

Begbroke Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Council: Jeffrey Wright, 27 Willow Way, Begbroke, Kidlington, Oxon. OX5 1SD.

e-mail at: clerk@begbrokepc.org.uk

MINUTES OF

MEETING OF BEGBROKE PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY DECEMBER 5TH 2022 @ 06:00 PM.

1 Present:

1.1 Cllr Malcolm Ryder (Chair); Cllr David Wintersgill (Vice Chair); Cllr Leslie Allen; Cllr Lindsay Gregory; Cllr Peter Finbow; Cllr Beverly Appleton; Jeffrey Wright – Clerk;

Apologies:

1.2 Cllr Ian Middleton (OCC); Cllr Dorothy Walker (CDC)

2 Minutes

2.1 The minutes of the meeting Monday 7th November were unanimously confirmed as a true record.

3 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Gifts or Hospitality

3.1 None declared.

4 Matters Arising

4.1 None

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Trees – other issues were discussed - Maintenance, Duty of Care, Insurance, licences and possible consequences from root damage. Cllr Ryder is to meet OCC representative so will be discussed again.

4.2 Glass recycling Bins – due to continuing problems with broken glass, litter, disposal of glass by people passing through the village and general unsightliness it was suggested that the bins move to either the western bus stop or near Bladon Roundabout. It was agreed to request Cherwell to see if a new location be found. It was noted that in Yarnton and Kidlington, people had to travel some distance to deposit glass.

5 A44, Highways & Begbroke Science Park

5.1 North Oxford Corridor Improvements Cassington Rd to Peartree Interchange – continuing but with continual traffic queues

5.2 Pedestrian Crossing – No updates following meeting with Cllr Gant or subsequent e mails for information that funding has been allocated and will not be removed – especially as the committee suspect it may be moved to fund a raised road platform at Cassington Road which is planned but not funded in the present scheme.

5.3 Repairs to kerbs and street- light following accidents, west – in progress and east side – no action yet.

5.4 Begbroke Innovation District Community Exhibition – reviewed. It was well attended by residents at the village hall and pleasing to see that the digital display was in use for their presentation. It was agreed that we must work with The University to achieve the best outcome for the village

5.5 No other matters

6 Reports from County/District Councillors/Other contributors

6.1 County Councillor – report –Cllr Ian Middleton

CDC Local Plan

We are still trying to get sight of the full draft of the local plan 2040. The scrutiny committee were supposed to see it last week, but it wasn't ready in time as they are still waiting on a joint Housing and Economic Need report to be published with the city council. Cherwell are now the only council working directly with the city on a local plan. The fear is that this is because both want to pursue

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the highest levels of growth which is what the city wants and is why the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 failed (none of the district councils apart from CDC wanted to see excessive growth as that would come with the need for more housing in the districts).

The CDC plan was not published in time and instead was sent to members 3 days before the meeting and was full of holes where the housing numbers and site allocations should be. They then promised to have it ready for another meeting in the 12th December. But that has now been pushed back to 11th January. We still have no idea if the plan will be ready by then or if we'll be given enough time to read it before the meeting. On current form we suspect not.

CDC LGA Peer review

The administration has commissioned a peer review of how CDC operates as this is the first time in 12 years that it has stood as a stand-alone council after de-coupling from OCC. They are interviewing all the different political groups to get an idea of how we think things are going.

The outcome was surprisingly positive. Some of us wondered if they had got their notes mixed up!

Electoral Constituency Boundary changes

The name accepted by the working group was the Bicester and Woodstock Constituency as proposed by the boundary commission. I argued that the name should include Kidlington as that is much larger than Woodstock and set to get larger still over the coming years. This was voted down on the basis that Kidlington is not a town but Woodstock is. Woodstock is also on West Oxfordshire and there was a feeling that there needed to be some reference to that in the constituency name.

OCC

Main news on the county is that the traffic filters plan has been passed by the cabinet in a very fraught meeting where several people had to be escorted out of the room by security.

