

BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Binfield Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday May 24th 2021 at 6.30pm by Zoom

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

012/21 Allotments One tenant has terminated his tenancy. The person next on the waiting list has been contacted. The Clerk will send a plan of tenant's names to the Chairman. **(Clerk to action)**

013/21 Recreation Ground

013.01/21 Inspections have taken place and there are no problems.

013.02/21 Volunteers have offered to repair and improve the car park. Some equipment may need to be used. Cllr Ransom will ascertain what equipment so that the insurance company can be consulted. **Cllr Ransom and Clerk to action)**

013.03/21 A litter bin for the cleared area at the bottom of Arch Hill is to be purchased. **(Clerk to action)**

014/21 Public Forum No comments from the public.

The meeting of the Parish Council

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

052/21 Apologies. None

053/21 Declarations of Interest None

054/21 Minutes of the meetings held on Monday 26th April 2021. Cllr Summerland proposed the APM and APCM minutes were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Fulton-Urry. All agreed.

055/21 Matters Arising All items on the agenda.

056/21 County Councillor's report Cllr Bartholomew was congratulated on his re-election. He briefly discussed local matters. His full report is attached to the minutes.

057/21 District Councillor's report Cllr Rawlins introduced his report. His full report is attached to these minutes.

058/21 Public Forum Members of the public expressed their concern about P21/S1781/HH and P21/S1782/LB. The stable block is to be moved to the front of the property where it is in close proximity to nearby houses. Residents in Shiplake Row are very concerned about the associated nuisance and health issues. The boundary wall is also a major concern due to its height that could vary significantly with the difference in ground levels and the varied construction of the wall particularly at the eastern end.

059/21 Financial Situation

059.01/21 The financial position was circulated.

059.02/21 The May accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £1,166.24 were authorised for payment. These payments were proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Rollason. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

059.03/21 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 are to sign the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements. Paperwork will now be prepared and placed on the parish website. It was decided that as the payments and receipts were below £25,000, the exemption certificate will be signed and submitted to the external auditor. **(Clerk to action)**

059.04/21 ICO DD signatures: An error by ICO has resulted in a need for a new Direct Debit form to be signed. **(Chairman & Clerk to action)**

060/21 Planning Matters

New Applications

P21/S1720/LB Repair of an existing vacant former Coach House to create a studio space with kitchen and bathroom facilities. Holmwood Shiplake Row Binfield Heath RG9 4DP A working party

recommended this application for approval.

P21/S1733/FUL Retrospective change of use of the agricultural Dutch barn to provide outdoor dining area associated with the public house. Land adjacent to the Bottle & Glass Inn Bones Lane Binfield Heath RG9 4JT A working party recommended this application for approval.

P21/S1786/FUL and P21/S1789/LB Conversion and restoration of two Grade II listed Agricultural Barns into an Estate office and function room. Including extensions to both barns to provide WC and kitchen facilities. Barn Grounds Sonning Common Road Crowsley Oxfordshire RG9 4JR A working party recommended this application for approval.

P21/S1788/HH Single storey rear and side extension 9 Heathfield Avenue Binfield Heath RG9 4ED
P21/S1788/HH Single storey rear and side extension (as shown in amended plans received 17th May 2021) 9 Heathfield Avenue Binfield Heath RG9 4ED A working party recommended this application for approval.

P21/S1781/HH and P21/S1782/LB Construction of a new Stable block within the grounds of the property incorporating part of the new boundary walls. Reconstruction and repair of the boundary walls to the whole north boundary of the estate facing Shiplake Row including new gates and doorways. Holmwood Shiplake Row Binfield Heath RG9 4DP. There was discussion with the residents present (see Public Forum) and the SODC Councillors and it was decided that a working party will meet to discuss the PC response to this application. It is hoped that a meeting can be arranged with the architect.

Applications Granted

P21/S0847/HH Erection of triple garage Gosbrook House Binfield Heath RG9 4JY

061/21 Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Davis reported

1. that the Area Designation form and the supporting statement had been submitted. He has joined the PSGA Public Sector Geospatial Agreement to be able to obtain the desired map but this has not proved easy so SODC are now producing this. Cllr Rawlins suggested the Magic Maps website was a useful resource.

2. Robyn Tobutt has confirmed that they have all they need to complete the BHPC registration but have yet to do so as several committees are involved.

3. A Steering Group with 3 working groups: Finance, Drafting and Planning policy is being set up. SODC is to provide the terms of reference. Zoom will be set up for some meetings.

062/21 Community Matters The garden waste item had been resolved. Unless someone else can be found Cllr Summerland agreed to continue as representative on Dunsden Village Hall.

