

# Begbroke Parish Council

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

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

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## MINUTES OF

### MEETING OF BEGBROKE PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY AUGUST 7TH 2023 @ 06:00 PM.

#### 1 Present:

1.1 Cllr Malcolm Ryder (Chair); Cllr David Wintersgill (Vice Chair); Cllr Lindsay Gregory; Cllr Leslie Allen; Cllr Beverly Appleton ; 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 parish council meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 were unanimously confirmed as a true record.

#### 3 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Gifts or Hospitality

3.1

#### 4 Matters Arising

4.1 Botley West Solar Farm Scoping Report - response sent to WODC and CDC but we will need to register with The Planning Inspectorate and submit when application made.

4.2 Four parishes meeting – it was again mentioned that recording of meetings should take place.

4.3 Sandy Lane – Begbroke not leafleted about N R consultation but other selected roads in Kidlington and Yarnton were. They must have considered that our residents had no opinion.

4.4 Glass recycling Bins – misuse continues. Suggestions for other locations are to be considered. Cllr Allen presented a proposal (A) to convert the lay by opposite the van sales to a school bus stop and employ double yellow markings opposite and route to the A44. This was discussed – however, some members thought removing parking was detrimental to residents parking in the lay by when catching a bus, it was thought that yellow lines were a good idea. This proposal for parking enforcement would have to be submitted to OCC. Plan B was a to introduce parking restrictions opposite Begbroke lane as parking caused the junction to be unsafe with traffic movements. Another suggestion was to make a new layby for parking as the verge was wide enough. Further consideration to be given.

4.5 Vacancy for a parish councillor – no applicants.

#### 5 A44, Highways & Begbroke Science Park

5.1 North Oxford Corridor Improvements Cassington Rd to Peartree Interchange – completion could be either October or January 2024 depending on the information source.

5.2 Pedestrian Crossing – updates from Mike Wasley were presented ready for an OCC consultation - now available on line [https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/begbroke\\_a44\\_toucancrossing2023](https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/begbroke_a44_toucancrossing2023)

5.3. Members of the committee and residents previewed the exhibition of the outline application masterplan that has now been submitted. (Planning notification for application reference: 23/02098/OUT see below)

5.4 Bus issues – it was decided to request the S7, Witney to Oxford Station via Kidlington, Oxford Parkway and Summertown to be diverted through the village before turning back to Langford Lane. Clerk to resubmit the earlier bus proposals the committee made to OCC.

5.5 No other matters

#### 6 Reports from County/District Councillors/Other contributors

6.1 County and District Councillor report – Ian Middleton July/August

#### OCC matters

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At the last full council meeting I seconded a motion which called on the council to publish the voting records of each member as well as attendance at full council meetings. This was passed although the Conservatives all abstained.

## **PR8 Path**

I've written to Tom Clarke at OUD asking why the path is not open now that it seems to be substantially completed. I haven't really had a satisfactory answer other than that they delayed the works in the initial stages as we had raised concerns. I pointed out that even then they said they wouldn't need the full 6 months of the TTRO. I suspect the reason it's not open is that they will need to provide protection near the new buildings which is still essentially a building site. I've pressed on this and OUD have said they expect the path to be open by the end of August. I've asked them to ensure it doesn't go any further than that. If it does, I'll see what official pressure we can apply.

## **PR9 Flooding**

I've had some correspondence with officers about the ongoing concerns about flooding from this site. We now have a new LLFA officer who seems to be reverting back to the old line that this is not something OCC can control. I've pushed back on this in support of the Yarnton Flood Defence group who have raised additional concerns. I have also once again pressed for the site promoters of sites PR9 and 8 to talk to each other although so far, I have no evidence that they have done so.

## **A44 Crossing**

Mike Wasley has forwarded me and the clerk and update on the progress of this project. It appears to be moving forwards with plans being drawn up prior to consultation. I continue to monitor this.

## **20 MPH zone**

I'm not sure what the state of play is with local zones outside of Kidlington. I know that YPC have applied for reductions. Not sure what the state of play is with Begbroke but happy to support whatever the PC decides.

## **OUGC Stadium**

The survey being run by OCC has now closed but has come in for some criticism about the way it was run (not least from me). It now remains to be seen what the outcome is.

I also attended an internal meeting with the club and senior OCC officers where I raised a number of concerns about such issues as funding for the development and why they lost their right to remain at the Kassam stadium. We are due to have an internal briefing on the outcome of the survey later this month and then there will be a decision made about it at Cabinet in September.

## **A44 NOC works**

I understood these are due to be completed in July. I asked for confirmation of this at the last full council meeting and was told that the date had now been pushed back to January. I subsequently was told that the lane closures etc. should now be removed around the end of October but there may still be some snagging work going on in between.

## **Sandy Lane rat running**

I've raised the issue of HGVs using Sandy Lane to avoid the A44 works and the potential impact on the canal bridge. The bridge has been inspected and no serious defects have been reported. However, I have asked for enhanced temporary signage at the entrance to the lane from the Sandy Lane Roundabout warning HGV drivers that this is not a suitable route. I've also asked for more prominent permanent signage to be put in place after the A44 works are complete.

