

BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Binfield Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th June at 7.00pm in the Palmer Room at Dunsden Hall

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

13/23 Allotments. There is one person on the allotment waiting list.

14/23 Recreation Ground

14.01/23 A regular inspection has taken place. The Chairman will clear greenery that has partially covered one of the waste bins.

14.02/23 The ROSPA inspection will take place in July. The chairman will accompany the inspector.

15/23 Public Forum Nothing to report.

The meeting of the Parish Council

Present Cllr P Rollason, Cllr L Ransom, Cllr H Lacey, Cllr Robert Davis, Cllr Fulton-Urry, Cllr Summerland, Cllr D Bartholomew (OCC, SODC), Cllr L Rawlins (SODC) and two members of the public.

067/23 Apologies None

068/23 Declarations of Interest None

069/23 Minutes of the meetings held on Monday May 22nd 2023. Cllr Ransom proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Summerland. All agreed.

070/23 Matters Arising None

071/23 County Councillor's report Cllr Bartholomew's full report is attached to the minutes. Cllr Bartholomew was asked about the difficulties of exiting at either end of Memorial Avenue due to the overgrown hedges and verges. As both of these involve a dangerous lack of visibility, he suggested reporting on Fix My Street. **(Clerk to action)**

072/23 District Councillor's report Cllr Rawlins' report is attached to these minutes. He suggested encouraging residents to complete the waste consultation. Planning was also discussed regarding the applications below. Advice was given.

073/23 Financial Situation

073.01/23 The financial position had been circulated.

073.02/23 The June accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £1676.37 were authorised for payment. These payments were proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Davis. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

073.03/23 The Annual Governance Statement was presented to the Parish Council. This was read and approved by all Councillors present. The Accounting Statements were presented and approved by all Councillors present. The Chairman and Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements. Paperwork will now be prepared, submitted to the external auditor and placed on the parish website. **(Clerk & Cllr Ransom to action)**

074/23 Planning Matters

Completed applications for ratification None

New Applications

Frieze Cottage Crowsley Henley on Thames P23/S1728/DIS Discharge of condition 3 (Proposed Chimney Pots) on application ref. P22/S4634/LB (- rebuild top of both chimney stacks and replace pots to ensure top of pot is sufficiently raised above surface of thatch - re-thatch the roof - replace windows with double doors to Boot Room and Study - replacement of side gate and re-surfacing of adjacent hard-standing - replacement door to rear Hall. - minor repairs) This was recommended for approval. Decision ratified.

Frieze Cottage Crowsley Henley on Thames P23/S1993/LB Add a block ridge to the thatch rather than a flush ridge. This was recommended for approval. Decision ratified. **(Clerk to action)**

Bottle and Glass Bones Lane Binfield Heath RG9 4JT P21/S1733/FUL Retrospective change of use of the agricultural Dutch barn to provide outdoor dining area, additional seating, external storage and kitchen containers and extraction unit to be used in association with the public house. Addition of timber cladding to barn and screening fencing around containers. (As amplified by floor plan and

elevation plans submitted 08 March 2022) (As amended by plans 2023-02-10 to revise external appearance, provide additional parking, remove retail/shop within barn). (As amplified and amended by Transport Statement and plans to increase overflow car parking received 31 March 2023). The application will be considered by the council's planning committee on Wednesday 28/06/2023. All comments had previously been made.

075/23 Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Davis had sent an update to the NP. He was thanked for the great progress on this. Comments have been received from residents. Mostly these have been supportive and all comments are being considered by Bluestone Planning. Any suggested changes will be looked at by the drafting group. Cllr Lacey was concerned about the length of time it would take to complete. Cllr Davis explained that the timelines were set and if there are not too many issues arising it might be completed by Christmas.

076/23 Neighbourhood Watch The suggestion of setting up a WhatsApp group to alert residents to any problems has resulted in no responses from residents.