063/21 Highways/Transport and General Maintenance Cllr Fulton-Urry expressed her concern about the frequent number of vehicles travelling the whole length of the narrow part of Kiln Lane when the delivery is for houses at the other end. Damage to property has occurred with larger vehicles trying to turn round. SatNav and more home deliveries may be responsible for this. The Clerk was asked to write to the occupiers of houses at the end of Kiln Lane to request that they provide drivers with additional delivery instructions. **(Clerk to action)**

064/21 BHPC Councillor duties: Cllr Fulton-Urry is to take over the responsibility for footpaths.

065/21 Green & Open Spaces Cllr Fulton-Urry will circulate a list of paths that will be walked by Councillors. She will also take over the Neighbourhood Watch when the Chairman has obtained the contact information. **(Chairman to action)**

066/21. Defibrillator The Clerk had not been able to contact 'Millies Dream'. An article in the Henley Standard has provided an e-mail address. The Clerk will also try to ascertain when grants are again available from the British Heart Foundation. **(Clerk to action)**

067/21 Website Compliance The website needs to become compliant with regulations. Cllr Ransom has contacted David Woodward again.

068/21 Neighbourhood Watch Nothing to report this month.

Matters for future consideration Neighbourhood Plan; Neighbourhood Watch; defibrillator.

The meeting finished at 8.46pm.

Date of next meetings: Monday June 28th 2021

(Venue to be announced)

REPORT TO BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2021 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION

The county council is holding elections for all 63 seats across 61 divisions on Thursday 6th May. Verification will take place on Friday 7th May. Counting will take place on Sunday 9th May and results will be announced the same day.

OXFORDSHIRE TO BENEFIT FROM ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

Residents of Oxfordshire can look forward to a future of good, environmentally responsible growth in the years ahead to 2050. The Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development is a landmark document for Oxfordshire led by the Oxfordshire Growth Board and being voted on this spring by its constituent members including the county and district councils. Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet approved the vision with some amendments at its meeting on Tuesday, April 20. The document sets out specifically the concept of "good growth" based on enhanced social, environmental and economic wellbeing. This means that by 2050 amongst other goals that Oxfordshire will:

- Be healthy and inclusive, with all development addressing inequalities and contributing positively to the overall health and wellbeing of Oxfordshire's communities, environment and economy.
- Support diverse, accessible employment, generating a highly productive and inclusive economy based on our world-class research, innovation and technology.
- Build resilience to change, with growth planned in ways that: build on strengths and assets to support communities during periods of change; support economic diversity and can accommodate changes in technology; recognise changes in the way that people live and work and changing demographics; and respond to worldwide impacts, particularly from climate and economic changes. These goals will form the basis of county council-specific plans for growth including the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OXIS) and the future Nature Recovery Network Strategy. In addition, the vision includes working towards a County target of 2040 for net zero carbon. This emphasises a shared commitment for county-wide net zero target of 2040 in alignment with district councils within 10 years of our own Carbon Reduction Framework target of 2050.

MAJORITY OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN OFFERED FIRST CHOICE PRIMARY

A total of 93.09 per cent (6,409) of applications have been awarded their first choice for starting infant or primary school in Oxfordshire. Last year's figure was 90.60%, meaning a higher proportion of parents and children across the county have been offered their first choice of primary school for 2021/22. A total of 98.86 per cent (6,806) have been offered one of the four choices they listed on their application.

COVID STATISTICS

In the seven days up to 23 April, there has been a total of 141 confirmed new COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire. This is a decrease from 153 new cases in the previous week and is equivalent to a weekly rate of new cases of 20.4 per 100,000 residents. In South Oxfordshire there were 19 cases in the same period, a weekly rate of new cases of 24.3 per 100,000 residents

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BINFIELD HEATH

ELECTION RESULT

I am delighted to have been returned as your County Councillor for another four years. However, across the county, the Conservative Independent Alliance have lost their majority and the Greens, Liberal Democrats and Labour have formed a coalition and will run the council. I move from being Cabinet Member for Finance to Opposition Spokesman for Finance.

FMS ENQ21891402: 'WIG WAG' SIGN NEAR SHIPLAKE PRIMARY SCHOOLT

The 'Wig-Wag' sign has been repaired and re-erected in a slightly different position which officers say will reduce the likelihood of vehicles hitting it again in the future.

FMS 2629166 POTHOLE ON GRAVEL ROAD

Last month, at the request of Cllr Ransom, I escalated this enquiry and as a result the location was inspected and raised as a defect for repair within 24 hours. Other less severe defects on Gravel Road were put in for 28-day repairs. I was disappointed to learn from Cllr ransom yesterday that some of the repairs have already failed. I have reported this to the principal officer.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR BINFIELD HEATH

P20/S2808/DIS: THAMES FARM

SODC has written to residents with an update on the situation. The letter can be found [here](#).

