

BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Binfield Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th November 2019 7.45 pm at the Bottle and Glass (due to fire at the Scout Hut)

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

022/19 Recreation Ground Inspections have taken place. The ROSPA report has some issues that will need attention. The sandpit needs a new surround.

023/19 Allotments The Clerk reported that rents were coming in and reminders have been sent out to those who have not yet paid. The Clerk also reported that having looked at the claim form it was not possible to apply for a possible refund as she does not have the details of meter readings and the relevant dates etc. The water has now been turned off.

024/19 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 and Cllr D Bartholomew (OCC), Cllr Rawlins (SODC). Norman Lane, Barney Double and two Crowsley residents

115/19 Apologies for absence None

116/19 Declarations of Interest None

117/19 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th September 2019 Cllr Ransom proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Summerland. All agreed.

118/19 Matters Arising

107/19 It is not clear as yet as to whether the light at the front of Heathfield Close has now been shielded and is less obtrusive.

119/19 County Councillor's report This was attached and can be seen on the website.

120/19 District Councillor's report This was attached and can be seen on the website.

121/19 Public Forum/Correspondence Barney Double and Norman Lane wished to hear the latest news of the possible third bridge. Cllr Bartholomew updated everyone on his Oxfordshire position on the bridge. He successfully moved a motion at OCC in relation to the possible 3rd Reading Bridge to the effect that a car-based solution to a car-based problem is inappropriate; a new bridge should be restricted to public transport, cyclists and pedestrians and that if a car-based solution is pursued, the bridge and necessary mitigation measures (i.e. improvements to the Oxfordshire road network) must not be considered as two separate projects, but as one project so that the benefits, disadvantages and costs of the scheme can be holistically assessed. This motion was passed. However, the proposed bridge features as a priority on Transport for the South East. The Crowsley residents wishes to talk to the Councillors about the application from Frieze Cottage. The residents are extremely concerned about the permanent letting of the ancillary accommodation. This possible 'business' creates problems for residents and results in parking and blockage of a footpath. This was discussed and the lack of clear planning rules for letting properties and AirBNB is an issue. Both Cllr Bartholomew and Cllr Rawlins will look into the application and advised the residents to submit any further evidence of the problems.

122/19 Financial Situation

122.01/19 The financial position was circulated.

122.02/19 The October accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £901.05 were authorised for payment by BACS. These payments were proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Lacey. **(Clerk to action)**

122.03/19 Councillor expenses: None this month.

123/19 Planning Matters

New Applications

P19/S2269/HH Variation of Condition 5 (ancillary accommodation) of application P01/S0810 (Extension to existing outhouse (Garage) to provide ancillary accommodation and construction of new garage.) Frieze Cottage Crowsley OXON RG9 4JL This application was discussed at length and

it was decided that the PC needed extra time to give its response. **(Clerk to action)**
P19/S3275/FUL Variation of condition 2(drawings)-siting of air conditioning units adjacent to detached garage; siting of external air source heat pump outside plant room; reposition of plant room external door; repositioning of pitched rooflights to side elevations; amended design of pitched rooflights to front elevation; omission of two flat rooflights to main roof; revised PV panel design to main flat roof and additional PV panels to pitched roof on south west elevation; on application ref. P18/S2663/FUL (Erection of new dwelling). Maple House Dunsden Way Binfield Heath RG9 4LE This was discussed. The PC had no objections although noise pollution is a concern. A response to this effect will be made.

Applications Granted

P19/S2461/HH Single-storey rear extension and revision to existing south elevation 8 Heathfield Close Binfield Heath RG9 4DS

P19/S2390/HH Detached two bay garage. Hollow Tree Cottage Road between Dunsden Green and Arch Hill Binfield Heath RG9 4LR

124/19 Community Matters

124.01/19 Flower Show field storage The Flower Show Committee is in the process of holding meetings to decide the future of the containers on the field.

124.02/19 Sewage in Kiln Lane The disposal of wipes caused a major blockage at a house and garden recently in Kiln Lane. Residents are to be reminded that no wipes should be flushed. It was suggested that a note was placed in the Newsletter.

124.03/19 Binfield Heath Wartime Booklet A resident had asked about reprinting the booklet next year. The booklet is in fact still available in the Binfield Heath Stores and Cllr Ransom has some copies available.

125/19 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. **(Clerk to action)**

126/19 Grants and Donations The Monday Club requires about £700 to remain viable. Eye & Dunsden PC is willing to donate £300 if Binfield Heath PC could donate the remaining £400. After discussion this was proposed by the Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Summerland, it was agreed that £400 would be granted.

