

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 FEBRUARY 6TH 2023 @ 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 Ian Middleton (OCC); Cllr Dorothy Walker (CDC) Jeffrey Wright – Clerk;

Apologies:

1.2 None

2 Minutes

2.1 The minutes of the meeting Monday December 5th 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 Trees – Issues were discussed - Maintenance, Duty of care, Insurance, licences, risks to people and utilities, handing over to OCC after offer. The decision was again delayed as Cllr Ryder said he awaited a response from OCC regarding tree ownership and the information on the differences between a licence to plant and maintain which is a legal statutory agreement under the highways act 1980, and planting on OCC's behalf, which is a local agreement between the parish and the county. For agenda on next meeting.

4.2 Glass recycling Bins – no response from CDC on relocation. There were no practical suggestions for relocation.

4.3 Solar Farm responses – receipt confirmed by promoter.

5 A44, Highways & Begbroke Science Park

5.1 North Oxford Corridor Improvements Cassington Rd to Peartree Interchange – updates. Raised platform finance approved. Surfacing to take place during night-time.

5.2 Pedestrian Crossing – no updates from OCC representatives of OCCs Traffic & Road Safety Section, with responsibility for delivering the scheme.

5.3 Repairs to kerbs and street- light following accidents west and east side – street light installed, no signage and nothing at Begbroke East where 30mph sign has not been replaced. Clerk has again prompted Cllr Gant about this who said he would “escalate as matter of urgency”

5.4 Begbroke Innovation District – Pub- no progress, footpaths. Meeting was held to discuss plans to change a section of FP 7 into a shared path. Cllr Ryder, Cllr Wintersgill, Cllr Middleton, Begbroke Clerk, Tom Clarke from OUD and Lucy Driver

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from Burofour, attended a walk around the site and discussion about specifications, alternatives and diversion routes. OUD wish to convert the footpath into a shared tarmacked path fenced either side and only 3m wide – whereas the existing path, not shared, is 8ft wide. Clerk made representations to CDC, followed up by Cllr Middleton and Cllr Ryder. A reply from CDC Planning said that they would ask the Development Management team to look at the specific issues and advise on the detail. Public consultation is not usually undertaken for the discharge of conditions, but they will ask Paul Seckington (DM Senior Manager) to liaise with the team and advise as soon as possible. The parish council would be satisfied with a path constructed from Coxwell bindings in a similar way to Begbroke Lane and many other footpaths, that fitted into a rural environment. A press release has been made.

5.5 It was noted that cars have been entering the eastern service road from A44 via the No Entry egress.

6 Reports from County/District Councillors/Other contributors

6.1 Ian Middleton - Councillor report Feb 2023

Cassington Road crossing

This has now been approved by the cabinet member for highways Andrew Gant as per the planning application. Keith, David and I looked at alternatives but I don't think there were any. I did raise a few last-minute points with Andrew but I don't think these made any difference. I think it's the best we're going to get, but if there are any tweaks that become apparent later on let me know and I'll see what I can do.

OUFC stadium

OCC cabinet have given permission to start negotiations on the siting of the stadium on what is known as the Triangle site which is across the road from the main Stratfield Brake site between the Oxford Road and Frieze Way. Whilst this is better in terms of not using up the amenity space on the main site and having less impact on the woodland trust nature reserve, it's still going to have a huge impact on the area, including Yarnton and Begbroke.

I'm concerned that there should be a focused local consultation on the proposals but it's currently unclear if this will be carried out by OCC. I'm pushing for this internally and with Layla Moran.

Solar Farm

There doesn't seem to have been much in the way of movement on this since the last meeting. I'm still in conversation with Andy Graham, the leader of West Oxon District Council and we maintain a watching brief on the proposals.

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Police visit to CDC scrutiny.

I attended a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny committee at CDC last week and the chief Constable and the PCC attended to give us an update. They reported that they are seeing an increase in the number of officers and that this will lead to an improved service.

I raised the issue of the lack of cover a few months ago and concerns about the currently planned reorganisation and was assured that this would not mean any reduction in police cover. There's a full report on the meeting and the presentation on the CDC website.

