

## **BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Binfield Heath Parish Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 7.45 pm at the Scout Hut**

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Meeting of the Recreation Ground Charities & Allotment for the Labouring Poor Charity  
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**013/19 Recreation Ground** Cllr Maher was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Ransom reported that dog excrement was found in the recreation ground and in the children's sandpit despite the fencing. It would be expensive but the idea of fencing the children's section was suggested as the footpath crossing the recreation ground through the middle was added into the modified footpath map and dog walkers cannot be forbidden from access. The insistence of The Rights of Way to add this when there is an existing footpath around the recreation ground was mentioned to Cllr Bartholomew. The PC will draft a motion to divert the footpath at the next meeting.

**014/19 Allotments** There is a major water leak at the entrance to the allotments. This was discovered by Thames Water and water access has been turned off. The repair will take place as soon as possible. Cllr Summerland had noted that the centre path grass was in need of a cut.

**015/19 Public Forum** No public presence.

#### **The meeting of the Parish Council**

**Present** Cllr P Rollason, Cllr L Ransom, Cllr S Summerland, Cllr H Lacey, Cllr Sarah Fulton-Urry, Cllr D Bartholomew (OCC) and Cllr Rawlins (SODC). 1 member of the public

**070/19 Apologies for absence** Cllr K Maher

**071/19 Declarations of Interest** Cllr Ransom declared an interest in any decision to fund the sound equipment for village use as a member of the Village Society Committee.

**072/19 Minutes of the annual meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019** Cllr Rollason proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Ransom. All agreed.

#### **073/19 Matters Arising**

027.01/19 Heritage Trading have looked at the telephone kiosk and are surprised at the colour. It is thought that last summer's heat may have contributed. The painter will be asked to repaint the three faded sides in July.

073.01/19 It was suggested that a letter was written to the Police Commissioner re the recent drug problems noted on the Recreation Ground. A number of calls to the Police have resulted in no action. **(Clerk to action)**

**074/19 County Councillor's report** Cllr Bartholomew reported that **a)** Cllr David Bartholomew reported that a) £3.5m is to be spent on Oxfordshire roads using a new surface-dressing technique **b)** Rob MacDougall has been appointed as OCC's new Director of Community Safety and Chief Fire Officer **c)** Ansaf Azhar is the new Director of Public Health **d)** Turning Point, the community drug & alcohol service provides treatment and care for adults in Oxfordshire experiencing problems with drugs and alcohol (Contact on 03000134776) **e)** the 30mph speed limit on the A4155 between Tower House and Mill Lane was due to be raised to 40mph. The proposal was approved on 25<sup>th</sup> April. An objection was raised by Retirement Villages and it has now moved to a judicial review **f)** a speed survey has been commissioned by Retirement Villages and the purpose is unclear **g)** the surface dressing has been completed on the Sonning Common Road up to the junction with Devil's Hill but the next section needs extra work with technical and budget issues **h)** Cllr Bartholomew reminded the PC that he has £1000m for 2019/20 to match-fund Highways Projects. It is on the PC agenda.

Cllr Bartholomew also mentioned that he had been asked to call in the decision on Thanksgiving Cottage to committee. This was discussed. Cllrs Rollason and Ransom had received notification that the owners of the site wished to have the amended application called in for SODC planning committee discussion. Background email relating to this to be forwarded by Cllr Ransom to everyone else. **(Cllr Ransom to action)**

**075/19 District Councillor's report** Cllr Rawlins reported that **a)** SODC now has a Housing Land Supply of 9.75 yrs. If the Local Plan was in place this would reduce to 5.17 yrs. **b)** the Local Plan is under discussion and there are a number of options **c)** parking enforcement for areas in South Oxfordshire is being proposed.

**076/19 Public Forum/Correspondence** A resident attended the meeting with an interest in trying to resolve the issues of the containers in the Flower Show Field. The containers have outlived their use and their permission and are unsightly. However, storage is essential and the Parish Council would like to support the investigation into replacing the containers with a better building of some sort. As the land is owned privately, a letter is to be drafted to the owner of the land for discussion at the next meeting. Councillors also touched on the possibility of erecting such a building elsewhere in the village instead if necessary. Cllr Rawlins was asked about available grants, which he will look into once plans are clearer.'

**077/19 Financial Situation**

077.01/19 The financial position was circulated. The Clerk confirmed that all last month's payments had been made and presented a copy of the bank statement for verification.

077.02/19 The June accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £1,867.82 were authorised for payment by BACS and one cheque for the sound equipment for village use. Proposed by Cllr Summerland and seconded by Cllr Lacey. **(Clerk to action)**

077.03/19 Councillor expenses: None this month.

077.04/19 The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had scrutinised the accounts and had no issues. The Audit Commission Accounting Statements were presented to the Parish Council. These were read and approved by all Councillors present. The Chairman and Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements. Paperwork will now be prepared and placed on the parish website. The exemption certificate will be submitted to the external auditor.

077.05/19 The Parish Council approved a cost of a form 'plug-in'! (i.e. a way to fill in a form on-line on the website and send it back without any paper copy.) An invoice will follow.

**078/19 Planning Matters**

***New Applications***

P19/S1459/FUL Planning Application for the creation of a 40m x 20m all-weather riding arena for private use. Land off Keepers Cottage Kiln Lane Binfield Heath Henley on Thames RG9 4EL. This application had been discussed by a working party. The PC had no objections but made one recommendation.

***Applications Granted***

P19/S0781/HH Timber balcony with timber and glass handrail. Flower Cottage Common Lane Binfield Heath RG9 4JZ

Cllr Rawlins was informed about the background to the development of a listed out-building originally in the curtilage of Crowsley Park Farmhouse, and its conversion to an independent dwelling, which had been turned down at committee in a retrospective application. A neighbour has made enquiries concerning a possible appeal by the owners. Councillors to keep a watch on the SODC planning pages.

**079/19 Community Matters**

079.01/19 The dog bin The Clerk is to ascertain the cost of a dog bin and cost of emptying.

079.02/19 Flower Show Field This was discussed under Public Forum

**080/19 Highways/Transport and General Maintenance** The Councillor Priority Fund was discussed and Cllr Bartholomew is to be asked if it is possible to have some advisory signs for deer crossings as they cross every night in the village.

**081/19 Grants and Donations** Clean Slate, a charity that provides long term emotional support for survivors of abuse in Oxfordshire. There are a few people in the area that are receiving support. It was decided to donate £30 to the charity.

**082/19 Neighbourhood Plan** The Parish Council is concerned about how effective a Neighbourhood Plan for Binfield Heath would be with the changes that have taken place and the possibility of the Local Plan changing. Cllr Rawlins could see that Binfield Heath is a particular case as most of the land is owned by a local estate so available land is limited.

**083/19 Neighbourhood Watch** deferred

**084/19 Matters for future consideration** Neighbourhood Plan; Footpath diversion

The meeting finished at 9.45pm

**Date of next meeting: Monday July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019**