

BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Binfield Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 25th April at 7.00pm in the Scout Hut

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

010/22 Allotments. The remaining allotment has been offered to a person on the waiting list.

011/22 Recreation Ground

011.01/22 Regular inspections have taken place.

011.02/22 Playdale will undertake the repairs week beginning 3rd May.

011.03/22 The daffodils planted by the Scouts are now blooming on the bank at the bottom of the recreation ground. The PC is grateful to the Scout Group.

012/22 Public Forum No public presence. However, a complaint about the noise over Easter at the Recreation Ground had been received and other neighbours confirmed that it had been noisy on one particular day. The PC discussed this and trust that this occasion will be a one-off event. A reply will be sent. **(Clerk to action)**

The meeting of the Parish Council

Present Cllr P Rollason, Cllr L Ransom, Cllr S Summerland, Cllr H Lacey, Cllr D Bartholomew (OCC, SODC), Cllr L Rawlins (SODC).

055/22 Apologies Cllr Sarah Fulton-Urry, Cllr Robert Davis.

056/22 Declarations of Interest None

057/22 Minutes of the meetings held on Monday March 28th 2022. Cllr Summerland proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Lacey. All agreed.

058/22 Matters Arising All items on the agenda

059/22 County Councillor's report Cllr Bartholomew briefly discussed local matters. His full report is attached to the minutes. He had escalated the need for the white line painting at the junction of Dunsden Way and Arch Hill.

060/22 District Councillor's report Cllr Rawlins presented his report. His full report is attached to these minutes.

061/22 Public Forum No public presence

062/22 Financial Situation

062.01/22 The financial position had been circulated.

062.02/22 The April accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £9,612.80 were authorised for payment. These payments were proposed by Cllr Summerland and seconded by Cllr Lacey. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

062.03/22 The Clerk confirmed that all paperwork is with the internal auditor and will then be prepared for submission to the external auditor. **(Clerk to action)**

063/22 Planning Matters.

Applications GRANTED by SODC None

Elm Tree Farm Common Lane Binfield Heath RG9 4JY [P22/S0665/HH](#) & [P22/S0666/LB](#)
Proposed demolition of existing rear extension and 2 x existing ancillary outbuildings and erection of replacement linked extension with part basement and part mezzanine accommodation.
Alternative to scheme approved by applications [P21/S4670/HH](#) and [P21/S4672/LB](#)

COMPLETED Applications for Ratification

The Stable Hampstead Farm Binfield Heath RG9 4LG amendment (no. 2), on application [P21/S4988/FUL](#) as amplified by additional bat information received 05 April 2022 It was decided that no response was necessary.

NEW Applications for Discussion (10mins) None

064/22 Neighbourhood Plan

064.01/22 Display Boards are being prepared for display at the APM next month which will update the residents on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan.

064.02/22 An overhead projector is to be purchased by BHPC & EDPC jointly for use by the NDP groups and for use at future events. **(Clerk to action)**

065/22 Community Matters The installation of the defibrillator is delayed because of the flint wall of the shop. It may be necessary to place battens on the wall prior to mounting the defibrillator.

The Councillors are considering the position. **(Clerk to action)**

066/22 Highways/Transport and General Maintenance The fence along Arch Hill that blew down in the recent gale has been cleared and replaced.

067/22 Green & Open Spaces Cllr Ransom had attended a meeting to discuss extending the Chilterns AONB. In order to take this idea forward it appears that focussing on the landscape studies being undertaken by the various NDP groups would boost any application for extension.

Undertaking a combined PC landscape assessment was suggested at a small cost for each PC which could then form a basis for a renewed AONB application. Minutes of the meeting will follow.

068/22 Website Compliance The website compliance is being addressed. Cllr Ransom has spoken to a resident who has seriously impaired vision. She is going to view the website to ascertain problems. The EDPC Chairman is also working on its website.

069/22 Neighbourhood Watch The Clerk had forwarded an e-mail to Cllr Fulton-Urry announcing a forthcoming NW meeting.

070/22 Platinum Jubilee The tree planting discussion was deferred. It was decided that as the flagpole does not fit practically at the shop the idea would be shelved for the meantime.

071/22 Consultations None

072/22 Annual Parish Meeting This will be discussed when Cllr Davis is available. The meeting will then be advertised. **(Cllr Davis and Clerk to action)**

Matters for future consideration

The meeting finished at 8.30 pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday May 23rd 2022

REPORT TO BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL APR 2022 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW GENERAL OCC REPORT

FARMERS PROTEST AT CABINET MEETING – WITH JEREMY CLARKSON!



