

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 MARCH 6TH 2023 @ 06:00 PM.

1 Present:

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

Apologies:

1.2 Cllr Ian Middleton (OCC);

2 Minutes

2.1 The minutes of the meeting Monday February 6th 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 — Maintenance, Duty of care, Insurance, licences, possible risks to people and utilities. were discussed. It was decided to hand the care over to OCC as licences cannot be found. A request will be made asking that Cllr Ryder could do some volunteer work on the trees as he has spent many years providing care to them.

4.2 Solar Farm – promoters currently analysing feedback received.

4.3 Four parishes meeting update – section 106 monies – ideas collated by Dave Robey KPC.

4.4 Sandy Lane – will closes at it is a Cherwell Planning Policy not OUD's. Chairman to sign a letter from KPC and YPC to Cllr Barry Wood at CDC requesting the reasons behind this policy decision.

4.5 Glass recycling Bins – have contacted CDC about situation and possible removal of surplus bins. No response to date.

4.6 Royal Sun – clerk has again written to Star Inns about a tenant, None as yet. Also promoting to OUD.

5 A44, Highways & Begbroke Science Park

5.1 North Oxford Corridor Improvements Cassington Rd to Peartree Interchange – carriageway surfacing continuing with good progress. Raised platform finance approved.

5.2 Pedestrian Crossing – updated with a critical path analysis of steps necessary to implement. Scheme inception and Preliminary design & estimate are progressing before detailed design work.

5.3 Repairs to kerbs and street- light following accidents west and east side – No progress. Clerk has complained and OCC are taking the matter up with the contractors.

5.4 Begbroke Innovation District – updates – meeting 1st March at Science Park. Well attended meeting and many issues shared with four participating discussion groups. Suggestions will be discussed and considered prior to a full planning application being submitted. Cllrs Ryder, Allen and Finbow together with the clerk, attended.

5.5 Condition of Begbroke roads are very poor. Especially service road east, Willow Way and Begbroke Crescent. Cllr Ryder is currently investigating issues.

5.6 Other matters such as alteration of bus services were discussed – examples were S7 S7A, 233.

6 Reports from County/District Councillors/Other contributors

6.1 County Councillor – report.

Ian Middleton – Councillor report March 2023

Begbroke – Kidlington Yarnton – Gosford and Water Eaton

Budgets

Probably the most important events this month in both District and County Councils.

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Both councils have increased council tax to the maximum which in the current economic climate makes sense given that future tax settlements will be based on this one and we are in the middle of a spending crisis.

On the county council we have sought to reduce the impact on the poorest residents by creating a hardship fund to help those who can least afford it. Cherwell didn't choose to do this.

The Cherwell budget also included a £4.6m increase which can be related to the additional pressures from Castle Quay which amount to £3.3m in the overall budget with an additional £1m spent in the last year to plug a gap in the forecasted earnings.

On the county council the Conservatives proposed a budget amendment which notably sought to remove £800K of funding from the fire and rescue service and wanted to add an additional £2m on to parish councils to cover the cost of the 2015 Plenary Roll out that the county has pledged to fund. Needless to say, the amendment wasn't passed.

Home to School Transport

This has become a major issue after the county council reduced the number of spare seats available after a re-tendering of the bus contracts. This happens every year but this year it was particularly impactful. The whole 'spare seats' scheme is something of a fudge in my opinion which doesn't deal with the need for a properly funded and partially subsidised home to school transport system. I attended a working group that was looking to resolve this and have proposed that we should look at providing such a system in the near future with contributions from academies, local authorities and parents. Discussions are still ongoing about this.

Affordable Housing

I proposed a motion to the District Council calling on the executive to consider increasing the affordability requirement to 50% to match the city council level. I based this on the principle that we seem to be able to do this for the houses in Cherwell that are intended for the city council, so I don't see why we shouldn't do the same for our own residents.

The motion was carried almost unanimously with 2 Conservative abstentions.

Local plan 2040

We now understand that consideration of the local plan will be delayed until July. The reason being given for this is the comments that were received from the overview and scrutiny committee. If I was a suspicious person, I'd suggest the real reason might be that the proposals to take more of our green belt for housing along with pushing higher growth figures with the city council might be seen as difficult to defend this side of the local elections. I guess only time will tell.

The council has however agreed that we should be operating the standard method of calculating housing need which now improves the council's 5 year land supply. This is something we pressed them on all through the examination of the LPPR, but they refused. Now it seems convenient to change position.

I did ask a question at the last full council meeting about if this method would be applied to the 2040 plan but was not given a reply.

PR8 Meeting

I attended a meeting at Begbroke Science Park to discuss the proposals for the PR8 site. They seem to be more defined now but there was still an agenda to include half of the 'affordable' houses on the site. I challenged this with the representative from OUD and made it clear that I would push back on this through CDC.

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Paths across Begbroke

Works to the paths from Roundham Lock across the fields to the science park have become a local concern. I and members of Begbroke Parish council had site meetings with OUD and have since raised concerns with them about the works, particularly the suggestions that they would be fenced off. OUD is now re-considering these works in the light of local opposition.

PR9 and flooding

I've written to the lead local flood authority county council officer urging them to take the report from Yarnton Flood Defence Group seriously. This also has knock on effects for all the LPPR sites, not least because Merton College is proposing to connecting the new houses to the existing foul drainage system regardless of the fact that Thames Water have said it doesn't have the capacity. I'm currently setting up a meeting with county officers, YFD and Thames water to discuss it.