The proposals do not prevent people driving into the city, they just limit the routes that can be taken across the city. This is to reduce congestion and try to improve bus operations.

Unfortunately, we can't do one without the other.

There will be some permits available to people living outside the city in the adjacent divisions (Yarnton residents should get there) but there will be fewer available to us than there will be to residents inside the city. I and some of the other local county councillors thought this was unfair and that there should be a bit more balance between the two. So far, we've not been listened to. The scheme is experimental though and can be altered as we go along. It will be administered using ANPR cameras and permits will be managed online. The software for all this is still being developed though.

The whole scheme being delayed until 2024 due to Network Rail wanting to completely close off the Botley Road for most of next year.

OUFC Stadium

We are still waiting to see the full details of the proposals for the main Stratfield Brake site. I understand a 500-page report has been with the officers at OCC for nearly a month. I'm trying to get that released into the public domain. In the meantime, there has just been an announcement that the area of land between Frieze Way and the Oxford Road is now being considered in isolation as a site for the stadium itself. This is supposedly coming to OCC cabinet in January but I am pressing for an opportunity for local consultation first.

School Buses

I'm still pursuing this and hopeful that a meeting will be scheduled soon.

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Cassington Road Crossing

I believe a meeting for this has been scheduled for next week now, but unfortunately, I'll be away. I did make myself available this week for a meeting but the officer didn't arrange anything until late. I probably don't need to be there though as long as some members from YPC attend. If you let me know the outcome, I can make sure that any action points are taken up.

The YPC response to the consultation on these proposals was submitted directly to the officer as I know there were problems with the portal. I've had confirmation that the comments will be taken into account. Hopefully there will be some useful results from the site visit.

Budget

The budget hole of £50m is likely to be reduced to around £44m – We're looking at running a deficit of around £7m but the final figures are still being consulted on.

LTNs

The previously used and abused plastic bollards are being replaced with steel versions at a cost of £100K. The council has already been forced to spend around £70k replacing the vandalised bollards.

Network rail Botley Road

The Botley road will be closed for a year from the start of 2023. For this reason, the council is delaying the introduction of the traffic filter experiment until 2024

Begbroke Crossing

I've been contacted by the new officer who is taking this on. I've only just had the email so I'm trying to set up a site meeting. Hopefully before Christmas.

Begbroke Roundabout repairs

Must admit I've not been kept in the loop on this but did see some work going on a few days ago. I have asked for a safety assessment to be carried out to see if some Armco would be appropriate. It looked like they might be fitting that when I went past. So let me know if you have any more information.

6.2 Dorothy Walker Councillor Kidlington West Cherwell District Council - report

Begbroke Innovation District development

1. Sandy Lane implications

I attended the online briefing and the later public exhibition in Kidlington. As I'm sure you know, there is a proposal to re-align Sandy Lane and to construct a road bridge over the rail line slightly to the north of the current crossing. According to the proposal, this new bridge would be capable of bearing vehicles, but there is on-going discussion about how to limit traffic over it. Potentially it would be limited to emergency traffic, service vehicles, and public transport.

The online briefing that I attended referred to this scenario and seemed to indicate that the additional cost of this option (over and above the cost of the original pedestrian bridge) would be borne by the developer (not Network Rail) and that a memorandum of understanding to this effect was being prepared.

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The Innovation District exhibition design boards illustrated the option. I talked to the transport consultant, Katy McMullen, who explained that this option would require the strengthening of the old canal bridge so that it could take heavier vehicles. She mentioned that the proposition of an 18-seat local community bus to operate between Kidlington, Yarnton and Begbroke had been floated but obviously that would need funding (presumably by OUD). A normal city bus would be too wide and heavy for the canal bridge.

2. Other points from the briefing:

Planning application expected to be submitted in 2023.

Construction starting 2024/5.