Local plan

After all the mad rush to get this to the scrutiny committee before Christmas and the claims that there could be no extra time for us to read it properly (we had 8 days to read over 650 pages), information leaked out that the CDC executive were suspending work on the plan due to comments made at the scrutiny meeting. I say 'leaked out' as we were never officially informed about any of this!

I heavily challenged the housing numbers at the scrutiny meeting and the plans to remove yet more green belt in Kidlington and they failed to justify any of this. Even some developers have questioned the plan, especially as it includes a 'buffer' of around 3500 houses that they can't define a need for.

There is no explanation on why they have suspended work on the plan other than they say it's to do with comments from the scrutiny committee. Although in the past they've not really bothered taking notice of this. The suspicion is that they realise that it's a flawed plan which was rushed through and is politically damaging for the ruling group (especially after the LPPR). So, they may well just sit on it and then resume work after the election. That leaves open the possibility that the whole thing will still just be pushed through in its current form.

Oxford/Cambridge Pan Regional Partnership

This appears to be the Oxcam ARC re-born with different branding. It brings with it many of the issues that the ARC had. I hoped there would be scope for the scrutiny committee on CDC to review it before the council accepted membership, but as Barry Wood was the leader of the previous ARC leaders' group and is currently the 'shadow/ghost' leader of the Pan regional group, it was inevitable that CDC would become a founder member

Liz Leffman, the LibDem Leader of OCC has also been quoted in local media as being supportive, which was news to many of the rest of us on the council as it hadn't been discussed.

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Begbroke/Yarnton Footpath

Fiona and I and members of Begbroke PC met with OUD members on site to look at the proposed changes to the footpaths running between the science park, Roundham lock and Begbroke. The current plan is to close them for us to 6 months for them to be re-surfaced to make them shared footpaths and cycle paths. They will also be fenced in.

No one seems to have noticed that these plans were buried in the proposals for the science park extension and apparently, they were added by CDC as a planning condition. Begbroke PC and I raised concerns about the nature of the paths and the fact that they will be fenced in, which we feel will disadvantage dog walkers and will bring cyclists and walkers into conflict. It will also radically change the nature of the rural setting.

The site meeting seemed to be quite amicable and we all understood that OUD would look again at the plans (they didn't seem to know about the planned fencing!) but a few days ago they responded that they would be going ahead regardless. Jeff the BPC clerk has since written to David Peckford pointing out that the way this has been handled is appalling and that some of it may even be unlawful. I followed that up myself and David has promised to look at it again although I doubt there's much scope to change it now.

I also wrote to the person from OUD who responded to our enquiries and was rather uncompromising about removing things like the fencing and didn't seem to take on board our suggestions that OUD should have more explicitly consulted with local residents on these changes.

I think this represents the start of the urbanisation of our local countryside and it's something that should be resisted for as long as possible. We all know those fields are going to be developed, but we should be allowed to enjoy the open countryside for as long as possible before the University concrete and tarmac it over!

Works to Begbroke Roundabout (and crossing)

Repairs to the roundabout after an accident last spring seem to be about complete, including a replacement lighting pole. I'm told there will also be some deviation signs fitted in the near future to hopefully prevent any future incidents.

I've also chased the reinstatement of the speed signs on the Begbroke slip road which were knocked down in a collision last October.

I've asked for an explanation as to why all these works have taken so long. I've also chased officers for a timetable on the installation of a controlled crossing at Begbroke near the bus stop which has now been agreed.

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A44 Layby

I've asked for a meeting to discuss some more permanent solution to this situation. I asked about using planters last year but the quote they had to supply these was astronomical so I'm asking if we can consider alternatives.

Aysgarth Road and other paths/roads

I've chased these with the officer concerned and he has agreed that these works should be programmed in. OCC has allocated an additional £1m into the budget for works to paths so hopefully we can grab some of that while it's going.

There's a lot of additional damage been done to the roads over the past few months due to the weather. I've also asked for Sandy Lane to have some more resurfacing works done to it as much of the original 'dragon patcher' repairs have now failed.

Sandy Lane burst water main.

Fiona and I reported this on Sunday and a repair crew were out on Monday morning. The road was closed until Tuesday evening and everything seems to be working again. It was just a failed pipe.

