

BINFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Binfield Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday September 27th 2021 at 7.00pm in the Scout Hut

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

018/21 Allotments Rents are coming in. Trustees confirmed that people on the waiting list should be offered a plot before tenants can take over an extra plot. Two plots are available. **(Clerk to action)**

019/21 Recreation Ground

019.01/21 Regular inspections have taken place.

019.02/21 ROSPA The Chairman accompanied the inspector on the ROSPA safety inspection this year. The inspection has revealed a number of items needing attention. The urgent tasks have been undertaken and Playdale is to carry out a free inspection of their equipment and will provide a quotation for necessary repairs.

019.03/21 A litter bin for the cleared area at the bottom of Arch Hill has arrived and is in place.

020/21 Public Forum No questions

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), two members of the public.

085/21 Apologies Cllr L Rawlins (SODC)

086/21 Declarations of Interest None

087/21 Minutes of the meetings held on Monday 2nd August 2021. Cllr Lacey proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Summerland. All agreed.

088/21 Matters Arising All items on the agenda.

089/21 County Councillor's report Cllr Bartholomew briefly discussed local matters. His full report is attached to the minutes. He encouraged the PC to respond to the Henley & Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Ransom expressed her frustration with the Planning Committee hybrid meeting attended by Councillors. It was technically difficult and the PC's argument relating to the AONB was largely ignored. Cllr Bartholomew suggested that Cllr Ransom contacted the Cabinet member for planning (Anne-Marie Simpson) for clarification.

090/21 District Councillor's report Cllr Rawlins had sent his report. His full report is attached to these minutes.

091/21 Public Forum No comments at this time.

092/21 Financial Situation

092.01/21 The financial position was circulated.

092.02/21 The August and September accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £1495.57 and £968.93 respectively were authorised for payment. These payments were proposed by Cllr Ransom, Cllr Lacey and by Cllr Summerland. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

093/21 Planning Matters

Applications GRANTED by SODC

P21/S2900/HH Single storey rear extension. New pitched roof to replace flat roof. 7 Heathfield Close Binfield Heath RG9 4DS

P21/S2851/HH Single storey rear extension Pond House Kiln Lane Binfield Heath RG9 4EJ

COMPLETED Applications for Ratification

May 2021

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. Decision ratified.

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. Decision ratified.

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. Decision ratified.

P21/S1788/HH Single storey rear and side extension 9 Heathfield Avenue Binfield Heath RG9 4ED

A working party recommended this application for approval. Decision ratified.

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. Decision ratified.

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.

The recommendation was to object to the application due to the position of the stable block and the height of the wall. Decision ratified.

July/August

P21/S2245/HH Formation of new access carport, two storey rear extension and internal/external alterations 1 The Homestead Binfield Heath RG9 4LA

A working party recommended this application for approval. Decision ratified.

P21/S2478/FUL Demolition of existing Cottage and new replacement with 2 semi detached villas Elm Cottage Binfield Heath RG9 4LE

A working party recommended refusal of this application. Decision ratified.

P21/S2691/FUL Erection of new detached cottage with garage accommodation The Willows Kiln Lane Binfield Heath RG9 4EJ

Previous Application (P21/S2339/FUL) withdrawn. A working party recommended this application for refusal due to the lack of drainage and water conditions. Decision ratified.

P21/S2851/HH Single storey rear extension Pond House Kiln Lane Binfield Heath RG9 4EJ

A working party recommended this application for approval. Decision ratified.

P21/S2900/HH Single storey rear extension. New pitched roof to replace flat roof. 7 Heathfield Close Binfield Heath RG9 4DS

A working party recommended this application for approval. Decision ratified.

P21/S3571/HH Proposed two storey side extension 7 New Road Binfield Heath RG9 4EP

Recommendation: Approval. Decision ratified.

