

Begbroke Parish Council

Website: <https://www.begbrokepc.org.uk>

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MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF BEGBROKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN BEGBROKE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 5TH MARCH 2018 AT 6.30 PM

1 Present:

1.1 Cllr Malcolm Ryder (Chair) Cllr Leslie Allen; Cllr Ellis Davies; Cllr Lindsay Gregory; Cllr David Wintersgill; Cllr Nigel Simpson CDC Cllr Billington OCC & CDC; Jeffrey Wright - Clerk;

Apologies:

1.2 Cllr Beverly Napier

2 Read and Confirm Minutes of Last Meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting 5th February 2018 were confirmed as a true record.

3 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Gifts or Hospitality

3.1 None declared

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Litter bin – now installed by KPC - located in Partridge Place near Roundham Crossing.

4.2 School Transport charges – nothing further as a discussion meeting is trying to be arranged.

However, this issue strengthens the case for a pedestrian crossing at Begbroke. It was also recorded that there were footpaths not being maintained along the A44 leaving pedestrians to walk on the cycle paths.

4.3 The clerk showed images of the difficulties experienced by large vehicles with trailers attempting egress and access to the Vans for Bands entrance in the eastern service road. Has been reported to OCC for opinion. Cllr Billington to pursue.

5 A44 and Begbroke Science Park

5.1 A44 Pedestrian crossing progress – PC letter to Layla Moran & Cllr Simpson developer/OCC discussions. Cllr Simpson had been in discussions with Cllr Ian Hudspeth and whilst the plans to locate a Langford Lane Crossing further south towards Begbroke were acceptable to the Technology Park Developer who is also providing Section 106 monies, Cllr Hudspeth is to refer the idea to “planning” for discussion.

6 Reports from County/District Councillors/Other contributors

6.1 County Councillor – report e mailed to councillors and a shortened version inserted below.

OCC BUDGET 2018/19

OCC agreed its budget at a Full Council meeting on 13 February following a five-hour meeting of all 63 county councillors. Council Tax will rise by 5.99%, the maximum amount allowed without a referendum. Key points include:

- Finances are sound compared to other councils,
- The Council Tax rise will deliver extra money for adults and children’s social care
- Proposal to extend £500,000 contribution for homelessness for an extra year in 2019/20 (subject to consultation)
- 10-year programme to improve transport network and release more money for road maintenance
- £15,000 for each of the 63 county councillors to spend on local priorities in their area

GROWTH DEAL

As detailed in the December and February reports, the Oxfordshire Growth Board* has reached an outline Housing and Growth Agreement (Growth Deal) with Government. This will see an additional £215m of investment over the next five years to build infrastructure, support the delivery of new homes and boost economic productivity across the county. The Growth Deal has now been agreed

by the six councils. *The Oxfordshire Growth Board comprises the six councils: Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council, together with the county's Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP).

OCC STEPS UP POTHOLE WORK AS WINTER HITS THE ROADS

Repeated cycles of ice, thaws and snow created the worst possible weather conditions for roads over the last few months leading to a rise in reports on Fix My Street from 3,000 pre-Christmas to 7,000 during January. OCC has drafted in more staff to carry out inspections and contractors Skanska are sending out more teams to carry out repairs. An additional Dragon-Patcher is now in action on the road network travelling round on an 'inspect and fix' basis on the rural network. Defects that make roads hazardous will be dealt with within 24 hours as usual. Remember, if a defect has paint markings around it then it has already been scheduled for repair and does not need a new report.

OXFORDSHIRE'S LIBRARIES ARE THRIVING – NOT JUST SURVIVING

Libraries Minister Michael Ellis MP attended the official opening of Oxfordshire County Library in February. The newly refitted facility welcomed volunteers and community groups who have helped ensure the county's 43 branches have a bright future.

CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) REVIEW IN OXFORDSHIRE

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) visited Oxfordshire in November 2017 to carry out one of 20 targeted reviews taking place in England. The CQC report, published on Monday 12 February says: *"People were treated with kindness when they moved between health and social care services. Frontline staff were dedicated and provided person centred care, going the extra mile for people they cared for."* Across all areas of health and social care, an above-average proportion of services achieve a 'good' or 'outstanding' CQC rating in Oxfordshire. All of the CQC's recommendations for actions have been agreed by the five organisations involved which are:

- Oxfordshire County Council (local authority)
- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust (OHFT)
- Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG)
- Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUHFT)
- South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS)

CQC inspectors found the problems of recruiting care staff in Oxfordshire were holding back improvement. Incompatible computer systems also hampered integration of services. Making services more local by using a 'place-based' approach to design and delivery of care

- Improving information available to people who fund their own care so they can get the support they need more quickly
- Investing more in recruitment and retention of care staff so more care packages can be delivered, particularly for older people.

PLASTIC POLLUTION IN OXFORDSHIRE

Residents in Oxfordshire have been amongst the best at recycling (including plastics) and composting for a few years now, and the countywide recycling rate is around 60%, one of the best in the country. However, the ambition is to do better. Plastic is a topical target. The OCC Recycling Team has put together top tips to kick the plastic habit:

- Remember your reusable bags when shopping.
- Invest in a reusable water bottle
- For takeaway coffee, use a reusable mug. Collapsible ones that fit easily in a bag are obtainable, or there are ones made from bamboo to avoid more plastic.
- Look for products with less packaging, or no packaging, such as fruit or vegetables.
- Buy concentrated products and refill packs instead of fully packaged products, such as fabric conditioner, washing powders and some beauty products.
- Recycle the packaging where possible. While 90% of packaging is recycled in the kitchens, only 50% is being recycled in the bathroom.