Flooding

OCC have also added £600K into the budget to provide one-off works to help prevent flooding. This could include gully clearances. Again, if we want to get some of this funding we should put in bids as soon as the mechanism for doing so has been established.

Bus stop indicator board at the top of Sandy Lane

This has finally been re-installed in a more sensible location and now you don't have to step into the road to read it. I've been asking for this to be fixed for months so it's good it's finally been done.

School buses

I attended a meeting of the OCC working group looking at transport to school and raised the issue of bus travel to and from the Marlborough School from Yarnton as well as the safety of children walking to school in Kidlington. There was also concern about the cancellation of some of the spare seat's schemes.

The responses weren't hugely encouraging but I am working with my fellow Green councillor to make a further approach to the People Scrutiny committee to see if anything else can be done. I need to have another conversation with Anna to get more information about what options there might be in the future.

6.2 Cherwell District Councillor – Cllr Dorothy Walker reported on:

a) London Oxford Airport applied last year to vary the S106 agreement relating to their terrain usage. This application requested a reduction in two of the buffer zones

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excluded for aircraft use which are sited around the airport perimeter. This was because the airport wanted to build a new taxiway to the main runway. The new taxiway would need to cross these buffer zones.

The taxiway has now been built over the zones, but the noise assessment required as part of the application hasn't yet been provided to CDC Planning Department (although it has been promised), so the S106 can't be varied. I've been told by CDC that the new taxiway can't come into operation until the assessment is supplied and it has been evaluated

b) Review of Brize Norton Airspace and unused area that could be utilised for others.

c) She is to investigate booking system at Kidlington Leisure Centre where other group have permanent reservations not permitting others such as basketball teams to have use of courts.

6.3 OALC Report – circulated – no issues raised.

7 Council Representatives

7.1 BVHMC - Cllr Allen reported on the last committee meeting.

- Bookings increasing + some new customers.
- Accounts in the black for Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan
- £31,372 in the bank.
- Playgroup hire charge up from £15 per day to £25 per day effective May 23
- £800 to be received from Oxford community foundation grant to help with fuel costs
- Karen Smale to leave playgroup.
- "Jobs to be done" list to be resurrected now that funds are better, will include replacement kitchen and small lounge floors. Note BVHMC warned about risk replacing kitchen floor with less suitable surface by LA and G Thomas. (There is nothing wrong with it). Copy of cleaning instructions for Atro floors submitted by LA.
- Jubilee tree - 50 people allegedly attended - discussion started to go into detail concerning recent e- mail from D.W. LA informed chairman that the content would be discussed at the next PC meeting and a decision would then be made on an official reply if necessary.
- The existing goal posts at the top of the field are to be removed.

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- One of The 5 a side goal posts have been moved to back on to the bowls hut exposing the ground anchors and concrete fixings - - alleged trip hazard / problem with mowing - G Thomas said that they should have been consulted before they were used. LA replied that they were originally installed below ground level and are not a problem for mowing. Goals need to be repositioned occasionally to rest the grass so additional anchors should be provided.
- BVHMC were advised that a list of section 106 projects need to be with PC clerk before end of January. Also advised that costs and drawings will be required to support applications.
- Footpath - temporary closure / design discussed On the FP 7 proposals, very dangerous for people with dogs - some dogs view cycles as a threat. possibility of cycles getting tangled in leads etc, pathway not wide enough for both, the surface should be more 'rural', Hazards caused by electric scooters which will probably find their way on to it, potential use by skateboarders / blades - nice downhill slope, Hazards caused by electric cycles - fast and silent.
- PC were considering a reply regrading an e mail about the Jubilee Tree on playing field.
- There was not a unanimous vote to remove the goal post at top of field.

7.2 Oxford Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) Meeting (3rd of three for 2022) - Tuesday 6th December 2022, 6:00pm, No report but see **6.2**

8 New Business

8.1 The asset register, Standing Orders; Financial; Management Risk Assessment and Freedom of information policy were reviewed and unanimously agreed.

