

## **BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Binfield Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 7.45 pm at the Bottle and Glass**

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

**025/19 Recreation Ground** Inspections have taken place. The Recreation Ground has been quiet. The sandpit needs a new surround with a cover and other items need minor attention. company called Sandpit Cover will be contacted. **(Clerk to action)** The idea of having a closing time for the recreation ground was again discussed. A replacement padlock is also required.

**026/19 Allotments** The Clerk reported that only one rent was outstanding.

**027/19 Public Forum** No questions.

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

**Present** Cllr P Rollason, Cllr L Ransom, Cllr S Summerland, Cllr H Lacey, Cllr K Maher, Cllr Sarah Fulton-Urry, Cllr D Bartholomew (OCC) and Cllr Rawlins (SODC). Norman Lane, Barney Double and Roger Roberts

**131/19 Apologies for absence** None

**132/19 Declarations of Interest** None

**133/19 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019** Cllr Ransom proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Summerland. All agreed.

#### **134/19 Matters Arising**

Cllr Maher is in contact with the Police regarding the drug issues.

The Clerk was asked to forward Barbara Taylor's contact details. **(Clerk to action)**

**135/19 County Councillor's report** Cllr Bartholomew updated the PC on recent local matters. This is attached and can be seen on the website.

**136/19 District Councillor's report** This is attached and can be seen on the website.

#### **137/19 Public Forum/Correspondence**

Cllr Bartholomew was asked whether anything could be done about the number of road works and traffic lights through Shiplake. Utility companies at present are able to erect cones and use traffic lights when they wish although they have to apply for any road closure. The CC are endeavouring to start a system of permits in order to make utility companies work in tandem when the same area is needing work.

#### **138/19 Financial Situation**

138.01/19 The financial position was circulated.

138.02/19 The October accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £1,397.12 were authorised for payment by BACS and by cheque. These payments were proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Lacey. **(Clerk to action)**

138.03/19 Councillor expenses: None this month.

138.04/19 Budget and Precept 2020/21 The Clerk's notes were circulated beforehand.

Possible future expenses were discussed. These include a number of items to repair and improve the recreation ground, storage for the Flower Show items, deer signage and a possible major expense – a Neighbourhood Plan. Estimated figures without the BT residue and the CIL payment indicate a smaller than usual reserve at the end of the financial year. After discussion it was decided to raise the precept for 2020/21 slightly to £14,000. The Clerk was asked to ascertain exactly how the CIL funds could be spent. **(Clerk to action)**

#### **139/19 Planning Matters**

##### ***New Applications***

##### ***Applications Granted***

Cllr Ransom reported that P19/S2269/HH application had now been withdrawn.

**140/19 Highways/Transport and General Maintenance** The Clerk has asked for a quotation for deer signs but it has not yet received. This will be chased. In addition, the Clerk was asked to request a quotation for sign cleaning in Binfield Heath. **(Clerk to action)**

**141/19 Grants and Donations** £50 was donated to the Royal British Legion.

**142/19 Neighbourhood Plan** Cllr Maher reported that he had attended the recent Eye &

Dunsden PC meeting. EDPC have committed to drawing up a NP and an initial meeting with those who are committed to helping is arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> December. Cllr Maher will attend with another Councillor if possible. He suggested that the first step for BHPC would be to hold an open meeting for residents to explain the process and find those who are prepared to commit to work on a plan. Cllr Maher already has a number of people offering to help. A house to house delivery would be necessary with emails and the website to invite BH residents to attend. Roger Roberts talked briefly about the previous village plan and that the support of SODC with Ricardo Rios would be essential. It was also mooted that the Phillimore family should be involved. Cllr Maher will come to the next meeting with a plan to take the PC forward.

**143/19 Next Door Binfield Heath website** This lists local items and events and Cllr Fulton-Urry agreed to be the nominated Councillor who would put any relevant PC item or event onto the site.

**144/19 Matters for future consideration** Neighbourhood Plan

The meeting finished at 9.50pm      **Date of next meeting: Monday January 27<sup>th</sup> 2020**

## **REPORT TO BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL NOV 2109 UPDATE**

### **FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW**

**GENERAL OCC REPORT** *Supplied and delivered for meeting on 4 November.*

#### **THIRD READING BRIDGE**

The chair at Sonning Common has called a meeting of chairs in my Division on Friday 31 January to consider a joint response to the situation in advance of the 'Summit Meeting' in March. Meanwhile officers from the various authorities have met and are preparing answers to questions from DfT so that the OBC bid can move from amber to green. The bid is for £800k but it is likely local councils and TVP will contribute £120k to top this up.

