

## BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Binfield Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm in the Palmer Room at Dunsden Hall

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

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#### **007/22 Allotments. (Clerk to action)**

#### **008/22 Recreation Ground**

008.01/21 Regular inspections have taken place.

008.02/21 Playdale have mislaid the PC order and the Clerk is waiting for a date for the play equipment repairs. A grant of £1000 has been received from the SODC Councillors' grant towards the cost of the repairs. The acceptance form was signed.

#### **009/22 Public Forum** No questions

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

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

#### **037/22 Apologies** None

#### **038/22 Declarations of Interest** None

**039/22 Minutes of the meetings held on Monday February 28<sup>th</sup> 2022.** Cllr Lacey proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Summerland. All agreed.

#### **040/22 Matters Arising** All items on the agenda

**041/22 County Councillor's report** Cllr Bartholomew briefly discussed local matters. His full report is attached to the minutes. He was asked whether he could look into the drainage ditch in Dunsden Way. The exact position will be sent to Cllr Bartholomew **(Cllr Ransom & Clerk to action)**

**042/22 District Councillor's report** Cllr Rawlins presented his report. His full report is attached to these minutes. He reminded the PC that it would be fortuitous to get together with other PC's to be ready with an argument to extend the AONB.

**043/22 Public Forum** A resident has expressed concern about the lack of shop door and window repairs.

#### **044/22 Financial Situation**

044.01/22 The financial position had been circulated.

044.02/22 The March accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £5,759.58 were authorised for payment. These payments were proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Lacey. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

044.03/22 The small increase in hourly pay for the Clerk was accepted. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

044.04/22 After consideration of other companies it was decided to continue with cover by the present insurance company. The premium will be paid. **(Clerk to action)**

044.05/22 The PC laptop was upgraded and will have a warranty for another 12 months. The PC agreed to share the cost with EDPC. **(Clerk to action)**

#### **045/22 Planning Matters.**

**Applications GRANTED by SODC** None

#### **COMPLETED Applications for Ratification**

Highwall House Shiplake Row Binfield Heath RG9 4DP P22/S0705/FUL

Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) on planning application P18/S4298/FUL Minor amendments during the construction process and Condition 2 to be re-worded as per the covering letter. (Erection of single dwelling, pool pavilion, creation of outdoor swimming pool and rear garden tennis court.) The PC recommended that this application was refused. Decision ratified.

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 The PC had no planning objections to this application. Decision ratified.

Land adjacent to the Bottle and Glass Inn Bones Lane Binfield Heath RG9 4JT P21/S1733/FUL Amendment No 3: Retrospective change of use of the agricultural Dutch barn to provide outside dining area associated with the public house, including additional seating area, external storage and kitchen containers. Addition of timber cladding to barn and screening fencing around containers. (As amplified by floor plan and elevation plans submitted 08 March 2022. The PC had no planning objections to this application. Decision ratified.

**NEW Applications for Discussion (10mins)** None

#### **046/22 Neighbourhood Plan**

046.01/22 Cllr Davis updated the PC on progress: Four settlements have been established and some green spaces put forward for future discussion. Sharon Brentnall from Bluestone Planning will attend the next meeting to discuss progress and answer questions.

046.02/22 A suggestion was made to purchase a small overhead projector for use by the PC and NP. A decision was made to share the purchase with EDPC. This was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Fulton-Urry. The Clerk will contact David Woodward for a final decision re the choice of model. **(Clerk to action)**

#### **047/22 Community Matters**

029.01/22 Defibrillator The installation is awaiting the electrician. **(Clerk to action)**

#### **048/22 Highways/Transport and General Maintenance**

048.01/22 The white lines at the road junctions close to the Bottle and Public house are disappearing and need replacing. This was reported but so far there has been no action. Cllr Bartholomew will chase this when he has the reference. **(Clerk to action)**

048.02/22 The fence along Arch Hill damaged in the recent gale will be replaced in early May. The fallen trees have been cleared and logs are available for public collection.

**049/22 Green & Open Spaces** See **Matters Arising** above

**050/22 Website Compliance** The website compliance is being addressed. Cllr Ransom is talking to a resident in the village who has seriously impaired vision. The EDPC Chairman is also working on the EDPC website.

**051/22 Neighbourhood Watch** Nothing to report.

**052/22 Platinum Jubilee** Invitations will be sent out for the Big Lunch on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. A flagpole in Binfield Heath is still being considered and further positions need to be considered.