P21/S2478/FUL Demolition of existing cottage and new replacement with 2 semidetached villas (revised energy statement provided on 13th July 2021 and bat emergence survey report received 19th July and depth reduced and roof lowered as shown on amended plans received 6th August 2021 and rear roofs changed from gables to hips as shown on amended plans received 3rd September 2021). Elm Cottage Binfield Heath RG9 4LE

Recommendation: No further comment was offered. Decision ratified.

NEW Applications for Discussion

P21/2691/FUL Erection of a new detached cottage with garage accommodation as amended by plan and information received 7th & 14th Sept 2021 The Willows Kiln Lane Binfield Heath.

Recommendation due asap. This was discussed and it was decided to make no further comment. All agreed.

P21/S3655/HH Erection of single storey outbuilding (pool house), exterior swimming pool and associated hard and soft landscaping. Coppid Hall Sonning Common Road Binfield Heath

Recommendation: Approval by 1st October All agreed.

P21/S3796/HH Erection of triple garage (re-submission of P21/S0487/HH). Gosbrook House Common Lane Binfield Heath RG9 4JY

Recommendation: Approval by 28th September All agreed.

094/21 Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Davis had prepared a summary of progress: The next NP SG meeting is on Monday 18th October at the Memorial Hall. Councillor Davis will forward a draft vision for the NP and initial aims and objectives and said he welcomes any feedback from all Councillors.

095/21 Community Matters

095.01/21 Defibrillator The Councillors are still considering this and question whether as Binfield Heath is so spread out a defibrillator in the centre of the village would be less effective than in other environments. The Clerk was asked to ask Dr Barton if she could come to the next meeting and perhaps answer this query. **(Clerk to action)**

095.02/21 Kiln Lane The possibility of putting posts into Kiln Lane to solve the problems of turning lorries was discussed. However, the status of the road needs to be established. The Clerk was asked to ascertain this information. **(Clerk to action)**

096/21 Highways/Transport and General Maintenance

096.01/21 It was noted that, as far as the PC is aware, since the signage at Coppid Crossroads has been improved there have been no traffic incidents.

096.02/21 The hedgerow from the road on Shiplake Rise is overgrown and collapsing on the inside of the hedge that narrows footpath 16 on the other side of the hedge. The Clerk will report this on Fix My Street. **(Clerk to action)**

097/21 Green & Open Spaces

097.01/21 A resident had reported that she had fallen into the gully that has been created by rain at the junction of Footpath 13 and 20. The problem has been reported. It is understood that this area is on Phillimore land so the Clerk was asked to contact Savills. **(Clerk to action)**

097.02/21 keeps Lane has been cleared and tractor work has revealed a collapsed metal fence with spikes in the ground creating a hazard for walkers and horses. The Clerk was asked to contact Savills. **(Clerk to action)**

098/21 Website Compliance Nothing to report yet but the Audit certificate and financial details have been uploaded on the website.

099/21 Neighbourhood Watch Nothing to report this month.

100/21 Consultations These were noted an appropriate action will be taken.

Matters for future consideration Neighbourhood Plan; defibrillator.

The meeting finished at 9.36pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday October 25th 2021

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

GENERAL OCC REPORT

PRIORITIES OF NEW ADMINISTRATION

The new LibDem/Green/Labour administration has announced its priorities. I have concerns that some of these areas, while laudable, are matters beyond the council's remit and are for central government, or that the council can have minimal impact upon them. The priorities are:

- Tackle the Climate Emergency
- Tackling inequalities
- Prioritisation of wellbeing
- Review and reform of the social care system
- Increased investment in travel network to reduce car journeys
- Improved access to nature and green spaces
- Supporting children and young people to achieve improved health, wellbeing and educational outcomes
- The creation of a resilient local democracy
- Support for local employment and businesses to make Oxfordshire a centre for green technologies

The vast majority of the emails I receive are about road maintenance/improvement, traffic accidents, drains, grass cutting, flooding, footpaths, waste disposal and planning matters – these important but unglamorous matters receive barely a mention and the administration seems to focus more on grandstanding on national issues than the fundamentals of running a local council.

