. Due to Government Covid restrictions no full meetings took place in March or April 2020. As physical meetings had to stop, Zoom meetings began in May 2020 and have continued ever since. After a shaky start all seems to be working well.

COUNCILLORS

Cllr Keith Maher retired in March 2021 as he felt he did not have enough time to dedicate to his duties on the Parish Council as well as home schooling and working from home. We send our best wishes and our thanks for his work done. Dr Rob Davis has been co-opted to join the PC from April 2021 and will take over responsibility for the Neighbourhood Plan.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

During the past year research has been carried out led by Cllr Maher as to whether the PC should commit to an NP. Robyn Tobutt of SODC joined one of our Zoom meetings and answered questions from Cllrs. The PC considered it important to find out the villagers' views on this issue, a village consultation document was sent to all. Following evaluation of the responses the PC will move forward on this issue.

RECREATION GROUND

Last summer, following the release of lockdown, complaints were received of excessive litter in the recreation ground. This was investigated, a group of youths from outside the parish were identified as the culprits. Following discussions it was clear that the youths would not comply with the regulations, the goal posts were removed. The youths did not return again last Summer. With a grant from our County Councillor a new moveable and lockable set of posts was purchased and are now being enjoyed by the local boys.

Evidence of drug use was discussed with the local police and following a police suggestion the old shelter was removed.

The PC is very grateful for the group of volunteers who keep the recreation ground clear of rubbish and empty the bins on a weekly rota.

More recently a resident pointed out that the area at the bottom of Arch Hill along the banks of the River Binn was not an attractive entrance to the village.

With a grant from the District Councillors this area has been cleared by Pricketts and an additional bin and bench is being considered.

The remaining area may be cleared by the Green Gym volunteers.

ALLOTMENTS All in good condition and well maintained

DEFIBRILLATOR: The PC is considering purchasing a defibrillator for the village

WEBSITE The PC is grateful to Mark Dodson for handling the website for many years. The website still needs to be compliant and a solution to this is being sought by the PC.

GRANTS Generous grants were made available by District and County Councillors for funding of the goal posts, and clearance of rough ground on both sides of the River Binn.

HIGHWAYS: The PC was pleased to see the completion of improvements to the Coppid Crossroads. This involved 'alligator teeth' marking and white ensuring all drivers are in no doubt of the crossroads ahead. There have been no reported incidents at the site since the improvements were made.

THIRD THAMES CROSSING: Reading and Wokingham councils continued to advance plans for a major new river crossing together with park and ride schemes and a northern bypass. In the light of climate change and the Covid pandemic they seem less likely to find favour. South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire councils have re-stated their opposition, Cllr David Bartholomew keeps us well

informed of all developments.

OCC/SODC David Bartholomew (OCC) and Leigh Rawlins (SODC) have made significant contributions to our meetings throughout the year.

PARISH CLERK: I want to thank Mandy Sermon for all her hard work and invaluable support over the past year.

Financial Report The Clerk read her report:

The precept was increased to £14000 in 2019 and has been a constant amount since then.

The PC had ~£11,500 in the bank at the end of March. The grant towards the improvement of the River Binn (+£1100)

VAT (£~1000) has been claimed and the accounts etc have been taken to the internal auditor. The PC can decide if we can claim exemption again this year as receipts and payments are less than £25,000. The PC's main focus for expenditure has been the Football area on the Recreation Ground and the area around the River Binn this year.

Neighbourhood Plan It was decided to discuss this in the PC meeting that follows.

Public Forum No questions

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Binfield Heath Parish Council

01/21 Apologies None

02/21 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on May 21st 2019 These were tabled as they had been approved in June 2019.

03/21 Appointment of Chairman & Declaration of Office Cllr Rollason stood down. Cllr Ransom proposed that Cllr Rollason should remain as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Fulton-Urry. Cllr Rollason was duly elected as Chairman. All agreed.

04/21 Appointment of Vice Chairman & Declaration of Office Cllr Rollason proposed that Cllr Ransom should remain as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Summerland. All agreed.

05/21 Casual Vacancy As there were no other applications, Robert Davis was appointed as a new Councillor.

