

## **BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Binfield Heath Parish May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023**

**Present** Cllr P Rollason, Cllr L Ransom, Cllr S Summerland, Cllr Hugh Lacey, Cllr Robert Davis, Cllr Fulton-Urry, Cllr David Bartholomew (OCC), Cllr Leigh Rawlins and Cllr Mike Giles (SODC) 8 residents.

1. **Welcome** The Chairman welcomed the residents and thanked them for their support of the Parish Council
2. **Chairman's Report** The Chairman read his report for 2022-3:

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

This year Cllr Davis and a group of very dedicated volunteers have worked extremely hard to make some very good progress on the development of the plan.

Place on record thanks to Norman and Barney, Lis Ransom, Roger Murrey Leach, Rob Packham, Rachael Richardson, Roger Roberts and others who have worked so hard over the past months and attended the 17 more or so meetings

Generous grants were made available by District and County Councillors for funding of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Davis will update us on the progress later.

#### RECREATION GROUND

The PC is very grateful for the group of volunteers who keep the recreation ground clear of rubbish and empty the bins on a weekly rota. A resident who has moved into Kiln Lane has recently added his name to the list. All other volunteers welcome!

The ROSPA safety check of the playground equipment showed that some pieces had to be repaired or replaced. The sand pit gate has been repaired and now closes firmly. The bridge connecting the recreation ground and the car park has been repaired. All work has now been completed.

DEFIBRILLATOR: the PC has purchased a defibrillator for the village. It is now mounted on the wall near the Forge and training took place last week. The PC can arrange more training for the use of this equipment if required.

WEBSITE The PC is grateful to Mark Dodson for handling the website for many years. The website still needs to be compliant and we now have someone who is going to look at the website and bring it up to the required standard.

OCC/SODC David Bartholomew (OCC) and Leigh Rawlins (SODC) have made significant contributions to our meetings throughout the year. They have been helpful with planning advice and pushing forward with traffic problems through and around the village.

BUS SHELTER Long awaited but now complete. Work paid for by insurance following the fire a year ago.

NB Is there a resident who would like to represent Binfield Heath on the Dunsden Hall Committee? The Hall Manager is Naomi Baylis.

3. **Annual Financial Report** The Clerk read the Financial Report for 2022-3.

The precept had to be increased in 2022 to help with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. Those working on the plan have applied for all possible grants and kept the expenditure carefully under control.

The playground repairs are now complete and the gates repaired. The fence was replaced when it was damaged by a storm and the pedestrian bridge was repaired. All that cost almost £8000.

The PC contributed to the Jubilee Celebrations in the village and invested in signage for the annual carol service. It now has an overhead projector shared with Eye & Dunsden PC. A flagpole was purchased for the village. The insurance covered the cost of the bus shelter replacement.

VAT (£~2000) has been claimed and the accounts etc have been taken to the internal auditor. The PC will then submit the accounts to the external auditor.

4. **Neighbourhood Plan** Cllr Davis gave a brief summary of the Neighbourhood Plan now out for consultation with residents. Cllr Ransom has downloaded a copy onto the website. There are hard copies in the shop for reference. All comments are welcome and these will be considered before submission to SODC.

### **The Chairman closed the Annual Meeting of the Parish and welcomed all to the Annual Meeting of Binfield Heath Parish Council**

**01/23 Apologies for Absence** None

**02/23 Declarations of interest** None

**03/23 Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022** These minutes had been accepted as a true record in June 2022.

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting April 24<sup>th</sup> 2023** Cllr Ransom proposed acceptance of these minutes. This was seconded by Cllr Summerland. All agreed.

**04/23 Appointment of Chairman & Declaration of Office** Cllr Rollason stood down. Cllr Summerland proposed that Cllr Rollason should remain as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Ransom. Cllr Rollason was duly elected as Chairman. All agreed.

**05/23 Appointment of Vice Chairman & Declaration of Office** Cllr Lacey proposed that Cllr Ransom should remain as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Summerland. All agreed.

#### **06/23 Councillors' Declarations and Responsibilities**

Cllr Summerland: reading documents

Cllr Lacey: planning

Cllr Ransom: planning; website

Cllr Davis: Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Fulton-Urry: footpaths; (Neighbourhood Watch)

Cllr Rollason: recreation ground; allotments

**07/23 County Councillor's Report** See below. Cllr Bartholomew also mentioned the importance of keeping the recycling centre at Oakley Green open if closure possibilities are mentioned by OCC. The 20mph consideration was also highlighted and Cllr Bartholomew explained that signage in the village was to be improved after a requested visit by the OCC Traffic Officer. Residents and Councillors are reluctant to welcome even more signage.

**08/23 District Councillor's Report** See below. Cllr Rawlins introduced Mike Giles as the elected SODC Councillor. Planning was briefly discussed and Cllr Ransom remarked that

planning did not seem to take AONB seriously in their deliberations.

**09/23 Public Forum** Various items were discussed. Potholes around the parish were mentioned and it was pointed out that the repairs were not finished well and do not last very long. The Chairman encouraged residents to report these so that notice is taken. It was noted that the finger post at Coppid crossroads has been re-erected. A resident mentioned that Japanese Knotweed had appeared in Kiln Lane. It was noted that this plant is not recognised by everyone and maybe a description could go into the newsletter.

The reported trench on one of the footpaths has still not been repaired despite many reports by the PC and residents. The Clerk will chase yet again. **(Clerk to action)**

**10/23 Financial Situation** The financial position had been circulated. The May accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £2447.47 were authorised for payment by BACS. There was comment by the Cllrs that £200 for an uncontested election was rather excessive. These payments were proposed by Cllr Summerland and seconded by Cllr Lacey. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

On behalf of the Village Society, Cllr Ransom thanked the PC for its contribution to the Coronation Lunch.

**11/23 Planning Matters** Nothing to report this month.

**12/23 Highways/Transport and General Maintenance** Unfortunately Arriva is refusing to change the times of the buses that the company has chosen to run. It is unsure what will happen when OCC financial support for the service runs out.

**13/23 Neighbourhood Watch** Cllr Fulton Urry explained that each road in the village needs a volunteer to add to a Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp anything of concern to other residents as there is no longer a police Neighbourhood Watch arrangement. It was suggested that this request could go into the newsletter.

**14/23 Matters for future consideration** Process for TPO's