**053/22 Consultations** It was decided that a response to these consultations was not necessary.

**054/22 Matters for future consideration** Tree planting; flagpole; awards

The meeting finished at 9.15pm.

**Date of next meeting: Monday April 25<sup>th</sup> 2022**

# REPORT TO BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL MAR 2022 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

## GENERAL OCC REPORT

### **BUDGET MEETING OVERSHADOWED BY FARMERS' PROTEST**



At the County Council budget-setting meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup> the left-wing administration forced through a whopping 5% Council Tax increase, despite the Conservative Independent Alliance showing how the increase could be limited to 3.5%. However, the meeting at County Hall was overshadowed by a farmers' protest outside. As previously reported, the administration is trying to impose a vegan diet at all council-catered events. Richard Binning, a beef farmer from Steventon, said: "The message they are sending out is really dangerous - they are suggesting it's ok to eat avocados from Brazil, instead of our wholesome British beef." The farmers' protest received national press coverage. The motion to impose the vegan diet has to be ratified by the OCC Cabinet at its meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Conservatives will be addressing Cabinet and urging them to seek change through education, persuasion and choice, not diktat.

### **BAD WEATHER IS THE PERFECT STORM FOR ROGUE TRADERS IN OXFORDSHIRE**

Residents are being warned to be wary of cold callers or leaflets offering to do work on roofs after the recent storms. OCC's trading standards team believes it is a perfect opportunity for rogue traders to take advantage of residents who have a leaking roof or broken tile. Any Oxfordshire resident who has concerns about cold calling or potential scams can contact the Citizens Advice National Consumer Service on **0800 144 8848** or by visiting its website [citizensadvice.org.uk](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk).

## **CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS FOR RESTRICTIONS ON CARS IN OXFORD**

OCC and Oxford City Council last month revealed highly controversial joint proposals to cut car use in the city with the introduction of a city-wide workplace parking levy, traffic filters and a wider Zero Emission Zone (ZEZ) to cover the entire city centre. The chairman of Oxford High Street Association condemned the proposals and said: "I am totally depressed by what these two councils are doing to our city." More details on the ZEZ below.

## **BRITAIN'S FIRST ZERO EMISSION ZONE (ZEZ) BEGINS IN OXFORD**

Britain's first ZEZ started on 28 February. Launching as a pilot, the streets included in the ZEZ are: New Road, Bonn Square, Queen Street; Cornmarket Street, New Inn Hall Street, Shoe Lane, Market Street, Ship Street and St Michael's Street. The ZEZ pilot is a precursor to the introduction of a larger ZEZ covering most of Oxford city centre next year (2023), subject to further public consultation. The ZEZ pilot will operate from 7am - 7pm, all year around. All petrol and diesel vehicles, including hybrids, will incur a daily charge unless eligible for a discount or exemption. However, zero emission vehicles, such as electric cars, can enter the pilot area free of charge. The charge will vary from £2 to £10 per day depending on the emission levels of the vehicle. Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras have been installed to enforce the zone. The scheme has been criticised as being a tax-raising measure and not a true ZEZ, as all vehicles are allowed into the zone as long as they pay the tax.

## **BID SUBMITTED TO DELIVER 159 ELECTRIC BUSES FOR THE OXFORD AREA**

A new fleet of state-of-the-art electric buses could be coming to Oxford and its surrounding areas after a bid for government funding was submitted. OCC last month applied for £32.8 million from the Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme. Along with £6m from the council and £43.7m from bus companies Go Ahead and Stagecoach, the scheme could deliver 159 electric buses and the infrastructure to charge them in a package worth £82.5m. If successful, the electric buses would operate in an area stretching from Kidlington in the north to Sandford in the south, and from Cumnor in the west to Wheatley in the east. There are no proposals to support the south of the county.

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Efforts to unpick the agreement between OCC and Cherwell District Council continues. A joint officer working group has been established to review the extent and cost of the current arrangements. The group reports to the member-led Joint Shared Services and Personnel Committee, and is made up of the two chief executives, monitoring officers and s151 officers. Once the group has completed its initial review, it will then prepare a transition plan. The Conservative Opposition continues to press for transparency in relation to the costs when they have been identified and quantified.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

OCC is currently conducting a wide range of consultations at the moment. Residents can make their views known by responding. Current consultations include: Local Transport and Connectivity Plan; Location of cameras to enforce traffic regulations; Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND); and Library and heritage services. An interesting recent example is the proposal to make permanent the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) in parts of Oxford. The consultation showed that 74% of respondents objected to the measure or had concerns, with just 26% in support. This has resulted in the administration putting the brakes on the scheme at the last moment, which was due to be approved last month. It will be reconsidered by Cabinet later in the year. <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

## **SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR BINFIELD HEATH**

### **COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND**

I have a small amount of funding still available and would be please to consider match-funding any Highways projects the PC may wish to action, up to a total cost of £2000 (i.e. £1000 each).