06/21 Councillors' declarations and responsibilities:

Cllr Summerland Allotments

Cllr Lacey Planning

Cllr Ransom_Planning; website

Cllr Davis_Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Fulton-Urry tba

Cllr Rollason_Footpaths; Neighbourhood Watch; Recreation Ground

07/21 County Councillor's Report Cllr Bartholomew's full report will be attached to these minutes. On local issues he particularly mentioned that a) he had reported the large pothole in Gravel Rd which will be repaired within 24 hrs b) a grant for repair to the wall of Walled Garden House is only accessible if the wall is listed. The advice that the owner should address the issue as a matter of urgency has been passed to the property owner by the Parish Council.

08/21 District Councillor's Report Cllr Rawlin's report will be attached to these minutes.

09/21 Minutes of the PC meeting of March 22nd 2021 Cllr Summerland proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Ransom. All agreed.

10/21 Matters Arising None

11/21 Declarations of Interest Cllr Ransom had previously declared an interest in this application.

12/21 Financial situation The financial position had been circulated.

The April accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £858.65 were authorised for payment by BACS. These payments were proposed by Cllr Summerland and seconded by Cllr Fulton-Urry. All agreed. (**Clerk to action**)

13/21 Planning Matters

New Applications & Amendments

P21/S0847/HH Erection of triple garage Gosbrook House Binfield Heath RG9 4JY The Parish Council had recommended approval of this application. Decision ratified.

*Cllr Ransom left the meeting as she is related to the applicant of P21/S0250/FUL.

P21/S0250/FUL (AMENDED) Subdivision of cottage into 2 self contained 4 bedroom villas with extensions and alterations (alterations to frontage parking and landscaping, reduction of first floor depth, changes to appearance of elevations and details of home office outbuildings provided, as shown on amended plans received 26th March 2021) Elm Cottage Binfield Heath RG9 4LE
AMENDED RESPONSE submitted 13th April 2021: "*BHPC has no objection to the recent/amended application*"

This was discussed at length with a member of the public as he had concerns about the space for 6 cars to park and have the ability to drive out into the road without reversing. He pointed out that the amended plans had pushed the space available forwards leaving less room for any screening. The Parish Council is duly concerned and has raised this in its first response to the application but now feels that it is the remit of Highways to make a decision on this issue.

*Cllr Ransom returned to the meeting.

P21/S1406/LB Extensive repair or reconstruction of the ashlar stone face to the former brick building. Holmwood Shiplake Row Binfield Heath RG9 4DP This was discussed and the Parish Council will recommend approval of this application. All agreed.

Applications Granted

P21/S/0521/HH Erection of a garden room in the garden of the Old House. The Old House Shiplake Row Binfield Heath RG9 4DR

14/21 Highways/Transport and General Maintenance A resident asked about the proposal to stop large lorries travelling through Henley. She was assured by Cllr Rawlins that it would be something that would be a long term plan subject to consultation and would need a lot of funding.

15/21 Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Ransom summarised the results of the questionnaire. The majority of the 55 responses were positive with about 20 offering to help in some way. They had been passed to Cllr Davis who summarised the positive responses. Cllr Davis proposed that as a consequence of the overwhelming support, Binfield Heath Parish Council proceeds with the development and implementation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan with the designated area being the Binfield Heath Parish Boundary. Cllr Lacey seconded the proposal. All agreed. Cllr Davis will lead the development and begin by submitting the Area of Designation Form and the boundary map. He will then ask those residents interested in being involved to come forward and a Steering Group can be set up. Cllr Ransom was asked how many houses had had the chance to respond. She responded that every house had received a form either by hand, by post or by e-mail.

16/21 Defibrillator The Clerk has been unable to contact Millie's Dream. However other quotations will be sought. (**Clerk to action**)

17/21 Website The website is difficult to access and the PC is working to make the website compliant as is required.

Meeting of the Recreation Ground Charities & Allotment for the Labouring Poor Charity

10/21 Recreation Ground

10.01/21 An inspection was carried out this week.

10.02/21 The residents from Kings Common Close have provided some costs for materials to resurface and enlarge the car park. They are willing to undertake the work. However, enquiries need to be made regarding insurance when machinery is involved.

10.03/21 The option of more bins will be discussed at the next meeting.

11/21 Allotments All tenanted.