In December, the LibDem/Green/Labour administration at OCC forced through a motion at Full Council to “ensure that food provided at **all** council-catered events and meetings is entirely plant-based.” The motion also sought to “ensure that Council school meals services have plant-based menus available as part of their regular offer on at least **two** days per week.” In the face of a wall of negative publicity, including a demonstration by local farmers at County Hall that over-shadowed the council’s budget-setting meeting on 8th February, the officer report published on 7th March massively scaled back the proposals. It recommended that the vegan diet was only to be imposed on councillors at Full Council meetings six or seven times a year and on the general public at civic events, with officers entirely exempt. A ‘graduated approach’, starting with one day per week, was to be applied to schools. The report was approved by Cabinet on 15th March, despite strong Conservative opposition. Once again, there was a large protest outside by farmers – including Jeremy Clarkson – as

the meeting took place.

PARTNERSHIP WITH CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Efforts to unpick the agreement between OCC and Cherwell District Council continue.

INTERNATIONAL TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY

On Thursday 31 March OCC celebrated the annual international Trans Day of Visibility (TDoV), which is dedicated to recognising the resilience and accomplishments of trans and non-binary people and raising awareness of discrimination and struggles faced by the trans community.

FIRE AND RESCUE COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

A four-year community risk management plan (CRMP) has been launched by OCC's Fire and Rescue Service as part of its commitment to reduce dangers from fires and other emergencies. The CRMP details priorities until 2026, divided into four categories: response, prevention, protection, and people and wellbeing. The plan's objectives include:

- Becoming a more diverse workforce.
- Targeting residents most at risk from fires and accidents.
- Reducing risks in commercial buildings and acting when dangerous situations are found.
- Maximising resources to provide the quickest responses to emergency calls.

FOCUS ON OXFORD CITY

A large number of initiatives focusing on the city of Oxford have been announced or continue. These include: electric buses; e-cargo bikes; zero emission city grant; Folly Bridge repairs; Kennington improvement programme; Oxford City Football Club land issues.

WOMEN'S TOUR CYCLING RACE SET FOR OXFORDSHIRE FINALE

The 2022 Women's Tour, an international women's cycling stage race, will end with an Oxfordshire finale in June. Stage six will start in Chipping Norton before culminating in Oxford city centre. OCC is one of race organiser SweetSpot's sponsors.

RESIDENTS URGED TO FOLLOW THE CODE AND 'SCRAP' FLY TIPPING

The Oxfordshire Resources and Waste Partnership, made up of all the councils in Oxfordshire, has launched a campaign to SCRAP fly tipping by making sure people know their responsibilities when it comes to disposing of their waste.

Residents are being urged to follow the SCRAP code, developed by the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership, to avoid fines and prosecution:

- **Suspect all waste carriers.**
- **Check with the Environment Agency through its [website](#) or on 03708 506 506 that the provider taking waste away is licensed.**
- **Refuse unexpected offers to have waste taken away.**
- **Ask what will happen to your waste.**
- **Paperwork should be obtained – such as a detailed invoice, waste transfer note or full receipt.**

PRIORITIES OF LIBDEM/GREEN/LABOUR ADMINISTRATION

The administration has re-announced its plan for the period of 2022 to 2025. The plan details nine key priorities the council aims to address, including tackling inequalities in the county, the climate emergency and creating more opportunities for children and young people. Unfortunately, Highways issues such as road repairs and drainage are not mentioned, despite these matters featuring in the majority of emails received by most councillors. Details can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/our-vision-0>

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR BINFIELD HEATH

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I received an enquiry about this from a member of the PC. I advised this was not an OCC responsibility but provided a relevant website link.

FMS REF: ENQ22915212 WHITE LINES AT DUNSDEN WAY AND ARCH HILL

I escalated this at the request of the PC and can advise that the refurbishment of the lines at the junction of Dunsden Way and Arch Hill is included in the works programme and it will be completed over the coming weeks as the contractors work their way around the area.

GENERAL SODC REPORT

COUNCIL MEETING FORMAT

As previously advised, I have had many complaints from residents (in relation to planning meetings in particular) that they feel it is anti-democratic to compel members of the public who wish to attend meetings to equip themselves with laptops and headsets then travel to Didcot to sit in rows looking at screens. This practice also impairs the smooth-running of meetings for councillors. Conservatives are pressing for a return to normal but the administration intends to continue with Covid-style meetings for reasons that aren't clear.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR BINFIELD HEATH

P21/S4616/FUL ERECTION OF 11 DWELLINGS AT REAR OF CROSSWAYS

Despite being rejected when put forward for the JHHNP, an application for this proposal was submitted to SODC. It has now been refused.

P20/S2103/FUL ERECTION OF 20 DWELLINGS AT REAR OF CROSSWAYS

This has previously been refused and an appeal has now come forward.