## **GENERAL SODC REPORT**

### **COUNCIL MEETING FORMAT**

The administration has recently issued a notice stating: "Formal council meetings will continue as they have been until further notice." I have had many complaints from residents (in relation to hybrid planning meetings in particular) that they feel this is anti-democratic as the requirement for members of the public to equip themselves with laptops and headsets then travel to Didcot to sit in rows looking at screens is a huge disincentive to attend. Conservatives are pressing for a return to normal – SODC Legal has confirmed there is no reason why this could not happen.

## **SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR BINFIELD HEATH**

### **P22/S0705/FUL HIGHWALL HOUSE SHIPLAKE ROW BINFIELD HEATH RG9 4DP**

A application for a variation of conditions and minor amendments has been submitted.

### **P21/S4102/RM: RETIREMENT VILLAGE RESERVED MATTERS**

The Henley Standard is reporting that the developers plan to call the retirement village 'Henley Meadows'. You can see it here:

<https://www.henleystandard.co.uk/news/council/171028/50m-extra-care-homes-named-henley-meadows.html>

I have been contacted by angry residents outraged that the developers are trying to re-brand this area as 'Henley'.

### **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 has now been submitted to SODC and is under consideration. An appeal in respect of the previous application for 20 houses has also come forward.

### **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 houses – see below.

### **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** **– 28th March 2022**

### Covid-19

Following the national pattern, Covid cases had fallen back but are now surging again. At 20/03/2022, Oxford City was at a weekly rate of 873 per 100k population (it peaked at 1,504 on

6th Jan and then troughed at 437 on 28th February.). By comparison, Cherwell DC was 1,187 (peak was 18,826 on 3rd Jan.), West Oxon DC at 1,196 (peak was 1,565 on 3rd Jan.), SODC at 1,171 (peak was 1,522 on 3rd Jan. and it then troughed at 430 on 27th February) and Vale of WH DC at 1,417 (peak was 1,565 on 3rd Jan.). Reading BC (to 20th March 2022) was at 768 (having peaked at 1,780 on 4th Jan). These levels are 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 – now at 20th March at 1,171 weekly per 100k of population! That said, the incidences are mostly mild for those with boosted vaccinations and those with antibodies. 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. Whatever the rules may be, the advice must still be to proceed with caution and to protect the more vulnerable.

### Car Parks

From 4th April SODC car parks will be chargeable from 8am – 6pm Monday-Saturday (10am – 5pm on Sunday) and car parking fees will increase to keep the overall car parking account at SODC in balance. (It has previously been in deficit and that deficit was forecast to grow without a correction.) Parking for up to one hour will remain free – thus continuing to support quick shopping trips and retailers. Just also to note that it is also possible to use a smart phone and to pay on the following app :- <https://www.connectcashlessparking.com/> (If you are running late you can extend your time via the app.)

### Ukraine

SODC has expressed support for Ukraine and is preparing to support Government provision for refugees from that conflict. 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](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, but details are awaited. Anyone who wishes to make a housing offer can contact the councils’ (joint) housing team using the email: [housing@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:housing@southandvale.gov.uk).

### Energy rebate

Council tax payers in bands A-D will receive a £150 energy rebate payment - funded by Government. For Direct Debit payers this will be paid to the relevant bank account. However for those paying by cheque or other means (less than 20% in SODC) there will need to be quite a lot of admin to determine how to pay the £150 concerned! Unfortunately the mechanics of the scheme have proven difficult after the initial idea and more guidance is being sought! The scheme indicates that the £150 should be paid out and not simply deducted from Council Tax bills. Bill notifications will carry reference to the £150 rebate - as a note. (There is also a discretionary rebate scheme for those in difficulty who have an E-H council tax band. Details are being gathered from Government. Finally energy providers will knock £200 off bills in 2022-23 and then add back £40 per annum for the succeeding 5 years. This scheme was designed in the hope that fuel prices would fall in the years ahead. However the Ukraine conflict now poses new challenges.)

## **Leigh Rawlins**

### **District Councillor**