THANKING PEOPLE IN OXFORDSHIRE FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

People in Oxfordshire who are wanting to donate items to help those who have been evacuated from Afghanistan are being thanked for their warm-hearted reaction to the situation. The generosity of Oxfordshire people to date means that no further donations are needed just now. Some of the items donated have already been distributed and gratefully received by arrivals at RAF Brize Norton from Afghanistan over recent days. OCC will be working closely with the district councils and the city council in coming days and weeks as the situation develops. Further information on support for refugees in Oxfordshire can be found here: <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/support-afghan-refugees/>

OAKLEY WOOD HWRC UNDER THREAT?

I am concerned that once again, our Oakley Wood household waste recycling centre (HWRC) could be under threat. Please respond to the following consultation and forward it to any residents you think might be interested.

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/tell-us-what-you-think-of-countys-household-waste-and-recycling-centres/>

ROUTE REVEALED FOR OXFORDSHIRE STAGE OF WOMEN'S TOUR CYCLING RACE

This year's Women's Tour professional cycling race comes to Oxfordshire on **Monday 4 October**. Route details can be found here: <https://www.womenstour.co.uk/stages/stage-1/>

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR BINFIELD HEATH

FOOTPATH ALONGSIDE THE A4155 LINKING LOWER SHIPLAKE TO SHIPLAKE CROSS

I am investigating the feasibility of constructing a rural-style footpath to run from the junction of Memorial Avenue and the A4155, alongside the A4155 to where a path exists near the speed camera. I would welcome the PC's views on this.

SPEED TUBES ON A4155 NEAR THAMES FARM DEVELOPMENT SITE

I am attempting to discover who commissioned this speed survey and why. OCC has had no request for permission to conduct the survey. Such permission is not mandatory.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR BINFIELD HEATH

P20/S3501/FUL-3: CHANGE OF USE OF LAKE FOR RECREATION/SPORTS PURPOSES

I have received multiple complaints about alleged breaches of planning. SODC Planning

Enforcement will take no action until this retrospective application has been determined, even though it does not cover the all the activities that have allegedly been occurring.

Residents should report:

- Noise and disturbance using this link: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/environment-and-neighbourhood-issues/neighbourhood-services/reporting-a-nuisance/>

(If noise disturbance is occurring late into the evenings residents are also able to report the issue by telephoning 01235 422410.)

- Suspected planning breaches through this link: planning.enforcement@southandvale.gov.uk
- Comments on the retrospective planning application via this link: <https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P20/S3501/FUL>

P20/S2808/DIS: THAMES FARM

As previously reported, Taylor Wimpey has submitted a revised drainage proposal to SODC. This involves pumping the surface water from the site along the A4155 to a discharge point near Sheeplake Lane. Thames Water has stated it is unable to support the proposals until a range of issues has been addressed. Taylor Wimpey has now responded to the Thames Water points but this response has not yet been assessed by SODC. The OCC/SODC drainage/flood response is expected with the next couple of weeks. Taylor Wimpey has also submitted its proposals for ground compaction/grouting.

JOINT HENLEY HARPSDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

I attended the exhibition at Henley town Hall at the beginning of July. I was impressed by the quality of the presentation and the amount of effort that had been put into the project. However, while six of the proposed sites were within Harpsden parish, they were physically adjacent to Shiplake and would rely on Shiplake to meet sustainability criteria. I am pleased to say these sites have now been withdrawn and I am supportive of the plan. Details can be found here:

<https://jhnp.org.uk/consultation/>

SODC ward councillor's report Binfield Heath – 27th September 2021

Covid-19 Covid cases are much higher than at the equivalent time last year, as the Delta (Indian - B.1.617.2) variant continues to make its mark. We will need to see how things develop now that schools are back and tertiary education is due to return. At 21/9, Oxford City was at a weekly rate of 384 per 100k population. By comparison, Cherwell DC was 309, West Oxon DC at 256, SODC at 262 and Vale of WH DC at 310. Reading BC (to 21st September) was at 289. On the plus side these rates are rather lower than when I reported to you in July. The vaccine programme continues – with particular focus on the younger groups down to age 16 and completing 2nd doses. A single Pfizer dose will then be offered to 12-15 year olds – partially subject to parental discussion. A booster programme is expected to support those over 70 or who are vulnerable and this will then extend to those over 50. There will also be a broad-based flu inoculation programme to try to protect the NHS during the winter. Government are hopeful that we may have seen the worst from known Covid variants. However in Israel there has been a marked 4th wave – despite having very high levels of vaccination that were achieved early; this therefore raises some questions about the durability of antibody levels.

New NPPF A new version of the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) has been published by MHCLG. I attach a note of some of the key changes.

AONB extension An extension to the Chilterns AONB is to be considered as advised separately. This begins to reflect the findings of the Glover report and also public concerns. It is understood that this review process will be done by Natural England.

Planning for the Future Radical proposals for a root-and-branch erosion of the planning system are to be paused for reflection – despite having appeared in the Queen’s speech at the opening of Parliament. Moreover there has been a UK cabinet reshuffle in which the former Secretary of State Robert Jenrick was unceremoniously defenestrated after a long series of gaffes, undue use of power and set-backs with unpopular proposed changes. The ministry has now been renamed from MHCLG to the Ministry for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – with Michael Gove appointed as SoS. Neil O’Brien who had been charged with leading a process to define and provide an action-plan for “Levelling Up” is to become part of the ministry team of politicians. It would appear that a change of direction is intended?

Plan Consultations – Arc and OP2050 The Government have commenced a consultation on how they aim to dictate the future of the Ox-Cam Arc. In February there was a statement on setting a spatial framework for the Arc in which Government would seek to dominate the overall aims and ambitions for the economic scale of desirable development in the Arc. To underline that it was stated that their dominance of the Arc would be written into national NPPF policy. Although reference was made to consulting with local “partners” and residents the thrust of the document was of central diktat. It can be found ;- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-for-sustainable-growth-in-the-oxford-cambridge-arc-spatial-framework/planning-for-sustainable-growth-in-the-oxford-cambridge-arc-an-introduction-to-the-spatial-framework> It is a matter of law and established practice that there must be consultation. Arguably, following the Chesham and Amersham by-election ministers are rather less confident of large-scale development and encouraged population growth in the South East. Moreover there are a lot of policy questions around the future of regional “levelling up”. The current consultation can be found here and closes on 12th October:- <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-vision-for-the-oxford-cambridge-arc> I would urge the view that the new investment in the UK economy should be focussed outside the over-heated South East – in the regions where the greatest growth potential and quality under-utilised resources exist. Ideas of growing the arc population by 50% or more will have seriously adverse Environmental, Social and economic impacts – in my view! Milton Keynes appears to be content to double its population from 250k to 500k by 2050. It would appear that public sentiment in Oxfordshire would not support excessive growth? In the Government’s view the Ox-Cam Arc will dominate the sub-region with an overall view to 2050 and then each of the Counties will set out a Joint Spatial Strategy Plan for their Local Planning Authorities. For Oxfordshire it is the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and progress to date can be found here:- <https://oxfordshireplan.org/> The present stage is the “Regulation 18, part two public consultation. The responses to part one were fiercely negative, contrary to large-scale growth with associated concreting development and strongly in favour of more environmental and climate considerations. Since then progress have been made and the current consultation – which ends on 8th October can be found here :- <https://oxfordshireplan.org/have-your-say/> It is important to respond – to indicate views on policy, scale of desirable growth/development and the spatial shape of allocations for growth. Formerly the body for organising planning co-operation in Oxfordshire was called the “Oxfordshire Growth Board”. However it members have agreed to change its name to the “Future Oxfordshire – Partnership”. This is to re-establish a more balanced approach for the future.