## **HIF1 Road project**

This is a major road development being funded partly from the Housing and Infrastructure fund (HIF) going from Milton to Didcot/Culham and costing around £300m. It is intended to service new housing being built in Didcot and Culham. I sat on the planning committee for this project last month where it was rejected by the

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committee. This decision has now been called in by the Secretary of State and I have to attend another meeting later this month.

## **HIF 2 Road project**

Again, a project with government funding intended to improve the A40. Some of this runs through my division near Yarnton and has been dogged by financial issues along with other issues surround CPOs. Some further modifications were announced to the project around the same time as the HIF1 project was being rejected. It remains to be seen what these amount to.

## **CDC Matters**

### **Local Plan**

I've been to a couple of meetings about this. One was an internal working group meeting where representatives from the 2 consultancy firms who have provided the data for the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA) were asked to justify their figures. Unfortunately, I was not allowed to ask questions at this meeting as I was not a member of the working group although I am a member of the O&S committee.

Proposals about the forthcoming plan were discussed briefly at the O&S meeting last week but we still haven't seen the full plan, only the outline parameters. There's a special O&S meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> August to discuss the plan but as yet we still don't have sight of it. This seems to be going the same way as it did before the end of last year.

From what I understand the site near the Woodstock roundabout is still included as a development site as well as the land behind the Moors in Kidlington which is also Green Belt land.

### **Motions to council**

There were 4 motions brought to CDC at the last full council meeting. All were voted through unanimously in an uncharacteristic display of unity!

Two motions were proposed by me – one calling for acknowledgement of the importance of the NHS in its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. This also thanked all those who work or have worked for the service and recognised the additional pressures they are under now, especially with regard to funding and personnel. The other motion called for a 'Keep Cherwell Tidy' campaign which highlighted the amount of rubbish on our streets and especially in rural areas like ours where hedgerows seem to have become rubbish bins.

Two other motions came from the Labour group – one about a renter's charter which is already underway and another calling for action on the cost of living. The latter appeared to be a copy in spirit of the motion that I brought some months ago that was essentially shredded by a wrecking amendment from the Conservatives which was abstained on by Labour. So rather ironic that they have now brought it back. Good to see that both these motions passed though.

## **6.2 District Councillors' Report to Begbroke Parish Council meeting 7 August 23**

### **1.Sandy Lane**

Cross-party motion at last Council Meeting asking CDC Executive to support retention of a vehicular link between Yarnton/Begbroke and Kidlington was passed unanimously.

### **2.Thames Valley Police.**

New Strategic Plan to focus on; Serving Victims; Fighting Crime; Valuing of our People.

Focus on knife crime, violence against females and dealing with internal cultural issues. Pilot for SVRO Serious Violence Reduction Order, one issue so far out of seven nationally. New Police Officer in place: 'Craig, who Lesley hopes to invite to a future meeting. Discussions have been had with the Home Office in relation to Campsfield regarding concerns about having to close Langford Lane if big demonstrations occur.

### **3.Health & Wellbeing**

JSNA – Joint Strategy Needs Assessment.

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UKSPF and REPF – These effectively replace European Structural Funds.

Capital Grants available of up to £25k to increase local inclusion. Kidlington suggested to apply – community hubs/buildings, or other activities that will bring the community together.

## **4. Local Plan Update**

Draft Plan to Council on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Six-week consultation from end of September. Regulation 19 Summer 2024.

## **5. Oxford Parkway to Oxford:**

From Saturday 29 July to Sunday 6 August, Network Rail are closing all lines into and around Oxford city center to upgrade the track and signaling into the station. This will enable an additional line to run into Oxford station in 2024 and the Botley Road Bridge to be replaced. No Train Operators can run trains into Oxford during this period, and Chiltern Railways will be running a half hourly rail replacement service connecting Oxford Parkway and Oxford station during the closure.

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/western/oxfordshire/oxfordshire-signalling-and-track-upgrades/>

**6. SEND Reform Protest** on 13<sup>th</sup> October at Bonn Square

**7. Stratfield Farm planning is in.**

**8. OUD PR9 Planning application** is now available to view at CDC - 23/02098/OUT.

**9. Meeting with Layla Moran MP** at Yarnton Village Hall. July '23

Flooding and drainage issues discussed. She has written to OCC raising concerns described by Steve Smith of YFDG, urging a holistic strategic approach by the Council in response to the evidence and queries put forward to the Council by the Group. She poses six key questions in relation to the information provided by the YFDG and to flood risk recommendations in relation to the PR8 and PR9 developments.