078/23 Community Matters

A request for a further defibrillator training session has been received. This will be advertised in the newsletter as it would need 8-10 participants to be viable. **(Cllr Ransom to action)**

079/23 Website Compliance A Zoom meeting is to be set up with a design consultant who is going to look at the Binfield Heath website to see what is necessary for compliance. **(Cllr Ransom and Clerk to action)**

080/23 Public Forum Two residents mentioned an occurrence of Japanese Knotweed in a small area of the village. Action is being taken. It was suggested that a note was placed in the newsletter for residents to keep an eye out for it in their gardens. **(Cllr Ransom to action)**

081/23 Matters for future consideration The Forge
The meeting finished at 8.45pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday July 31st 2023 at the Scout Hut

REPORT TO BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL JUNE 2023 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

COUNCILLOR FELIX BLOOMFIELD BECOMES NEW CHAIR OF OCC

Cllr Felix Bloomfield (Conservative) who represents the Benson and Cholsey division at OCC has been elected as the new Chair of OCC. As the ceremonial head of the council, the chair must be a serving county councillor but must remain politically impartial. A new chair is elected each May at the annual general meeting of the county council. Born in Oxford, and educated locally before attending university in London, Cllr Bloomfield has lived and worked in Oxfordshire most of his life. He was an SODC councillor for 20 years. He was also a professional photojournalist for many years, specialising in motorsport and the music industry.

NEW CABINET MEMBER

Councillor Liz Leffman, Leader of OCC has appointed philosophy student Michael O'Connor

as the new Cabinet Member for Public Health and Equalities. His details can be found here: <https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=12002>

RATIONALISATION OF PROPERTY PORTFOLIO

There is a surfeit of council-owned properties across the county, with some buildings moth-balled and others having very low occupancy rates since 'Working From Home' became widespread. OCC set up a cross-party advisory group recognising that cross-party consensus is required on this matter which could take several terms of office to resolve. The first (provisional) recommendation is that the council moves its Oxford headquarters from County Hall to a reimagined Speedwell House campus in two to three years' time. It is

envisaged that the Speedwell Street offices would be an exemplar for carbon-neutral green offices. The sale or lease of New County Hall would potentially generate significant income, some of which would be invested in the refurbishment of Speedwell House, which is already owned by OCC. Regrettably, South Oxfordshire District Council is not following this lead and plans to spend £25million on a brand-new council HQ.

OCC CELEBRATES BECOMING A CARBON LITERATE ORGANISATION

OCC has received a bronze Carbon Literacy Organisation Award. I am advised a Carbon Literate organisation is an organisation that has been accredited by The Carbon Literacy Project as being 'culturally Carbon Literate'; maintaining a substantial proportion of its workforce as Carbon Literate and demonstrating its Carbon Literacy through its organisational behaviour. Councillor Liz Leffman, Leader of OCC, said: *"We are proud to receive this award, which highlights the importance we place on climate action."*

OXFORD LTNS AND POLLUTION: 'SUFFERING' RESIDENTS FEEL 'TRAPPED'

According to a recent Oxford Mail report, householders living near Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) fear for their health as they bemoan "suffering" from breathing problems from idling cars. Householders have told the paper the traffic reduction measures have contributed towards "breaking the communal spirit", as "some are suffering from increased pollution whilst others are not". Oxford City Councillor Linda Smith (Labour) is quoted as saying householders' concerns about traffic being funnelled down a few roads due to the LTNs "comes as no surprise", as she previously warned OCC about her constituents "tasting fumes".

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR BINFIELD HEATH

SPEEDING NEAR PLAYGROUND AND BUS STOPS

As previously reported, refurbishment/upgrading of village speed signs and road markings should be undertaken within the next three months. Subsequent to the last meeting, at the request of the chairman, I have asked the road team to look at Dunsden Way from the shop to Kings Common Close.

OCC'S RESPONSE TO THE BINFIELD HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTATION

OCC supports the ambition of Binfield Heath Parish Council to prepare a neighbourhood plan and would like to thank the Parish Council for giving the County Council the opportunity to provide comments. These comments have now been submitted to the NP team.

SODC ward councillor's report Binfield Heath – 26th June 2023

Covid-19

The reliability of data on Covid cases is now much reduced following the end of test and trace. However national figures have shown falls in cases – contrary to what might be expected for this time of year. At 17th June 2023, reported cases in SODC were at a weekly rate per 100k of population of 5 (it peaked at 1,504 on 6th January 2022) – a very low level - albeit that reporting may be somewhat incomplete. (Many don't report it.)

District elections 4th May 2023 Just to confirm, although the Lib Dems won enough seats to control SODC, the partnership with the Green party councillors will continue.