The meeting ended at 9pm

The next meeting is Monday 24th May (either in person or virtual)

REPORT TO BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2021 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW GENERAL OCC REPORT

PEOPLE REMINDED TO THINK 111 BEFORE ATTENDING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

NHS 111 is a national system that people should contact if they need clinical advice. People who need clinical advice but **aren't in a life-threatening emergency** are asked to contact NHS 111 first **before** attending their local Emergency Department (A&E). However, if it would be more appropriate for them to receive clinical advice elsewhere, they will be advised on:

- How to self-care if required
- Visiting their local pharmacy, dentist, optician, or their own GP for help
- Visiting a local minor injuries unit

Launched in Oxfordshire in November 2020, the programme plays an important part in managing patient flow in healthcare settings and reducing overcrowding.

STOP SMOKING SERVICE LAUNCHES IN OXFORDSHIRE

- Stop for Life Oxon launches in Oxfordshire from **1st April 2021**. Commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council, and operated by ICE Creates Ltd it has increased the range of support options to those people who are ready to quit and provides specialist stop smoking support and advice to increase people's chances of quitting. The service is driven to achieve the priority outcomes for tobacco as agreed by the [Oxfordshire Tobacco Control Strategy 2020-25](#): reducing smoking amongst adults, cutting the number of pregnant women who smoke and reducing the prevalence of smoking in workplaces where smoking rates are high. Oxfordshire residents will be able to use a range of tools and support to help them stop smoking, including an app 'Best-You'. A free and confidential service, Stop for Life Oxon recognises that different types of support work for different people and the service provides three levels of support for clients who are triaged by the expert team. Visit:
 - www.stopforlifeoxon.org
 - Email: info@stopforlife.co.uk
 - Call: 0800 122 3790

MILLIONS OF POUNDS TO BE INVESTED IN HIGHWAY REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS

More improvements are on the way for Oxfordshire's motorists, cyclists and pedestrians in the next 12 months as a result of investment in the network totalling £31.3 million. Roads, cycleways, bridges, drainage, pavements and streetlights will all benefit from the programme, which is part of Oxfordshire County Council's wider investment into highway infrastructure. The list of projects include resurfacing, embankment repairs, road edge strengthening, surface dressing to waterproof and extend the life of roads, and recycling schemes using new techniques that incorporate old road materials. Repairs are identified either through reports from the public or during the council's own routine inspections. People can report any defect found with the highways at any time using [Fix My Street](#). Between April 2020 and March 2021, Oxfordshire County Council treated just under 1.5 million square metres of highway at more than 220 sites, with works valued at just over £20m.

GRASS-ROOTS FUNDING MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE

Over 350 projects have benefited from Oxfordshire County Council's Councillor Priority Fund with each of the authority's 63 county councillors having £15,000 available to them to award in grants to projects within their area.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BINFIELD HEATH

FMS ENQ21891402: 'WIG WAG' SIGN NEAR SHIPLAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The 'Wig-Wag' sign near Shiplake Primary has yet again been demolished by a passing/turning lorry. This is the third time this has happened since I have been a councillor. The last time the sign was re-erected, I requested re-positioning, but this was refused by Highways officers. The current sign has been in place for less than 18 months and I am pressing the case that it is futile to re-erect the sign in the same position.

FMS 2629166 POTHOLE ON GRAVEL ROAD

At the request of Cllr Ransom, I escalated this enquiry and as a result his location was inspected this morning and has been raised as a defect for repair within 24 hours. There are some other less severe defects on Gravel Road that have been put in for 28-day repairs.

CONDITION OF WALL AT 'WALLED GARDEN HOUSE'

The Chairman has alerted me to concerns about the condition of the wall at 'Walled Garden House'. I have advised that the owner should address the issue as a matter of urgency. I have also suggested contacting Historic England to see if the wall is listed and to see if any repair grants are available. As I am aware of the issue I have had to refer it to OCC and SODC on safety grounds.

STREETLIGHTS ON A4155

An informal poll on the Shiplake village website indicated an overwhelming desire for the lights to be turned off until the site is occupied (there was only one resident who wanted them left on). Officers have discussed the matter with Taylor Wimpey and both parties are reluctant to turn off the lights for planning and safety reasons. I have asked for further clarification.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR BINFIELD HEATH

P20/S2808/DIS: THAMES FARM

Taylor Wimpey now propose to pipe the surface water towards Henley rather than into the Lashbrook. This might solve the problem for Shiplake but has provoked a backlash from Henley residents. No official application has been received by SODC.

THAMES FARM: FENCING

The moth-balled site has been shielded with close-clad fencing. This is temporary and not a replacement for tree replanting.