Lesley McLean; Dorothy Walker

**6.3 OALC Report** - circulated

**6.4 Cherwell Parish Bulletin** - circulated.

## **7 Council Representatives**

**7.1 BVHMC Report** – Les Allen

- £33K in bank - year end accounts in preparation.
- Church wants to recommence fortnightly 'drop in' sessions in September - BVHMC will continue to support.
- Model Aircraft Club have problems with new goals being in the way of flying (about 4 times per year) - agreed that goals will be moved by BVHMC on flying days. L.A. to instruct relevant persons accordingly - BVHMC to advise suitable date and time.
- Ceiling in playgroup area completed in 3 rooms - entrance lobby to be included - lighting not yet complete.
- New heaters installed in main hall - controlled by central thermostat - ability to limit heating duration also included.
- Malcolm Blackshaw to stand down as trustee at AGM
- Begbroke WI have been in existence for 88 years.
- Playgroup still facing staff recruitment issues.
- Legionella RA review due August
- New notice board in bus shelter now in use.
- BVHMC advise of need to develop a wish list / forward plan to support application for S 106 Money - required for September. Needs to be costed if possible. BVHMC advised that funds are unlikely to be forthcoming unless a plan is available.

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- Begbroke Crossing proposals viewed and discussed along with parking restriction proposals for glass bin lay-by and Begbroke Lane.
- Fixed price contract for electricity runs out in October 23.
- BVHMC advised that planning for Oxford Airport proposals for a Science / R&D development park have been submitted.

**7.2 Oxford Airport Consultative Committee** - no report but there was an update from Brize Norton (BZN) ACP. The process to appoint an airspace and procedure designer is taking longer than anticipated. As a result, they have decided to pause the BZN ACP to prevent multiple delays to Gateways and will inform when the process is re-started and have more information regarding designs.

## **8 New Business**

**8.1** Rail ticket office closures – response to consultation sent to Network Rail

**8.2** Proposed additional seats – near pumping station - no progress.

**8.3** Superintendent Jen Hogben covering Cherwell and West Oxfordshire Local Police Area as Emma Garside has begun a new role as Chief Superintendent. Committee agreed to issue an invite to a meeting.

## **9 Planning**

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

**9.2** Planning application 23/02098/OUT for OUD

The clerk demonstrated some of the over 200, many complex, documents, associated with this scheme. The three parishes affected (Begbroke, Yarnton & Kidlington have only been given to 3<sup>rd</sup> September to respond. This was considered impossible. The clerk has asked for more time. Meanwhile it was considered that several topics of most importance to the village could be identified such as Rights of Way, noise, lighting, ecology and arboriculture.

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

**10.1** None

## **11 Financial Matters**

**11.1** Balances/Liabilities: £13,536 Money. Bank Statements : Current £9,127.77 Reserve £3,967.77 (28/07/2023)

Transfer: £0.00 from reserve to current. Liabilities (listed below and outstanding cheques)

**11.2 Income:** Bank interest – £11.93

**11.3 Expenditure**

**11.3.1** Jeffrey Wright – Expenses – signs, compost, stamps £40.58 CN: 1068

**11.3.2** Jeffrey Wright Clerks salary July 2023 £616.67 CN: 1069

**11.3.3** HMRC PAYE/NI Liability to 22/08/2023 £130.20 CN:1070

**11.3.5** NR Prickett – grass cutting inv. No: 1994 £470.40 CN: 1072

**11.3.4** No other transactions

The above financial transactions were unanimously approved.

**11.4 Quotations/Tenders/Grants**

**11.4.1** 2023-4 Councillor Priority Fund for 50% funding of goals (£1,825) The committee thanked Cllr Middleton for his approval of grant.

**11.5 Bank Matters**

**11.5.1** None

**11.6 Other Financial Matters**

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**11.6.1** Yearly award letter under state aid rules from HMRC. Employment allowance of £5000.00 – copied to accountants.

## **12 Health and Safety Matters**

**12.1** Playground inspection reports – all received for July

**12.2** Playground repairs and maintenance – edgings need attention

**12.3** Rota: August Les – September - Malcolm.

**12.4** Three of the raise/lower wheels on the MH goals have seized. Clerk is to inform the manufacturers to arrange for a maintenance visit.

## **13 Training**

**13.1** Requests

## **14 Freedom of information requests/receipts**

**14.1.** Network Rail – reply received with request to clarify questions.

## **15 Footpaths, Bridleways and Restricted Byway (RUPP)**

**15.1** Footpath to Parkers Farm – DMOR submitted to University of Oxford and Countryside Services. Requested support from Kidlington and Yarnton. Yarnton have written to OUD and OCC.

**15.2** Dalton Lane – blocked by tree – reported to Merton – now cleared

## **16 Village – Natural Environmental Matters**

**16.1** Woodland Trust – recording of ancient trees. These can be reported with GPS locations and images and they may then investigate and record. [Ancient Tree Inventory - Woodland Trust](#)

**16.2** Trees at junction of Begbroke Lane/Sandhill Rd – reported to Fix my street – no progress.

**16.3** Overhanging hedge at corner of Begbroke Lane – no progress.

## **17 Website & Information**

**17.1** Website review

## **18 Proposed dates of the Next Meeting (s):**

**18.1** September 4th

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Cllr Malcolm Ryder Chairman Begbroke Parish Council September 4<sup>th</sup> 2023