127/19 Neighbourhood Plan A shorter agenda is to be prepared for the next meeting so that the idea of a neighbourhood plan can be thoroughly discussed **(Clerk to action)**

128/19 Neighbourhood Watch Cllr Maher has spoken to the Police about the drug problem in the village.

129/19 BH Representative on Dunsden Village Hall Committee It was suggested that perhaps a Binfield Heath resident might be willing to be involved. A notice will be placed in the newsletter.

130/19 Matters for future consideration Cllr Priority Fund; Budget; Neighbourhood Plan

The meeting finished at 10.15pm **Date of next meeting: Monday November 25th 2019**

REPORT TO BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL NOV 2109 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

OCC BACKS PROPOSALS FOR INTEGRATED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SYSTEM

Proposals for a new 'integrated care system' for Oxfordshire designed to improve health and social care services were welcomed by the OCC's Cabinet. The new joined-up health and care system will also cover Buckinghamshire and Berkshire West. A draft of the five-year plan for an integrated care system has been published and is due to be submitted to NHS England in November. In the draft plan, the NHS and local authorities in the three areas have committed to planning health and care services around individual needs. Health and care organisations will work collectively to help people enjoy better health by focusing on preventing illness and improving care for those who need it. The principle of 'local first' has been established, with community-run services a vital part of the integrated care system. GP practices will become part of 'primary care networks' that serve communities of around 30-50,000 people. By working together, GP practices will offer access to a wide range of local services, such as NHS and social services, as well as services provided by voluntary groups. These care networks will also be part of larger 'integrated care partnerships' – one for each of the three county areas, including Oxfordshire. The partnerships will join up local hospital and mental health services with, council and community services.

AMBITIOUS REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY PLAN

OCC has endorsed the development of a strategy which sets out a vision for a regional zero-carbon transport network by 2050. England's Economic Heartland is currently engaging on the first stage of a region-wide strategy which sets out a vision for the development and investment in 'connectivity' – the ability to travel and communicate – across an area which stretches between Swindon and Cambridgeshire. The strategy will be out for full public consultation in 2020 and will set out the region's strategic infrastructure needs to both Government and the private sector. Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet discussed its response to the outline strategy last month, details here:
<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s48783/Background%20Document%20EEH%20Outline%20Transport%20Strategy%20-%20OCC%20Final%20Response-Following%20consideration%20at%20C.pdf>

COMMUNITIES INVITED TO BID FOR £1M FUND TO PROVIDE YOUTH SERVICES

Voluntary and community organisations are being invited to bid for a share of OCC's new £1m Youth Opportunity Fund. The fund is aimed at groups that can provide activities and opportunities for young people between the ages of 11-18, and 11-25 with special educational needs. Feedback from Oxfordshire residents points to strong support for improving community-run youth services. This new fund is available to help existing projects expand and new ones get started. Grants of up to £70,000 are available. By offering start-up funding in previous years, the council has already helped many community-run groups provide support for younger children and families. Now the aim is to do the same for youth services. Community-run youth schemes complement the work of the OCC's children's services, which target resources at young people and families with additional needs and those at risk of abuse and neglect. The council also has a desire for more youth clubs to be established. Further information on the fund including how communities can bid for the fund can be found here:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/community-and-living/our-work->

MINERALS AND WASTE SITES APPROVED IN A DRAFT PLAN FOR CONSULTATION

Following public consultation, OCC's Cabinet approved a list of preferred sites for mineral extraction and waste allocation. OCC has a statutory duty to prepare a new Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan to replace the existing Minerals and Waste Local Plan, which was adopted in 1996. The 'core strategy' for the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan was adopted by the council in September 2017, stating that a site allocations plan would be prepared with a target date for adoption of November 2020.

Public consultation on site options took place in 2018, which covered all the minerals and waste sites that had been nominated for possible inclusion within the Site Allocations Plan. Following site assessments by council-appointed consultants and a review by council officers, a list of preferred sites was produced. The Cabinet has now approved that list of preferred sites for inclusion in the draft plan for consultation. Details are available on the OCC website.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BINFIELD HEATH

THIRD READING BRIDGE

I successfully moved a motion in relation to this matter at OCC Full Council on Tuesday 10th September and SODC Full Council on Thursday 10th October. As a consequence, the Leaders of both councils have written to council leaders at Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell, plus MPs John Howell, John Redwood, Matt Rodda and Theresa May, stating that:

- a) In the context of the Climate Emergency a car-based solution to a car-based problem that would pour thousands of cars and HGVs into Oxfordshire is totally inappropriate and should a new bridge be built it should be restricted to public transport, cyclists and pedestrians;
- b) Notwithstanding the above, if a car-based solution is pursued, the bridge and necessary mitigation measures (i.e. improvements to the Oxfordshire road network) must not be considered as two separate projects, but as one project so that the benefits, disadvantages and costs of the scheme can be holistically assessed.

