

BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Binfield Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 22nd January at 7.00pm in the Palmer Room at Dunsden Hall

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

01/24 Allotments. All rents paid and a potential tenant is looking at the last 1/2 allotment this week.

02/24 Recreation Ground

02.01/23 Regular inspections have taken place.

02.02/23 Playground repairs to be undertaken by Playdale. Deposit paid. Date awaited.

03/24 Public Forum No comments

The meeting of the Parish Council

Present Cllr P Rollason, Cllr L Ransom, Cllr H Lacey, Cllr S Summerland, Cllr Sarah Fulton-Urry, Cllr Robert Davis, Cllr D Bartholomew (OCC), Cllr Mike Giles (SODC). 11 members of the public.

001/24 Apologies. Cllr L Rawlins (SODC)

002/24 Declarations of Interest None

003/24 Minutes of the meetings held on Monday November 27th 2023. Cllr Summerland proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Ransom. All agreed.

004/24 Matters Arising All items on the agenda.

005/24 County Councillor's report Cllr Bartholomew's full report is attached to the minutes. Cllr Bartholomew was asked about the work by Zoom in Shiplake. He assured the Chairman that the PC would be contacted if Zoom was being offered in Binfield Heath. He reiterated the need for all reports to be reported on Fix My Street. If no action is taken, if Cllr Bartholomew is given the reference number, he will then escalate the issue.

006/24 District Councillor's report Cllr Giles presented his report that is attached to these minutes. Cllr Giles was asked about the difficulty in accessing the Local Plan in order to make a response. He will report back.

007/24 Public Forum Concerns from the public were related to planning. See **009/24** below

008/24 Financial Situation

008.01/24 The financial position had been circulated.

008.02/24 The January accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £3,841'59 were authorised for payment. These payments were proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Davis. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

008.03/24 A request from the Citizens Advice Bureau had been received. A £50 donation was agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

009/24 Planning Matters

Applications granted by SODC

Well House Crowsley RG9 4JL P23/S3977/HH Proposed conversion of tack and mower store into ancillary accommodation (retrospective). Some residents present raised an issue with the SODC Councillor present with respect to the granting of this retrospective application as it sets a precedent. A resident from Crowsley spoke of inconsistency in SODC's approach to planning, along with a lack of willingness to enforce guidelines and setting dangerous precedents. He will be processing a freedom of information search on how the decision was made. Cllr Giles promised to investigate what had happened and why.

High Meadow, Kiln Lane, Binfield Heath P22/S3894/HH Replacement roof, two storey and single storey rear extension, fenestration and internal alterations, porch addition and replacement garage.
Iona, Kiln Lane Binfield Heath RG9 4EL P23/S3919/HH Single storey rear extension and internal alterations.

Completed applications for ratification

Land north of Shiplake Row RG9 4DR P23/S3855/FUL Removal of the existing equestrian building, hardstanding and structures followed by the development of one new self-build family home, parking, amenity space and new soft landscaping. The PC recommended refusal of this application.

Decision ratified.

Iona, Kiln Lane Binfield Heath RG9 4EL P23/S3919/HH Single storey rear extension and internal alterations. The PC had no problems with this application. Decision ratified.

Well House Crowsley RG9 4JL P23/S3977/HH Proposed conversion of tack and mower store into ancillary accommodation (retrospective). The PC recommended refusal of this application. Decision ratified.

7 New Road Binfield Heath RG9 4EP P23/S4004/HH Retrospective application for proposed single storey extension and first floor balcony. The PC made a response regarding the balcony. Decision ratified.

Binfield Heath Stores Arch Hill Binfield Heath RG9 4DU P23/S2237/FUL Erection of two semi-detached dwellings in the rear garden of Binfield Heath Stores including new shared driveway and entrance gates, accessed via Arch Hill (dwellings repositioned, roof lowered, external materials changed and supplementary statement regarding impact on village shop received 19th December 2023). By a majority decision the PC has no further problems with the application as it now stands. Decision ratified. The public present wished to discuss the response and there is wide concern that nothing is yet being done to find a new sub postmaster to take over and the fear is that the post office facility could be lost. Concern was also expressed as to the hold on the application by Cllr Rawlins. The Chairman agreed to pass on these comments and concerns to Tristan Phillimore.

(Chairman to action)

New Applications

14 Heathfield Avenue Binfield Heath RG9 4ED P23/S/4272/HH Proposed pitch roof and two-storey rear infill extensions and single storey rear extension. Neighbours present explained that there was a boundary issue with this application. The PC suggested that the residents contacted their solicitor regarding this. In its response the PC highlighted possible issues but made no specific recommendation to SODC.

010/24 Neighbourhood Plans

010.01/24 BHPC made a response to the EDPC Neighbourhood Plan.

010.02/24 Councillor Davis had sent an update to the NP. The NP is now entering the examination process and an examiner has been selected.

011/24 Community Matters

012/24 Highways/Transport and General Maintenance

011.01/24 Cllr Ransom asked if the phone box could be repainted. The Chairman will request a quotation from a local contractor. **(Chairman to action)**

011.02/24 A resident reported that the Arriva App is not working. This will be reported in the newsletter.

011.03/24 A resident reported that some fingerposts in the parish were twisted or needed adjustment. The Clerk was asked to report these when specific positions were given. **(Clerk to action)**

013/24 Green & Open Spaces A resident has kindly offered to paint the white post at the end of the short footpath leading to Heathfield Avenue. He also mentioned the litter thrown and dumped into the ditch on Arch Hill. A litter pick will be organised and put on the next agenda. **(Clerk to action)**

014/24 Website The website is being revised starting in February. **(Clerk & Cllr Ransom to action)**

015/24 Consultations A response to the Local Plan will be made. Cllr Davis will circulate his comments for other Councillors to add to if desired. There are two main concerns: The PC rejects the Oxford housing numbers; Binfield Heath cannot be described as open countryside. Previously it was referred to as a smaller village. The considered response will be sent to SODC **(Clerk to action)**

016/24 Matters for future consideration

The meeting finished at 9.10pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday February 26th 2024 at Dunsden Hall