Begbroke Crossing

I've pressed the officer who is dealing with this at OCC Highways to set a timetable. He has pledged to do so.

Kidlington Rising Bollard/ANPR

I've now found the correct officer to discuss this with and am in conversation with him. I understand there may be funding for it so I'm hoping that might be forthcoming.

Stratfield Brake

No further news on this at the moment. I am about to write to the officer dealing with it to get an update. I've also spoke to Layla Moran about pressing for a full local consultation.

Kidlington Roundabout

This project has now been approved as per the recent consultation. There is likely to be some vegetation clearance going on in the near future but I'm assured this will be kept to a minimum.

6.2 Cherwell District Councillor – Cllr Dorothy Walker reported on:

- a) Botley Rd Closure from April 11th to October and similar in 2024
- b) It would have a small impact on Oxford Parkway
- c) Campsfield – there has been no planning application, A well-researched letter by Nicola Blackwood detailed objections such as Green Belt Location, traffic increases, cost and whether it was to be used for detention or temporary accommodation.
- d) Discussed bus schedules and the point was again made how Begbroke was not served properly by buses to other hubs such as Parkway or Hospitals. It could take up to two hours to reach the JR by catching several buses.

6.3 OALC Report – was shown with detail of election timetable.

6.4 Cherwell Parish Bulletin – was shown. No comments on content.

7 Council Representatives

7.1 BVHMC Report.

- a) Nothing in minutes about Jubilee Tree planting
- b) Finances are healthy with £35k in bank
- c) Bookings are increasing especially with Digital Monitor availability.
- d) There may be a request for replacement flooring in lounge and kitchen.
- e) A tree recently fell into a neighbouring property. A request has been made for a duty of care survey.
- f) New Housekeeper has been appointed.
- g) Modular ceiling in annexe requires completion.
- h) Roof repairs did not arise

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- i) Ramp discussion did not arise
- j) The Capital spending and Revenue budgets were discussed. Clerk to write.
- k) Bowls Club low on membership.
- l) Heather has been replaced under the lounge monitor.
- m) Ambulance parking was discussed as it spills out on to nearby roads.
- n) Date of next meeting 18th April

7.1.1 Play Area

It was unanimously agreed to send a response letter to BVHMC, Link Editors and Jubilee Tree Committee. This followed a reply ty to Cllr Wintersgill.

7.1.2 Football Goals – provide larger portable/fixed one(s) was agreed. Committee to investigate alternatives.

7.2 Oxford Airport Consultative Committee - no meeting.

8 New Business

8.1 None

9 Planning

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

9.2. Oxford Housing Need consultation which runs until 27th March.

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

10.1 None

11 Financial Matters

11.1 Balances/Liabilities: £17,751.46 Money. Bank Statements : Current £5,795.86 Reserve £13,911.28 Transfer: £0.00 Liabilities (listed below and outstanding cheques) No statement had arrived by meeting date so figures are February 10th

11.2 Income: Bank interest – £6.98

11.3 Expenditure

11.3.1 £55.00 CN: 1033

11.3.2 Garfitt's Int.£343.17. Replacement cheque for CN:1008 as not presented CN: 1034

11.3.3 Jeffrey Wright Clerks salary February 2023 £616.67 CN: 1035

11.3.4 HMRC PAYE/NI Liability to 22/03 /2023 £130.20 CN: 1036

11.3.5 OALC Membership (for 1st April 2023) £165.16 - approved.

11.3.6 OPFA Membership (for 1st April 2023) £56.00 - approved.

11.3.7 Baylee Construction BPC 1001 inspection £120 and BPC201 Bus Shelters £195.00 CN: 1037

11.3.8 Jeffrey Wright Clerks salary March £616.67 CN: 1038

The above transactions were unanimously approved.

11.4 Quotations/Tenders

11.4.1 Two quotations received for swings wet pour repairs/replacement and a further contractor is assessing.

11.5 Bank Matters

11.5.1 Transferred £12k to reserve account.

11.6 Other Financial Matters

11.6.1 Clerk has to prepare accounts for internal and external audit.

12 Health and Safety Matters

12.1 Playground inspection reports received for February. Repairs and remedials on inspection sheets discussed.

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12.2 Playground repairs and maintenance. Painting required – leave until improved weather.

12.3 Inspection Rota – was distributed.

12.4 Village asset inspection carried out in February, only issue were gates and attached signs were dirty. Bus shelters cleaned.

13 Training

13.1 Request Councillor Training for Cllr Finbow after election in May.

14 Freedom of information requests/receipts

14.1. None

15 Footpaths, Bridleways and Restricted Byway (RUPP)

15.1 Footpath to Parkers Farm – OUD Civil Engineers are investigating after Begbroke PC made representations.

15.2 Parish Footpath Walk – arrangements to be finalised.

15.3 Temporary closure and diversion of FP 7- OUD have delayed work and may be re-assessing fence, especially as there will be no agriculture on land especially to the north of FP 7

16 Village – Natural Environmental Matters

16.1 Tree survey for potential TPO's for Iain Osenton, Arboriculture Team Leader CDC. Cllr Ryder though he could photograph some of the ancient oak's trees such as Spring Hill and near FP 7 and give a "What Three Words" Location.

17 Website & Information

17.1 Website was reviewed.

18 Proposed dates of the Next Meeting (s):

18.1 Tuesday April 11th 2023; Annual Council meeting 6.00pm and Annual parish meeting Tuesday 16th May 7.00pm (AGM) Election date – 4th May 2023

Signed ____ Cllr Malcolm Ryder Chairman Begbroke Parish Council 11th April 2023