

BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Binfield Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday July 20th 2020 at 6 pm by Zoom

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

12/20 Allotments

12.01/20 The back gate to the allotments was discussed as it is possible that cars parked there might hide the junction signage. Tristan Phillimore has offered to provide parking space in the field on the other side of the allotments instead. It was decided that any decision would wait until the OCC changes planned for the crossroads had taken place and see whether these improve the present accident rate.

12.02/20 The allotments have been inspected and are looking tidy and well cultivated. A note to the few that need attention will be sent to tenants with the renewal letters to be sent out this week.

13/20 Recreation Ground

13.01/20 It had been decided after insurance and ROSPA advice to keep the playground closed as the ROSPA inspection is due this month. The equipment was taped up yet again. However, a member of the public was seen cutting this tape within hours of its application, thus unofficially reopening the area. A detailed inspection took place on July 7th. At this meeting a decision was taken to put up a sign indicating that the equipment could be used along government guidelines but with users taking responsibility for their wellbeing and that of their children. Sanitizer may be provided as a trial in the play area. **(Clerk to action)**

Two formal notices concerning these events have been filed by the Clerk.

13.02/20 A significant amount of litter is still being left around in the Recreation Ground. Despite a friendly approach, a group of boys from outside the area using the football posts refused to clear up their litter. The trustees decided to remove the football posts which were in poor condition and replace with moveable or lockable ones. Separately, dealing and using drugs is an ongoing issue in the area. The police met with Councillors to discuss the anti-social behaviour and the problems with drug dealing and usage and made a number of suggestions including removing the shelter.

14/20 Public Forum

A number of e-mails had been sent to the Chairman complaining about the excessive noise from the Recreation Ground in the late evening. The police were called (101) but no unit was available to attend. On occasions youths were just being a nuisance using the equipment inappropriately and noisily late at night disturbing residents nearby. Car registration numbers were taken and are available if necessary.

Closing the Recreation Ground at 9pm was discussed again although this is difficult with the number of entry points. It was also pointed out the young people often just jump over the fence. Jake Treasure was asked if he had an idea for replacing the goal posts with a possible set that was removable. Jake pointed out that he had looked at the possibility of that type but that the uneven nature of the recreation ground would quickly damage the wheels/castors when moved. The static variety would be the better option and he mentioned the possibility of a reduced price via Henley Football Club. He added that the area around the football posts was clearly eroded and that it would need attention (filling, levelling and reseeding) before putting new posts in, even if the position was moved forwards. Moving posts to one side would not work as the field slopes. Unfortunately timing for reseeding while the field was in frequent use was far from ideal. Turfing would be an option but would still take time to bed in.

Jake was thanked for his contribution and if he provided quotations the Trustees would look at these with a view to purchase.

Mrs Powell was asked if she had anything to add. She said that she would like a commitment from the Trustees that action will be taken as quickly as possible. Despite no meeting in August, the Trustees will continue to work to provide a safe recreation area for Binfield Heath residents.

The meeting of the Parish Council

Present Cllr P Rollason, Cllr L Ransom, Cllr S Summerland, Cllr H Lacey, Cllr Sarah Fulton-Urry and Cllr K Maher. Cllr D Bartholomew (OCC) and Cllr L Rawlins (SODC) arrived at 7.45pm. Three members of the public.

53/20 Apologies for absence None

54/20 Declarations of Interest None

55/20 Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Monday June 22nd 2020 Cllr Summerland proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Ransom. All agreed.

56/20 Matters Arising All items on the agenda.

57/20 County Councillor's report Cllr Bartholomew's general report will be attached to the minutes. On local matters he reported that a) the consultation about the Reading Transport Strategy 2036 (including a North Reading Orbital route, a third Reading Bridge and North Reading Park & Rides) is available for responses until August 31st and he reminded the PC to respond both individually as well as within the PC group (**All Councillors to action**) b) local work at Coppid Crossroads will take place soon c) Discussions with Thames Water are taking place and there will be a report on the recent disruption in Binfield Heath d) he has put in a response to the application for 20 more houses next to Thames Farm.

58/20 District Councillor's report Cllr Rawlins briefly introduced his report. His full report is attached to these minutes.

59/20 Public Forum/Correspondence A member of the public sent an e-mail regarding the informal arrangement with the land at the end of Gravel Rd used as allotments. In response he was advised that the PC was not responsible for the Gravel Road allotments and the PC suggested his request for beehive space should be put in the village Newsletter.

60/20 Financial Situation

60.01/20 The financial position was circulated.

60.02/20 The July accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £1258.22 were authorised for payment by BACS. These payments were proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Fulton-Urry. (**Clerk to action**)

60.03/20 Councillor expenses: None this month

60.04/20 External Audit: The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had scrutinised the accounts and had no issues. The Audit Commission Accounting Statements had been presented to the Parish Council. These had been read and were approved by all Councillors present at the virtual meeting. The Chairman and Clerk will meet and physically sign the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements. Paperwork will then be prepared and placed on the parish website. The exemption certificate will be submitted to the external auditor.

61/20 Planning Matters

New Applications

P20/S1991/FUL Proposed new 4 bedroom residential dwelling, built within the garden of Oak House Cottage. New single storey, single car, oak frame car port. Land next to Oak House Cottage Track leading to Box Cottage Common Lane Binfield Heath RG9 4JY

This application was discussed as it has a major effect on the cottages nearby. It is also situated on the AONB. It is a rural location on the edge of Binfield Heath and Mr Murray-Leach is concerned that the village should not extend further. He pointed out that infrastructure and planning should go hand in hand. This application was discussed with Cllr Bartholomew and in response to the questions raised about the residents' and Councillors' concern Cllr Bartholomew said that although he understood he did not feel that it was necessary to call it in to Committee.

Applications Granted

P20/S1704/HH New Extension & Alterations 10 Heathfield Avenue Binfield Heath RG9 4ED.

62/20 Community Matters

Most of the problems have been centred around the recreation ground. See minutes above.

63/20 Highways/Transport and General Maintenance

The Parish Council has written to Ian Hudspeth regarding the bridge, the Reading North Orbital and the three park and rides now mentioned by Reading. Cllr Ransom attended a virtual meeting of

representatives of 12 PCs concerned about the impact of Reading's proposal. Cllr Ransom reported that there was much positive thinking and she would like someone, maybe a resident who is more aware of the issues to be involved. Mr Murray-Leach offered to look at the paperwork to see if he could offer support. He was thanked and Cllr Ransom will forward some material.

64/20 Neighbourhood Watch Cllr Maher mentioned that the Police were quite frustrated with the civil unrest at present. They will attend if there is evidence of drug dealing and usage.

65/20 Neighbourhood Plan It is felt that the PC cannot move forward until a public meeting of residents can be safely held. However, Cllr. Maher pointed out that following the progress that EDPC were making would be of value and that certain actions could be taken such as deciding the exact area of designation that is not necessarily accepted to be the parish boundary. He said that he would try to kick start an NP in October when his present commitment was completed. Cllr Maher had also attended a recent meeting of the Shiplake Neighbourhood Planning group.

66/20 E-mail problems The Clerk's BHPC e-mail had stopped working but having been given a new password, is now up and running again. The Councillors official e-mails should also be available for use and this will be discussed in September.

67/20 Matters for future consideration Local ditch clearance; e-mails; Neighbourhood Plan; CIL money.

The meeting finished at 8.25pm

Date of next meeting: Monday September 28th 2020