- Buy larger or economy sizes of goods such as breakfast cereal, tomato ketchup, toilet rolls and soap powder. All the councils in Oxfordshire are working together to seek views on reducing waste and increasing recycling. Respond to the consultation here: www.recycleforoxfordshire.org.uk

6.2 Cherwell District Councillor and County Councillor – reported on item 9.1 below.

7 Council Representatives. (Two representatives if possible)

7.1 BVHMC Report (Ellis Davies) reported:

The bar seat cushions had been replaced, rodent control had attended to mice in the hall roof, there was damage in the field due to vehicles parking (clerk reported that 4-5 spaces were available at the hall but the playgroup had fenced off an area of the car park and had now erected a shed making it impossible to move the fence as agreed.); a quiz night to be held on 16th March; new toilet seats still to be fitted in ladies wc's; a tap had been fitted in the cellar. The committee felt that a sluice for washing mops and buckets should be provided somewhere to avoid any cross contamination.

7.1.1 Village hall internet – progress – nothing to report.

7.1.2 Village Hall toilet upgrade – as item 7.1. men's toilets to commence around April.

7.2 London Oxford Airport Consultative Meeting. (Malcolm Ryder) – did not attend meeting. However, Cllr Simpson had and reported back as item 7.3

7.3 London Oxford Airport Consultation. Looking to introduce new arrival procedures and to restructure the local airspace in a manner that enhances levels of safety, improves efficiency by reducing the number of broken off approaches and ensuring effective coordination between **LOA** and **BZN**. The consultation information is on the parish website.

8 New Business

8.1 Bus stop (east) vandalism – reported to Police. Shelter now repainted by volunteer and notices are remaining on the board.

9 Planning

9.1 Cherwell "unmet Housing Needs" Review – CDC has approved plan to develop in Green Belt. A discussion took place about this decision that ignored the substantial number of objections including local organisations, Begbroke PC, Yarnton PC, Kidlington PC, OCC and Highways England. Cllr Simpson to investigate the housing figure to eventually be put forward by Oxford and compare to figures currently being published by CDC. Cllrs requested figures for expenditure on this "Consultation" exercise; will Highways object to the plans again? And will the planned housing be freehold or Leasehold. Cllr Simpson to investigate and report back. It was noted that there will be Industrial development which is not permitted in Green Belt and raised questions about Begbroke Science Parks' plans for expansion.

9.2 Reviewed Appeal Ref: APP/C3105/D/17/3180987 Bluebell Cottage, 22 Springhill Road, Begbroke, Oxon OX5 1RX in context of green belt. The inspector was adamant that a side extension would impact the green belt – but Cherwell did not have issues with over 4000 houses and other developments.

10 Correspondence (see register for full details of postal correspondence)

10.1 Letter of thanks for grant from Oxfordshire Association for the Blind.

11 Financial Matters

11.1. Grant Information/Grant Applications/receipts

11.1.1 None

11.2 Balances and Liabilities and Income

11.2.1 Balance £12,586.86 (Money) Bank Accounts): Current £5,277.03 Reserve £7,893.35

11.2.2 Liabilities £564.40 app. Transfer of funds: £0.00; Income: £0.00 Bank interest £0.36

11.3 Expenditure

11.3.1 Applewood Garden services – litter bin emptying Inv: 6295 £38.40 CN: 717

11.3.2 Oxford Playing Fields Association annual subscription £53.00 CN: 716

11.3.3 OALC annual subscription Inv: B00007/2018 £146.20 CN: 718

The above transactions were unanimously agreed by the committee.

11.4 Quotations/Tenders

11.4.1 Tree Survey – Nicholson’s Nurseries £320 plus vat. It was unanimously agreed to accept and proceed. Clerk to organise.

11.5 Bank Matters

11.5.1 NatWest Kidlington branch to close in June.

11.6 Other Financial Matters

11.6.1 The appointment of Moore Stephens (for Begbroke) and other suppliers as auditors of the smaller authorities was noted. (Previously BDO)

11.6.2 Report by the Parish Remuneration Panel making recommendations regarding the levels of parish remuneration was discussed. It was unanimously agreed to accept expenses on council duties but no payments of allowances for Councillors work.

12 Health and Safety Matters

12.1 No playground inspection reports received.

12.2 Cllr Wintersgill raised an ongoing problem. at Roundham Crossing. Sometimes the alarm bells rang/lights flashed for no reason. Enquiries to the signal box were of no help as the signal man could not give permission to cross or to advise of trains. Instead, the only advice was to take a several miles diversion which of course many people could not manage. A recent incident had trains in either direction stopped on the tracks, alarms flashing/sounding with no assistance from the train/rail companies.

13 Training

13.1 Training requests – none.

14 Freedom of information requests

14.1 None

15 Footpaths, Bridleways and Restricted Byway (RUPP)

15.1 Footpath amendments, anomalies and addition

15.1.1 Condition of Begbroke Lane – response from OCC Footpaths and Highways Dept was that apart from grass creeping over the edges (previously reported to OCC) they could find nothing wrong. Images shown by the clerk disproved this as the surface was breaking up at the Kidlington end and in some areas by Rowel Brook, leaves and mud were impacted causing a slippery surface. OCC will review again in September.

15.1.2 Clerk had e mailed images and spoken to Christopher Hawkins Strutt Parker re progress with the barrier and proposed fence by Rowel Drive access to FP 11. It appeared that the plan to remove barrier and alter entrance from Rowel was progressing and could be installed by September.

16 Website

16.1 Website content was reviewed

17 Proposed dates of the Next Meeting (s):

16.1 2018 April 9th, May 8th (ACM & APM); June 4th; July 2nd; August 6th; September 3rd; October 1st; November 5th; December 3rd; **2019** – January 7th; February 4th; March 4th.

Signed Chairman/Vice Chairman

9th April 2018