P18/S4298/FUL: QUERY OVER POTENTIAL PLANNING BREACH

I circulated the officer response to parish councillors.

SODC ward councillor's report **Binfield Heath – 24th May 2021**

Local Elections – 6th May 2021

In the election for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley Police, Matthew Barber (Conservative) was elected on the second round. In the County elections, there was one result where it is generally admitted that the result was mis-declared. In Banbury and Ruscote, a safe Labour seat was misdeclared as a Conservative gain - due to a mix up causing a reversal of the ballots; it will now have to go to the High Court to be corrected. There are a total of 63 seats and there were sweeping changes at the election with Ian Hudspeth, the Conservative leader who had championed high growth, losing his seat to the LibDems. Amongst a number of issues the most influential one was about what level of growth, inward migration and housing development is desirable. Adjusting for the error at Banbury Ruscote, the Conservatives lost 10 seats and associated Independents lost a further 2 seats, with gains for the LibDems – 8 seats, the Greens – 2 seats and Labour – 2 seats. Adjusting for Banbury Ruscote, in the new council there are 21 LibDems, 3 Greens (jointly 24), 21 Conservatives, 16 Labour, 1 Henley Residents Group and 1 Independent. (There were some echoes of this result across the Ox-Cam Arc.) The LibDems and Greens will work as one group on the county council. Arrangements were needed to form an administration. Accordingly an arrangement has been forged between LibDem, Green and Labour county councillors – under the LibDem leader Liz Leffman. The new administration's press release focuses on the environment and climate change together with the shared elements of respective election commitments and principles. It has agreed a set of goals for an "Oxfordshire Fair Deal" programme. (In the local county division of 'Sonning Common', David Bartholomew was returned – so congratulations to him!) In South Oxfordshire there were two bye-elections. One in Didcot NE which went from independent to Conservative and one in Forest Hill & Holton which went from Independent to LibDem. The council has 36 seats – now split as follows:- LibDem 13, Greens 5, Independents 2, HRG 3, Labour 3 and Conservatives 10. A number of Neighbourhood Plan referendums were also held – all with strongly positive "Yes" votes. (Chinnor, Cuddesdon & Denton, Ewelme, Sydenham, Tetsworth, Wallingford and Wheatley.)

Covid-19

Covid cases continue at a low level. At 18/5, Oxford City was at a weekly rate of 9 per 100k population. By comparison, Cherwell DC was 12, West Oxon DC at 15, SODC at 4 and Vale

of WH DC at 6. Reading BC (to 18th May) was at 33. These are all extremely low – except that Reading has increased sharply in that week. The next stage of relaxation of lockdown proceeded from 17th May. Now the rule of 6 or two households applies indoors and cinemas/theatres etc re-open. However, it is not yet clear if total relaxation will apply from 21st June – pending a review of some localised spikes of infections in some areas of England - arising from the “Indian” variant (B.1.617.2). This variant has much higher transmissibility. However, early evidence suggests that the current vaccines still have a material effect on its scope to cause hospitalisations and deaths.

The vaccine programme continues apace. All adults are expected to have a first dose by end July. The programme will continue with 2nd doses with the aim of reaching all adults before the end of September. In some areas facing a challenge from new variants, and where supplies allow, the second dose may now be accelerated to 8 weeks after the first one – rather than 12 weeks. It may be that there will need to be booster vaccinations for new strains and to maintain antibody levels in the autumn. Increased testing is being provided in centres and with at home testing to be provided via pharmacies. As yet it is believed that having had a vaccination is no guarantee against being infected by the virus or indeed against passing the virus to others – though it is expected to improve matters. However elsewhere in the world in India, Chile (and South America generally) and Africa a new Covid wave is all too apparent. Thus, with the progression of new variants – notably the Brazilian, South African and “double-mutation” Indian ones – nothing can be taken for granted for the autumn and beyond.

In-person meetings

Unfortunately, the Government and Communities ministry failed to renew special Covid legislation enabling virtual meetings. Furthermore, a legal initiative to the High Court to argue that existing powers could support virtual meetings was refused by the court – despite the ministry belatedly supporting it to the court. Wherever meetings are decision-making they must therefore be in person with members present. It is thought possible to include members of the public by virtual means.

New Chair and vice-Chair at SODC

SODC’s new Chair is Cllr Jo Robb who represents Woodcote & Rotherfield for the Greens and the new Vice-Chair is David Turner who represents Chalgrove for the LibDems. They succeed Cllrs David Bretherton and Elizabeth Gillespie respectively.

Purdah

In the recent past there have been limited new decisions and changes – due in part to the “purdah” period in the approach to elections.

Keep safe!

Leigh Rawlins
District Councillor