Thames Farm A submission by Taylor Wimpey for groundworks and the void-filling (with coverage of the inter-relationship with drainage) has been expected and something of a submission has now been received by SODC. Having taken advice, the position of SODC’s professional planning function is that the void-filling of the sinkholes on site will represent major engineering works that go beyond the scope of the original application and will thus need to be the subject of a separate application; the applicant disputes this finding – hence their submission. This will now be considered by all the appropriate expert bodies and the wider public. It will be necessary to take an holistic view of submissions since groundworks and drainage are intimately linked and inter-dependent; with input from key stakeholders and expert consultees.

Refuse collection The national shortage of HGV drivers continues. The Road Haulage Association (RHA) suggests that there is a current lack of 100k drivers. Moreover of the 380k licence holders it is estimated that one third of them are expected to retire within the next 5 years; this is because the age profile of HGV drivers is weighted to older drivers. Government have sought to simplify testing arrangements and to create more capacity by ceasing to require special testing for some other non-HGV categories. This includes extra rights for those passing a car driving test. They have also temporarily relaxing safety rules limiting drivers' hours to 9 hours per day; 11 hours per day will be accepted for the present time. Industry experts point out that in addition to a licence a driver requires a CPC and that new licence-holding drivers must complete some 8-9 weeks of having to have an experienced driver to mentor them before they can drive on their own; limits for this include employers' insurance arrangements. Finally the government has now agreed to issue up to 5,000 temporary visas for foreign/EU drivers to work in the UK up to Christmas Eve. Currently BIFFA (SODC's refuse collection contractor) is facing challenges in having enough HGV drivers. The Road Haulage Association estimate a need for 100 thousand extra HGV drivers. There are a number of reasons for this :-

- Brexit/Covid – many HGV-qualified drivers from the EU etc have left the UK
- Re-start of the economy – there is now much more demand for drivers as activity starts to return post Covid – so widespread new recruiting. Many employers offering bonuses.
- Covid – staff off sick or isolating
- Covid – there has been much less training and test availability for HGV qualifications whilst retirements have continued
- It has been known for years that the age-distribution of HGV drivers is strongly skewed to the older end. Of 380 thousand drivers with CPCs, one third are expected to retire within the next 5 years.
- HGV class 1 drivers (articulated rigs) have a higher standard of test and periodic renewal of proof of professional competence. Further specialist tests are required for fuel or chemicals tankers (ADR test) – with an extra PDP element for fuel. .

Managers at BIFFA are doing their best to recruit more. In the meantime the brown bin garden waste collections have been on temporary stop to protect the main waste collections. (The subscription arrangements provide for 20 collections per annum – something that dates back to 2014 when the current contract began.) Brown bin collections will re-commence from 4th October but will only be on a 4-weekly frequency of collection. However you will be able to leave out TWICE as much garden waste as usual; The extra garden waste can be put out in cardboard boxes, old compost bags or bin bags (not the very large and heavy trade waste bags please). Moreover the subscription period is being extended by 3 months – which will delay the next annual direct debit accordingly. (Subscriptions start at different times by household, according to when first begun.)

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) CPE will proceed in November and be organised through OCC. Details have been circulated to Clerks separately

New offices for SODC Progress is being made on new offices for SODC following the fire that destroyed the Crowmarsh offices in January 2015. The previous administration did all too little to progress matters causing all the insurance money and millions more to be eaten up by the expensive temporary costs of Milton Park. Decisions to move forward will be considered soon.

Grants Councillor grants are again open with round 1 of 2 closing on 1st October. A second round will follow. The capital grants scheme is anticipated to re-open soon.

Keep safe!

Leigh Rawlins
District Councillor