First occupation anticipated 2026.

construction of a primary school and a secondary school (the latter to be linked with Gosford school in Kidlington).

1950 homes, of which 50% to be affordable.

Primacy of walking and cycling; 'the car to be a guest'.

Internal roads to be designed in such a way as to avoid through-traffic

Continuing effort to design-in integration with neighbouring communities.

Botley West Solar Farm

I attended the public exhibition, as I'm sure other Councillors did. Some concerns: more building on Green Belt land; the size of the project (if it goes through, it will be the fourth largest solar farm in the world); its planned size also enables it to bypass local authority scrutiny and planning; the lack of evidence that it forms part of any overarching national energy or food security strategy; given the UK climate, solar farms are not a coherent part of energy policy as they only produce energy on bright or sunny days. MPs Robert Court and Layla Moran have expressed concerns about the project.

Campsfield House

The public exhibition focused on facilities, health provision etc but, in contrast with earlier communications with Councils, which described the redeveloped Campsfield House as playing an integral role in the planned Rwanda deportation policy, there was no mention at all of the Rwanda scheme. The posters' rationale for closing Campsfield in 2019 was apparently it was 'no longer in a good state/fit for purpose'. However, statements by Home Office ministers in 2019, announced the closure as part of the Government's decision (following the reports of its own research. This found that detention was vastly overused, very badly and inefficiently run, as well as frequently random, illegal and inhumane). It was therefore decided on 3 years ago to reduce the detention estate by 40%.

Oxford Airport

Andrew Thompson, one of the major sites planning officers at CDC has told me that the airport has been asked for clearer details to back up its application for variation of the S106 agreement regarding the buffer zone around the airport perimeter. The airport has agreed to provide this, as well as noise impact assessments but so far nothing has appeared.

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6.3 OALC Report was displayed and topics of interest discussed. It was noted that Botley Rd will close for a year for a new bridge to be constructed at Oxford Station.

7 Council Representatives

7.1 BVHMC Report – no report but due to the success of the existing Forza goals, the provision of a replacement but larger goal on the recreation field may be considered in the spring

7.2 Oxford Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) Meeting (3rd of three for 2022) - Tuesday 6th December 2022, 6:00pm

8 New Business

8.1 Four parishes meeting – no update.

8.2 Botley West event 1st December – The committee were unanimously opposed to the solar farm which was said to be one of the largest on the planet if approved. The Planning system has been bypassed by presenting this as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and is thus removed from direct control by the three affected District Councils (West Oxfordshire, Cherwell and Vale of White Horse). Under the NSIP rules developers, in seeking permission to go ahead in the form of a Development Consent Order (DCO), must submit a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) that should also involve the affected Councils. The developer is in complete control of gathering information for its SoCC. None of the responses during any community consultation is likely to be made publicly available, so that we will not be able to judge the strength of feeling for or against Botley West Solar Farm.

The developer then submits its NSIP application directly to the Government which appoints a Planning Inspector to examine the case. Planning Inspectors are chosen who have little or no knowledge of the local situation because their job is only to decide if due legal process has been followed. They are, however, in complete control of any examination of an NSIP proposal. Their deliberations need not be in public and, even if they are, any hearings are not obliged to invite any member of the public or Local Authority to speak. As long as the developers have ticked all the relevant NSIP legal boxes, the Inspector is obliged to approve the application whether or not it is a good idea, and whether or not it is appropriate in the landscape where it will be built.

The committee brainstormed some points for the clerk to submit before the very short date of 15th December despite this scheme having been planned in all probability for years by Blenheim and Merton College.

8.3 Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre– exhibition – Cllr Gregory attended to see the plans which appeared to be a “done deal” and would proceed in any case. He experienced problems with protesters in access and egress from the building.

8.4. Monday 5th of December OUD will be commencing Archaeology investigation works at Begbroke. Clerk has written to see if a resident who is in an Archaeological Group could observe.