Riverside outdoor pool, splash pad and campsite The pool is now open. There is a new cover for the pool overnight to enable the water temperature to stay warmer which will reduce energy use from the pool heaters. The campsite opened to visitors on 1 May after £150,000

refurbishment of the washroom area (and now new guttering too). Campers will be able to visit the site and enjoy the new facilities until the 30 September. The splash pad should be ready for use from July following its renovation currently taking place and paid for by CIL funding (Community Infrastructure Levy). The old surface is being replaced with a new brightly coloured soft rubber crumb finish. The new look pad will have exciting new features shooting out water from colourful columns. These will include sensor operated water jets, tall sprinklers, tipping buckets and water tunnels intended to provide everyone with hours of entertainment! Following last year's success, the Swim Doctor will be back as will the weekly aqua aerobic sessions, plus Riverside will be open from sunrise to sunset for the summer solstice on 21 June. The pool and splash pad will be open for the summer season until Sunday 3 September.

Great Big Green Week 10-18 June This was a national celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. The idea is that we should all try to do something to make our world a little greener. From 12 June residents were invited to take part in a waste satisfaction questionnaire. Questions cover waste collections, street cleansing as well as contact made with the council waste team and Biffa. Please do provide your feedback on the current waste service. This will help when SODC come to designing what will follow when the Biffa contract ends. Also from 12 June there will be a consultation on a recently produced Air Quality Action Plan. These plans have to be reviewed and updated every 5 years or so.

Waste and recycling survey SODC has recently launched a survey to find out what residents think about our waste and recycling services, this includes household waste, recycling and food waste collections, bulky waste collections, street cleaning services, customer services and the councils' waste and recycling information. The feedback received to the survey will help identify satisfaction levels with our waste and recycling services and highlight areas for improvement. The survey runs until 10th July. This survey is being promoted widely since waste and recycling services are used by all residents. Residents can complete the survey online now at – <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/WasteQuestionnaire2023/> Comments are open until 11.59pm on Monday 10 July 2023.

Consultation on (draft)Air Quality Action Plan SODC launched the survey on the council's new joint Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to coincide with Clean Air Day (15 June). The AQAP sets out proposals for the next four years to improve air quality in the districts. This includes the good news that most places have seen a consistent reduction in one of the main measured pollutants: nitrogen dioxide The air quality in our AQMAs (Air Quality Management Areas) has improved greatly, probably because vehicles are less polluting, such that Wallingford and Watlington no longer have to be declared as AQMAs; so it is "proposed they will no longer be designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the future. Air quality monitoring will continue at those places. However, Henley is still so defined, mainly because of high levels of nitrogen oxides recorded in Duke Street. Click here to complete the AQAP survey. Please note the deadline for completing this survey is 11.59pm on Thursday 27 July .

Developing SODC's local food action plans SODC is calling for all local businesses, community growers, voluntary and community groups, food businesses and producers, and more to help us provide fairer, healthier and more sustainable local food systems for our districts. There was an event on Friday 9 June in Didcot to raise awareness of the Oxfordshire Food Strategy, which the councils adopted along with the other Oxfordshire councils and partners in December 2022. There was also be discussion on the development of the South and Vale Food Action Working Group, which will work with stakeholders and partners to shape new action plans. (So SODC and Vale of White Horse working jointly.)
Council grants now available for food banks and community larders The voluntary food

network – voluntary and community organisations such as food banks, food larders and community fridges for residents – plays a vital role supporting people, but demand for their help has surged as fuel and food costs escalate, particularly for everyday staples.* While demand continues to rise, voluntary food networks are seeing their supplies reduce due to a drop in donations from individuals and companies while also facing rising fuel and food costs themselves. To help support the voluntary food network SODC is inviting community food groups to apply for a grant of £2,500 for essential supplies. The grants can be used to help pay for a variety of expenses including food, additional storage and energy bills. The closing date for applications is midday Wednesday 28 June 2023.

For more information on the grant and details on how to apply go to our South Oxfordshire Food Network Grant Scheme page <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/food-network-grant-scheme/>

*Source: ONS Census data December 2022 and Oxfordshire County Council food cost of living data.

Leigh Rawlins & Mike Giles
District Councillors