A 'Summit Meeting' of MPs, leaders, other key councillors (including me) and officers, met on Friday 18th October to review the project. It was revealed at the meeting that the Berkshire parties have submitted a bid to Government for £800,000 to fund the Outline Business Case.

Despite my best efforts, the project protagonists continue to deflect questions about mitigation measures saying this will be dealt with via 'traffic calming' and is for discussion at a later date. I have stated that such vague assertions are not acceptable from Oxfordshire's perspective.

There will be another 'Summit Meeting' in March, meanwhile officers from the various authorities will meet to suggest next steps.

ROAD WORKS ON THE A4155 IN RELATION TO THAMES FARM

There will be extensive roadworks on the A4155 between Shiplake and Henley between now and the spring. These relate to utility connections and meeting road/pavement/lighting planning conditions.

RETIREMENT VILLAGE INQUIRY

I spoke at the inquiry on Wednesday 11th September. My focus was on the impracticality and urbanising impact of the ramp and fortified embankment. However, the appellant's QC chose to question me at length on the speed limit change on the A4155. Retirement Villages won the appeal but for reasons that are unclear are still trying to get the speed limit reversed.

ROAD CLOSURE BETWEEN DUNSDEN GREEN AND PLAYHATCH ROUNDABOUT

There was an unexpected road closure on Friday 13th September. At the last meeting I undertook to investigate the matter. On examination it transpired that all proper procedures had been complied with and notifications had been issued. The problem centred around the fact that this part of the road has no official name and was described as 'Unnamed road' in the notices, thus there was little awareness of the closure. I have advised Eye & Dunsden PC that they could get the road named if they so wished but I believe they have decided not to do so.

STREET LIGHT NO. 3 BINFIELD HEATH

At the last meeting I advised that further to the chairman's notification of a resident's request to switch off streetlight no.3 at midnight, officers stated that a request to convert a street light to a part night operation in a rural area should come from the parish council as they would be required to do all the consultation with the local residents to confirm if this is what they all require. The procedure can commence once officers receive notification an appropriate motion has been passed by the parish council. However, there is another, simpler, option of shielding the rear of the existing fitting which is attached to an electricity pole. If this would be an acceptable alternative the PC should email Anthony.Palman-Brown@Oxfordshire.gov.uk with a copy to me. I would be grateful for an update on the matter.

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

SODC District Councillor's Report – 4th November 2019

The Emerging Local Plan 2034

As you are probably well aware, Cabinet met on 3rd October to make a final decision on the recommendation it would make to Council about the Local Plan. After several months of detailed investigations, negotiations and far-reaching discussions, Cabinet voted unanimously to recommend the withdrawal of the Plan.

The reasons for this have been circulated in a press statement, as follows:

(a) withdraw the emerging South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034 for the following reasons

- the uplift above the standard method from 627 homes to 775 homes a year is excessive, and the existence of the Growth Deal should not be used as a justification for this uplift •

the overall supply of homes in the Local Plan period is considered excessive as it is over 5,000 homes greater than the need identified for South Oxfordshire, even allowing provision for Oxford City's unmet housing need. • the Local Plan does not give sufficient weight to responding to the climate emergency that we face as recognised by the decision of Council of 11 April 2019 • concerns about site selection issues including: o that the scale of Green Belt release is not justified o flawed site selection having regard to the sustainability and deliverability of strategic allocations • concerns about the impact of the housing mix delivery and density policy

Note: The motion continued...

(b) withdraw from the Oxfordshire Statements of Common Ground linked to the emerging South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034

(c) agree to commence work as soon as practicable on a new ambitious Local Plan, to seek to address the above concerns

(d) request a report on the merits of a joint Local Plan with neighbouring authorities

(e) request the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to provide financial support to support a new ambitious Local Plan

(f) explore other opportunities for funding

(g) bring forward revenue expenditure on a new Local Plan currently estimated at £2 million into the next Medium-Term Financial Plan period, representing the most cost-effective option

(h) ask officers to prepare a new Local Development Scheme and work programme and bring this to Cabinet for approval.

Prior to this being debated by Full Council on 10th October, SODC received a letter from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Govt. Robert Jenrick MP. The letter placed a holding direction over South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan and effectively gagged any discussion of the above motion at Council. Therefore, the Council was not allowed to talk about the Local Plan in any form. After the news broke the Oxford Mail ran the headline "Death of local democracy". We now await further news and SODC have sought legal advice. It appears that there may be unresolved questions about the legal references quoted - which would have the effect of declaring the emerging Local Plan unsound. With a General Election now called for 12th December the holding direction may get held until afterwards. What price democracy? 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.