8.5 Cherwell Parish Bulletin 28 November 2022 was circulated and noted.

9 Planning

9.1 [Search Results - Planning register | Planning register | Cherwell District Council](#)

9.2. Hall Farm – planning update as building and structures are deteriorating with CDC delays. No reply from CDC by meeting date. The buildings and external walls are deteriorating due to lack of repair work which is unable to commence.

10 Correspondence None (See register for full details of postal correspondence)

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11 Financial Matters

11.1 Balances/Liabilities: £19,745.45 Money. Bank Statements – to 28th Nov. : Current £18,722.95 Reserve £1,908.92

Transfer: £0.00; Liabilities (listed below and outstanding cheques)

11.2 Income: Bank interest – £0.16, Cllr Grant from OCC £1,987.50

11.3 Expenditure

11.3.1 NR Prickett grass cutting Invoice 1782 £447.60 CN:1021

11.3.2 Jeffrey Wright Clerks salary November plus back pay for pay award. £859.42 CN: 1022

11.3.3 HMRC PAYE/Ni Liability to 22/12/2022 £190.80 CN: 1023

11.3.4 Jeffrey Wright – clerks' refundable expenses £115.70 – stamps, plants, HDMI cables, Software subscription. £115.70 CN: 1024

11.3.5 No Other transactions

The above transactions were unanimously agreed.

11.4 Quotations/Tenders

11.4.1.

11.5 Bank Matters

11.5.1 None

11.6 Other Financial Matters

11.6.1 Grant request – Begbroke WI - a grant of £100 was unanimously agreed

11.6.2. Grant request – The Link a grant of £250 was agreed with one abstention. However, as each issue was costing in the region of £450, it was considered that production costs should be reduced. Yarnton's magazine, although basic, had much information, was published on their website and distributed to all households in the village.

11.6.3 OCC Cllr Priority Fund grant received.

11.6.4 Financial Budget for 2023-24 of £30,793.91 for precept request was unanimously approved. This represents a 3% increase on current precept.

11.6.5 No other matters

12 Health and Safety Matters

12.1 Playground inspection reports – received from Cllr Wintersgill

12.2 Playground repairs and maintenance – repair sheet for contractor to complete. Clerk will produce following reports.

12.3 Rota – Cllr Appleton to carry out December's inspections. Clerk to provide inspection sheets.

12.4 Other matters

13 Training

13.1 Play Area inspection training – OPFA may arrange.

13.2 Requests – Cllr Finbow will require Play Area inspection training when available.

14 Freedom of information requests/receipts

14.1. None

15 Footpaths, Bridleways and Restricted Byway (RUPP)

15.1 Footpath to Parkers Farm – updates and plans are on the PowerPoint presentation and published on our website. Detail has been sent to Kevin Murray Associates for discussion.

15.2 Parish Footpath Walk –arrangements to be made for the spring.

15.3 "Woodstock and Area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan" (generally shortened to Woodstock LCWIP. The Village Travel Network (VTN) is an informal network of the six communities,

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Bladon, Combe, Hanborough, Stonesfield, Woodstock and Wootton and it also includes the Blenheim Estate. We aim to bring our villages together to enable sustainable travel, connectivity and networking that enhances community safety, wellbeing, social opportunities and longer term environmental and low carbon benefits. You can find out more at www.vtn.org.uk

Cllr Finbow volunteered to represent Begbroke and Clerk is to confirm to Colin Carritt who is the project chair.

16 Village – Natural Environmental Matters

16.1 Tree survey for potential TPO's for Iain Osenton Arboricultural Team Leader CDC is to be discussed further

17 Website & Information

17.1 Website was reviewed

18 Proposed dates of the Next Meeting (s):

18.1 6th February 2023; 6th March 2023. Proposed 2023 Annual parish meeting Tuesday 16th May. (AGM) and ACM. Election date – 4th May 2023

Signed _____ Cllr Malcolm Ryder Chairman Begbroke Parish Council 6th February 2022