#### **ROAD WORKS ON THE A4155 IN RELATION TO THAMES FARM**

Extensive roadworks on the A4155 between Shiplake and Henley have begun and will continue until the spring. These relate to utility connections and meeting road/pavement/lighting planning conditions. I have received multiple complaints about tree removal but the SODC Tree Officer has confirmed it is compliant with agreed plans.

#### **CLOSURE OF A4155 AT TOWER HOUSE FROM 20 JANUARY 2020 TO 22 JANUARY 2020**

Please note the revised dates above for the Thames Water work in relation to Tower House which will be conducted overnight between 21.00 and 05.00 each day.

#### **IMPROVING SAFETY ON A4155**

As previously reported, the speed limit change was implemented on 19<sup>th</sup> August and I have received many positive comments about the big new 30mph signs before the War Memorial bend and the Mill Lane/Memorial Avenue crossroads. Retirement Villages was trying to get the change reversed but I am advised they will no longer be pursuing this.

#### **FOOTPATH AT WELL HOUSE, CROWSLEY**

OCC officer advice is as follows: *"We can only sign the footpath relating to footpath users only. As the house is a separate matter and assume the house has a private vehicular right I would encourage the householders to install their own signage as this is something we are not able to provide. Any unauthorised vehicle is a traffic offence and should be reported to the police."*

#### **COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND**

A reminder that I have £1000 for 2019/20 to match-fund Highways projects. This means if the parish council identifies Highways works costing a total of £2000, I will meet half the cost from my fund. An application form must be completed. Time is now running short as funds must be allocated before the end of the financial year. Details can be found here:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/community-and-living/thriving-communities/councillor-priority-fund>

## **SODC District Councillor's Report – 19th November 2019**

### General Election

Following the decision of Parliament for a General Election on 12th December 2019, the rules of political "Purdah" apply. This means that most decisions or discussions of SODC will be deferred until after 12th December.

### The Emerging Local Plan 2034

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Govt. Robert Jenrick MP's holding direction over South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan (eLP2034) has been left in place during the General Election. Legal advice and limited discussion with civil servants at MHCLG continue. This is very much a political matter. After the news broke the Oxford Mail ran the headline "Death of local democracy".

What price democracy? Politicians in Oxford who support a very strong growth agenda – supporting the Expressway, appearing to want it to come south of Oxford and who appear to support the idea of something like 1 million extra new homes across the Ox-Cam "arc" have declared themselves very pleased with the holding direction. Indeed it may very well be that they encouraged and orchestrated it!

It should be noted that prior to becoming Secretary of State at MHCLG, Robert Jenrick MP was Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury – working on and supporting the Ox-Cam Expressway! Meanwhile the eLP cannot progress through examination nor can it be amended nor can work to replace it proceed. The eLP2034 provides for a supply of 32.6k homes. The UK Govt's standard method formula would have required 14.5k plus any unmet housing need from Oxford City.

The Oxfordshire Growth Deal was based on the 2014 SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment) and proposed 100k new homes for Oxfordshire – including 17.8k for SODC. It also proposed 28k for Oxford City and after Oxford's own supply of 13k it was suggested that the other 15k be shared between the other surrounding LPAs and that South Oxfordshire took 5k of those. This implied a total supply of 22.8k new homes by SODC.

The new administration has been prepared to supply 22.8k homes, but wished to correct the eLP for some serious policy errors – including mix and density – to improve policy on Climate Change and the environment and to review sites. The new administration supports the Didcot infrastructure and would supply the overall housing numbers on related sites from the 22.8k to comply with the "HIF bid". Clearly the proposed 32.6k of supply in the eLP exceeds the 22.8k by some 10k. This despite the fact that the 22.8k figure was far above the level required by UK Government's own formulas. Those formulas would have given 14.5k for South Oxfordshire itself plus perhaps 2k for unmet Oxford City need – totalling perhaps 16.5k; so 22.8k itself would have provided more than 6k of exceptional growth!

It should be noted that over 5 years, a New Plan would save £1m against the status quo and would be £1.6m cheaper than a regulation 19 revision. The housing land supply will remain strong.

### Housing delivery vehicle

SODC officers are to be asked to consider options for setting up a housing development company – perhaps in conjunction with others. This would aim to offer extra means of housing delivery, scope to bring forward certain sites and scope to secure extra affordable and social housing for the district's needs.

### Civil Parking Enforcement

SODC officers are progressing work with a view to taking on civil parking enforcement. These would be licensed or transferred powers from the police for pursuing illegal parking on yellow lines.

Feasibility is being reviewed and necessary digitisation of OCC's legal parking orders – which give legal force to yellowlined and parking restricted areas.

### Councillor grants

Councillor grants are available and need to be claimed. The joint value (with David) for Eye & Dunsden could be £500 for an appropriate project. I have circulated details for claiming.

Leigh Rawlins

District Councillor