P20/S2808/DIS: THAMES FARM

Taylor Wimpey withdrew its revised drainage proposal which involved pumping the surface water from the site along the A4155 to Sheephouse Lane. They submitted an 'Application for a Certification of Lawfulness' in respect of ground compacting grouting proposals, which was refused. I am still awaiting a response to my request for the abandoned site to be tidied up .

P21/S4271/RM WYEVALE 40 DWELLINGS

Objections have been received from OCC LLFA, OCC Transport, S&V Drainage, S&V Forestry, S&V Landscape, Thames Water and TVP. An amended application has now been received in draft form, however the developer has now also submitted a new application for 55 dwellings.

P21/S5382/FUL WYEVALE 55 DWELLINGS

The developer has now submitted a new application for 55 houses. To accommodate this, the shared green spaces have been removed and three-storey apartment blocks introduced. I have advised OCC that both Harpsden PC and Shiplake PC strongly oppose the extension of the 30mph limit towards Henley and the introduction of a 'gateway' feature.

SODC ward councillor's report Binfield Heath – 25th April 2022

Covid-19

Following the national pattern, Covid cases fell back then surged strongly again and appear now to have plateaued and to be falling back a bit. At 03/04/2022, Oxford City was at a weekly rate of 704 per 100k population (it peaked at 1,504 on 6th Jan and then troughed at 437 on 28th February.). By comparison, Cherwell DC was 857 (peak was 18,826 on 3rd

Jan.), West Oxon DC at 795 (peak was 1,565 on 3rd Jan.), SODC at 910 (peak was 1,522 on 3rd Jan. and it then troughed at 430 on 27th February) and Vale of WH DC at 844 (peak was 1,565 on 3rd Jan.). Reading BC (to 3rd April 2022) was at 763 (having peaked at 1,780 on 4th Jan). These levels were still higher than they were in November and December; by way of comparison at 4th November SODC was at 363 and by the 3rd December was at 764 – whereas at 3rd April the figure was at 910 weekly per 100k of population!

The incidences are mostly mild for those with boosted vaccinations and those with antibodies. However local hospitals have reported being under increased pressure. Since the end of free testing the data feeds into the dashboards are much less reliable and Berkshire has therefore removed their one from their site. The Oxfordshire one continues and at 17th April showed a much reduced rate of 368 as a weekly rate per 100k of population for SODC. There is some reason to believe that incidences have indeed been falling back, however there is also some doubt as to how fully this reporting reflects the whole truth.

There are suggestions from WHO that the BA.2 variant of Omicron is some 30% more contagious than the main Omicron variant and is becoming dominant. More recently there have been suggestions of a “Deltacron” variant comprising elements of Delta and Omicron in France and the USA; however little is yet known about it. However we are seeing a firm climb in cases after the ending of restrictions – probably driven by the BA.2 Omicron variant. Boosters and vaccinations continue.

The advice must still be to proceed with caution and to protect the more vulnerable.

Ukraine

The local councils of Oxfordshire have organised an emergency structure for dealing with all the aspects of Ukrainian refugees at both county and district level. It is anticipated that staff will be diverted from roles to support this – echoing what was done for Covid.

(Unfortunately, as noted above Covid has not gone away!) So overall staffing will be under considerable pressure. Government is providing local councils with funding to help with their role in supporting refugees; this will be routed through county and shares provided to districts.

SODC will register host who can receive refugees and also vet the properties to ensure that they meet reasonable standards. There will also be a need to do DBS (enhanced level) safeguarding checks on hosts and those living there. SODC are already scheduled to receive 200 refugees and more will follow.

If residents would like to contribute to relief it is recommended that donations are made to the Disasters Emergency Committee online. The link is:-

https://www.dec.org.uk/?gclid=CjoKCQjwz7uRBhDRARIsAFqjulkn5K11ryFs9xQQoLwvss231BEfXsmrv2t32MdCrEB83ZpefccWiYMaAjQAEALw_wcB

The Government (DLUHC) has suggested a scheme to contribute £350 per month to those who can accommodate refugees. Also where a householder is in receipt of a single-occupier discount this will not be lost if they become a host for Ukrainian refugees. Anyone who wishes to make a housing offer can contact the councils’ (joint) housing team using the email: housing@southandvale.gov.uk.

SODC have set up the following link:- Support for Ukraine webpage that provides all the information on how you can support the various organisations that are helping those still in Ukraine with food, water, medicines and shelter during the conflict.

Communications and Engagement

SODC is reviewing its approach to communications and engagement to provide a more consistent approach and to plan sustainable uses of new media.

CIL Rates

New CIL rates are being proposed by SODC for examination by an inspector in the autumn. All being well we would hope to see a significant uplift in rates.

Leigh Rawlins District Councillor