

BEGBROKE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Website [Begbroke parish council](#)

BEGBROKE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 16TH 2023 - MINUTES

1. Present

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

2. Apologies

2.1 Cllr Dorothy Walker (CDC) Cllr Ian Middleton (OCC).

3. Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests, gifts, hospitality

3.1 None declared.

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Begbroke Parish Council Tuesday 24th May 2022.

4.1 These were unanimously approved.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 No matters arose.

6. Chairmans Report

6.1 “I would like to thank all members of the committee for their assistance and time and commitment in working for the community. I would also like to thank the clerk for his efforts in managing the administration and finance as well as corresponding on many issues. I also like to mention that we liaise with and often financially assist Begbroke Village Hall management Committee in the provision of facilities and safety issues at the hall and field.

Highways There were two accidents on both on eastern and western sides of the A44. The west has only just been repaired after nearly twelve months and the replacement of the 30mph sign and post at the eastern side near the van sales was completed several weeks ago after nearly seven months.

Trees – The A44 trees have been handed to OCC for maintenance purposes and are no longer on our asset register. A new tree has been planted by OCC opposite Campsfield Farm, western side of A44 towards Woodstock. This is part of a larger village scheme across the county,

North Oxford corridor work continues and will undoubtedly increase traffic through here and cause further road congestion.

Begbroke Village Roads are beset by potholes. In my role with Oxfordshire County Council as a Fix-My-Street Superuser, I am authorised to mark holes of sufficient depth with white paint and authorise a repair.

Pedestrian Crossing. This is of vital importance to Begbroke residents especially when they can see other crossings being installed. After years of campaigning, many letters e mails and meetings, OCC has finally allocated funds. form the Road safety and Accessibility Fund. A site meeting took place earlier this year and the design is in progress. There are some limitations as the central reservation is quite narrow and may require some widening.

Council representatives. Cllr Allen attends BVHMC meetings and liaises as necessary between the two committees. Thus, provides valuable information enabling both our committees to have up to date information about projects. Cllr Gregory attends the London Airport meeting several times a year when he is available and reports back. Cllr Finbow is very active assisting people in the community.

Grants. The parish council award grants to local organisations. They must apply in writing with suitable information on what the grant is for and for whom.

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Health and Safety Matters - the council carries out other functions apart from meetings. The play area is inspected weekly for defects and recorded. Remedial work actioned. There is an annual external inspection by RoSPA. Other activities include on site meetings with contractors and council representatives. Risk assessments are kept for activities as well as copies of public liability insurance policies from our contractors. There is also a bi-annual inspection of village assets such as dog bins, seat, bus shelters and so on. A register of these is kept.

Insurance - A suitable parish council policy is arranged with Zurich Municipal.

Footpaths. There have been several footpaths issues this year.

Footpath 7 is being turned into a shared cycle/pedestrian path despite our objections and representations to OUD. Footpath 11 has issues with access to Begbroke Lane. There is heaped spoil which makes it difficult for prams and wheelchairs to pass.

A new footpath has been agreed by Merton College leading to Spring Hill from Dalton Lane. This links a section which was previously a permissive route. At present we are trying to get the "Parkers Farm" footpath re-opened to Kidlington. This went from the manor house at the Science Park, past Parkers Farm, under the railway and over the canal to what is now Groveland's. We have found many maps and supporting evidence. OUD have their consulting engineers investigating.

Planning - This is a complex area, and this year has presented many applications of complexity. There are now so many documents and technical surveys attached for the larger ones making it increasingly difficult to respond. We are liaising with OUD on PR8 and have objected regrading Merton's plans for PR9.

Solar Farm - this presents one of the biggest challenges in recent years as both Blenheim and Merton wish to carpet beautiful countryside with solar panels. We and others have objected but as the decision will not be decided locally, we are not convinced our views will be accepted.

Sandy Lane - I have attended several meetings about the proposed closure as well as the four parishes meeting where Begbroke, Yarnton, Kidlington and Gosford parish council discuss common issues such as sports facilities, recreation and what we want from any Section 106 monies.

Projects and issues. - we have provided additional dog waste bins such as Spring Hill and FP 7 near the A44. All the bins in the village are well used. We look after the bus stop planters and try to keep suitable displays.

Graffiti has been a problem on the bus stops and has taken extreme efforts to clean off.