New Offices for SODC

The Council meeting was able to have confidential discussions around the planned move back to Crowmarsh after the fire which destroyed SODC's offices nearly 5 years ago. There is no controversy over the decision to rebuild the offices in Benson Lane, but there are some important decisions to be made in terms of how much the Council is prepared to invest to construct a sustainable, energy-efficient building that will be fit for the future. Such a build would set a good standard for commercial buildings in our district and will be an

office of which we, the local community and the SODC/Vale officers can be proud. When completed the offices will house both SODC and the Vale of White Horse councils.

The new Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC)

The CEAC held its first meeting in public on 19th September with a wide-ranging agenda. In relation to the Local Plan, the committee has reported to Cabinet that it does not believe that sufficient weight is given in LP 2034 to responding to the climate and ecological crisis that we face. It will also recommend a much more ambitious zero-carbon target for the Council itself (2025) and for the District as a whole (2030) and has provided its recommendations regarding the construction and on-going maintenance of the new office building. These recommendations were approved unanimously at Full Council on 10th October.

Oxfordshire Resources and Waste Strategy

Oxfordshire County Council has launched a new countywide waste strategy that we have been actively involved in. South and Vale remain the two best districts in the county with over 60 per cent of our waste collections sent for reusing, recycling or composting. The strategy aims to help keep household waste growth to zero, increase recycling rates and to send less waste to landfill. You can read the full countywide strategy [here](#).

As a reminder, if any residents want to report a missed collection or fly-tipping, please make sure they go through the usual reporting process via Biffa. More information on reporting missed collections can be found on the South and Vale websites.

There is also a helpful 'What happens to all of my waste?' information sheet [here](#).

Oxfordshire Growth Board Review

The Oxfordshire Growth Board resolved at its meeting on 24 September 2019 to undertake a review of its role and functions. It has produced a short survey to canvas views which will help inform recommendations for how the Board will work in the future. They are asking for feedback on all aspects of the Growth Board, from how it is perceived, its priorities and membership, to the communication methods and meeting format.

Please access the survey by clicking [here](#) – the deadline is 26th November and there is a workshop on 18th November at 6.30pm for any members of the public who are interested in learning more about the review process.

You can read the full report concerning the review [here](#). You can also read more about the about the Growth Board in this summary document or at www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org

Cutting congestion and improving public transport in Oxford

An interesting meeting at County Hall on 13th September presented a new joint initiative between OCC and Oxford City to address the problem of traffic congestion in the city. Traffic and transport in the city have a knock-on effect for our residents, so it is good to learn more about their plans. The two Councils have produced a new 'Connecting Oxford' proposal to improve air quality and the time it takes to travel into and around the city by:

- restricting car traffic
- introducing additional 'bus gates'
- reallocating road space to pedestrians and cyclists
- new high frequency bus routes
- charging for workplace parking
- discounts for new bus services for those paying workplace levy

The two councils are now asking for feedback to develop a more detailed project proposal.

You can find out the full details on the Connecting Oxford proposal here. The deadline for submissions is 20 October, and we would encourage you to contribute to this exercise, since what happens in Oxford City matters here, too!

Cutting congestion and improving public transport in Reading

Reading Borough Council is a unitary authority and has consulted on a new transport strategy. This places great emphasis on reducing car traffic in Reading, introducing new car-free bus lanes and thoroughfares, park-and-ride centres, tolling at peak times, action to reduce noxious emissions and improvements for cycling. Because Wokingham BC don't agree with the idea of a workplace parking levy (WPL) and given the awkward boundary arrangements, Reading BC is not proposing one. To work well, the above arrangements would need to be joined-up and coordinated. SODC is expecting to engage with RBC on all the above. Such mitigations could improve commuting times and reduce cross-Thames volumes. Reading BC suggest that a third of the IDR traffic is through-traffic that does not need to come through Reading at all; the question being how to re-route such traffic. Smart tolling or restrictions could potentially discourage such traffic from Reading?

Reading BC is now part of the Transport for South East "sub-national" grouping. The grouping goes from Kent through to Hampshire including Berkshire. A 3rd Reading bridge features prominently on the wish list for TfSE and graphics illustrate the possibility of a new SRN road following the A329M and indicates a prospect to continue to "Oxford". Clearly any such proposition would, over time, generate a mass of new traffic from Bracknell Guildford and beyond.

There was a summit meeting on the 3rd Bridge on 18th October and David, Sue Cooper and I attended. There was much to discuss, but progress on mitigations could provide the fastest relief with least cost – appropriate to a Climate Change environment.

Councillor grants

Councillor grants are available and need to be claimed. The joint value for Sonning Common could be £1,100 for an appropriate project. (Clearly the parish could top this up!)

Leigh Rawlins District Councillor