8.2. Four parishes meeting update – section 106 monies – ideas were collated on a spreadsheet and circulated. (Rev 4)

8.3 Coronation - no events planned by PC. Banbury Police had requested information.

8.4 Proposal that the village hall Management committee take over the inspection of the Play Area and Playing Field (and equipment) from the 1st of March 2023 after the comments made to myself (Cllr Wintersgill) and the Parish Council, that ours is not up to an acceptable standard compared to others in the Cherwell area. This was discussed at length and clerk is to draft a response for further discussion.

9 Planning

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

9.2. Hall Farm – approved.

9.3 Planning notification for application reference: 22/03763/SCOP comments unanimously approved for submission to CDC

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9.4 Planning notification for application reference: 21/03522/OUT comments unanimously approved for submission to CDC

9.5 Letter to David Peckford from clerk requesting specialist consultations when footpaths are involved was noted. He said he ask the Development Management team to look at the specific issues and advise on the detail.

He flagged up that public consultation is not usually undertaken for the discharge of conditions. He would ask Paul Seckington (DM Senior Manager) to liaise with the team and advise as soon as possible.

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

10.1 E mail from Jubilee Committee in response to Cllr Wintergill's E mail.

11 Financial Matters

11.1 Balances/Liabilities: Bank Statements : Current £17,795.86 Reserve £1,910.02
Transfer: £12k to reserve; Liabilities (listed below and outstanding cheques)

11.2 Income: Bank interest – £1.10

11.3 Expenditure

11.3.1 Begbroke WI – Grant £100 CN: 1025

11.3.2 Begbroke Link – Grant £250 CN: 1026

11.3.3 Jeffrey Wright Clerks salary December 2022 £616.67 CN: 1027

11.3.4 HMRC PAYE/Ni Liability to 22/12/2022 £130.20 CN: 1028

11.3.5 Dovey Accountancy Services Ltd Fees £120 CN: 1029

11.3.6 Nicholson's Nurseries Duty of Care tree survey Inv 3025266 £504.00 CN: 1030

11.3.7 Jeffrey Wright Clerks salary January 2023 £616.67 CN:1031

11.3.8 HMRC PAYE/Ni Liability to Feb 22, 2023, £130.20 CN: 1032

11.3.9 Community Oxfordshire Membership 2023-24 £55.00 CN: 1033

11.3.10 Other transactions – it was noted that CN: 001008 had not been presented despite being issued in September 2022. It was agreed to cancel cheque at bank and issue a new one on request.

11.4 Quotations/Tenders

11.4.1 Nicholson's for tree work following duty of care report £3,600 plus vat. In abeyance until item 4.1 resolved.

11.5 Bank Matters

11.5.1 It was unanimously agreed to transfer £12k to reserve account to gain some interest – currently 0.85%. It was suggested to see if other accounts were available.

11.6 Other Financial Matters

11.6.1. Pensions Regulator – confirmation of redeclaration of compliance Jan 2023.

11.6.2 Financial Budget for 2023-24 of £30,793.91 confirmed by CDC

11.6.3 No other matters

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12 Health and Safety Matters

12.1 Playground inspection reports – none given.

12.2 Playground repairs and maintenance – nothing to report apart from goals being moved. Further quotes for swing wet pour could be sought.

12.3 Rota was shown.

12.4 No other matters

13 Training

13.1 Requests

14 Freedom of information requests/receipts

14.1.

15 Footpaths, Bridleways and Restricted Byway (RUPP)

15.1 Footpath to Parkers Farm – more investigation has taken place by Cllr Ryder who has located the lintels that supported the tunnel under the railway. OUD is to consider this and other proposals such as perimeter of field and canal side paths in the future.

15.2 Parish Footpath Walk – could not confirm arrangement due to path closures.

15.3 Update of meeting with OUD regarding temporary closure and diversion of FP 7 – see item 5.4

16 Village – Natural Environmental Matters

16.1 Tree survey for potential TPO's for Iain Osenton Arboricultural Team Leader CDC – no information given as yet.

17 Website & Information

17.1 Website was reviewed. Clerk has added Parkers Farm information, Solar Farm objection and Yarnton and Begbroke Green Belt Group press release regarding Solar Farm. Minutes and agendas are regularly added.

18 Proposed dates of the Next Meeting (s):

18.1 6th March 2023; April 3rd, 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 March 2023