The glass recycling bins continue to be a problem with fly tipping and broken glass on the footpath. CDC seem unable to resolve this issue. We have provided funding to completely refurbish the male and female hall toilets, installed digital displays in the lounge and the hall and financed the provision of cycle racks in the front car park.

Website is maintained by the clerk and has lots of useful information. Parish documents are posted on it as well as information on the proposed Solar Farm and Parkers Farm footpath.

Election 2023 - five members of the 2022-23 parish council were elected un-opposed. Cllr Appleton was co-opted to the committee and there is one vacancy and can be co-opted to the council"

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Cllr Malcom Ryder

6.2 *Images were shown on the large digital monitor and are listed below:*

- Swings that will be having a new safety surface of wet pour later this month.
- Picnic Table provided by the parish council.
- FORZA Goals on recreation field
- Replacement buffer on gate
- Refurbished Horse
- Cycle racks funded by parish council.
- New seesaw
- Type of Goals planned with wheels.
- Goal post removed at top end of field.
- Refurbished toilets at hall funded by parish council.
- New Picnic bench provided by the parish council.
- Digital Displays provided at hall by parish council.
- Footpaths 7 and 8 showing rural setting.
- Footpath 7 - 8 progress and kerbing.
- New bridge provided after meeting Merton - footpath 3 towards Yarnton and Cassington
- Begbroke Lane during and after surfacing
- Begbroke lane deteriorating.
- Footpath 11 re-opened after representations to OCC.
- OUD Surveying
- Images of Footpath 124/11 that present difficulties to pram and wheelchair users. OUD have decided not landscape despite several requests but say they are planning improvements.
- Site of PR9 Begbroke West
- Images of graffiti and glass recycling bin issues
- Images of flooding and water levels - some on proposed development areas.
- Images around the village, dog bins, planters, and highway issues. Some older images as well.
- Willow Way – showing road in need of repair.
- Spring Hill and some views of proposed solar farm locations
- Maps of evidence of Parker Farm footpath that we are pressing to get re-opened. The path went under the railway, over the canal bridge and into what is now Grovelands.
- Images showing location of a possible railway stop.

7. Clerks Financial report 2022-23

7.1 AGAR 2022-23 documents submitted to external auditors were shown.

7.2 Income and Spending Between 01/04/2022 and 31/03/2023

Income Categories

- BANK INTEREST NATWEST £24.24
- COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND GRANT £1,987.50
- PRECEPT £29,897.00
- VAT REFUND £3,042.81
- **Total Income Categories £34,951.55**
- **Expense Categories**
- ANNUAL SUB TO ORGANISATION (vat) £167.37
- ANNUAL SUB TO ORGANISATION (non-VAT) £111.00

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- AUDIT – EXTERNAL £240.00
- AUDIT – INTERNAL £200.00
- BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE £145.00
- DOG WASTE BIN EMPTYING £538.56
- GRANTS SECT 137 LGA £300.00
- GRANTS SECT142 LGA £250.00
- GRASS CUTTING PLAY AREA & FOOTBALL PITCH £2,196.00
- GRASS CUTTING VILLAGE VAT £830.40
- HALL HIRE £275.00
- HEDGE CUTTING VILLAGE HALL VAT £120.00
- INSURANCE - COUNCIL £1,193.73
- PLAY AREA INSPECTION £100.80
- PLAY AREA NEW WORK £538.92
- PLAY AREA REPAIRS VAT £342.84
- REFUNDABLE EXPENSES £752.54
- SAFETY INSPECTION VAT £504.00
- STAFF COSTS £9,002.41
- STAFF COSTS VAT £498.00
- TRAINING £396.00
- VILLAGE NEW WORK non vat £450.00
- VILLAGE NEW WORK VAT £582.53
- VILLAGE ASSET INSPECTION NON-VAT £230.00
- VILLAGE HALL NEW WORK NON-VAT £5,385.00
- VILLAGE HALL NEW WORK VAT £1,599.60
- VILLAGE HALL REPAIRS VAT £343.17
- VILLAGE HALL SAFETY INSPECTION VAT £820.80
- VILLAGE REPAIR WORK NON-VAT £1,650.00
- VILLAGE WORK NON-VAT £500.00
- **Total Expense Categories £30,263.67**
- Grand Total difference £4,687.88

Jeffrey Wright 1st April 2023

8. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

8.1 No reports for meeting

9. General Question Time

9.1 There were no questions.

10. Proposed date of next annual parish meeting

10.1 To be decided later.

Signed: Chairman - Cllr Malcolm Ryder 3rd July 2023