SODC ward councillor's report Binfield Heath – 26th April 2021

Covid-19 Covid cases continue at a low level – even slightly down on my last report for March. At 20/4, Oxford City was at a weekly rate of 20 per 100k population. By comparison, Cherwell DC was 33, West Oxon DC at 19, SODC at 16 and Vale of WH DC at 21. Reading BC (to 20th April) was at 24. On 12th April, non-essential retail, community centres, pubs (outdoors only) and gyms re-opened in England. It is clear that cases in hospital are reducing - although of course there remains pressure – including from waiting lists for a range of other conditions. On 17th May the rule of 6 or two households is anticipated to apply indoors and with cinemas/theatres etc re-opening.

The vaccine programme continues apace. The national programme got all of the first 4 priority groups first dose done by mid-February (– being over 70s, clinically highly vulnerable people and healthcare plus social care staff - around 15m people) and the first dose for the next 5 groups (down to age 50 - around 17m people) by mid-April. All adults are expected to have a first dose by end July. The programme will continue with 2nd doses with the aim of reaching all (of age 16+) before the end of September. As noted above there may then need to be booster vaccinations for new strains and to maintain antibody levels. As yet it is

believed that having had a vaccination is not a guarantee against being infected by the virus or indeed against passing the virus to others – though it is expected to improve matters. Increased testing is intended - including a plan to roll-out home testing. Separately testing centres are being opened with a view to improve tracking of the virus and with support from local councils. One of these is in at “The Beacon” centre in Wantage in Vale of White Horse; the priority being for public-facing workers and volunteers who are not displaying symptoms. People in these roles who cannot work from home and do not have access to workplace testing will be able to book a weekly test at the centre. Tests take only 15 minutes with results available within an hour. There is another testing centre in Osney Mead, Oxford. Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 have no symptoms but can still pass it on and so regular testing of public-facing workers will help to stop the spread of the virus.

SODC continues to administer the £500 payments for qualifying individuals who need to self-isolate. Government have announced a Transportation Grant scheme to help with the costs borne by groups offering to get people to medical appointments or to Covid jabs, delivering medical supplies to individuals as needed and helping people get to supermarkets for essential shopping. These grants are being administered by SODC; deadline is the 14th May. Contact: grants@southandvale.gov.uk . Government has also announced business “Restart grants” which are also to be administered by SODC. Businesses should sign up for the South and Vale business newsletter to get further details as they arrive:- www.SVBS.co.uk The grant will pay up to £6,000 for non-essential retail businesses, and up to £18,000 for hospitality businesses, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym or sport business premises. Applications will be open until 30 June and final payments will be made by 31 July 2021.

Joint Plan (SODC and Vale of White Horse) At its council meeting on 25th March SODC agreed to proceed with a Joint Local Plan – together with Vale of White Horse. The form of Joint Local Plan is to be under section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 – this requires both councils to approve the plan at key stages and thus gives reassurance and protects the interests of each party. This would save costs and help officers undertake certain standard activities such as Sustainability Analysis and research on Habitats that are required processes. It could also lead to a joint planning policy book. Each council would still need to approve the Plan. Although governance details have yet to be arranged in detail, it is likely that each district would focus on sites in their own area.

Leisure Centres Leisure centres and their operators have been hard hit by the pandemic – both by lockdown closures required by law and from social distancing costs and reduced visits when open. At its council meeting on 25th March SODC agreed to a financial support package to GLL its contracted leisure centre operator, subject to formal agreements being concluded. SODC’s leisure centres have been making a phased re-opening from 12th April and opening hours can be found on-line.

SODC policy At its council meeting on 25th March SODC agreed to work with its two Clinical Commissioning Groups to ensure that primary health care is expanded to meet the pressure of new homes and increasing population pressures. In particular to ensure delivery of new or expanded health centres as required and that funding (e.g. CIL) is accessed and deployed as intended to meet residents’ needs. It also agreed to • press for leisure facilities to meet appropriate needs in all areas of the district and to work with developers with a view to ensuring delivery of these. • support community wealth-building projects with local communities • seek to support the retention of local pubs • recognise the neutrally diverse needs of residents, and • to offer to run a pilot for Universal Basic Income should government seek a local partner for a pilot.

Local Lottery The local lottery continues to raise money – now in its 3rd year. It has raised £70k for good causes and awarded £15k in prizes. Keep safe!

Leigh Rawlins
District Councillor