

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 4TH 2023 @ 06:00 PM.

1 Present:

1.1 Cllr Malcolm Ryder (Chair); Cllr David Wintersgill (Vice Chair); Cllr Leslie Allen; Cllr Peter Finbow; Cllr Ian Middleton (OCC) Cllr Jeffrey Wright – Clerk.

Apologies:

1.2 Cllr Lindsay Gregory; Cllr Beverly Appleton; Lesley McClean (CDC)

2 Minutes

2.1 The minutes of the parish council meeting on Monday November 6th were unanimously confirmed as a true record.

3 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Gifts or Hospitality

3.1 None

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Vacancy for a parish councillor – no applicants.

4.2 Dog Bin replacement near Roundham - installed

4.3 Rowel Brook at Royal Sun – vegetation – no response.

5 A44, Highways & Begbroke Science Park

5.1 North Oxford Corridor Improvements Cassington Rd to Peartree Interchange – updates.

5.2 Pedestrian Crossing – Updates from Mike Wasley.

5.3. Sandy Lane – From CDC development brief - Sandy Lane level crossing and Yarnton Lane level crossing are to be closed to vehicles. It is assumed that all vehicle access to the site will therefore be from the west. A suitable access to properties to the east of the railway line will be required.

5.4 Bus issues – discussed S7 route not coming via Begbroke.

5.5 Oxford Parkway – use of bus lane for rail passengers to access station was discussed and Google Map images displayed. It was agreed to suggest railings were installed at end of cycle lane near turn to Oxford Parkway station to prevent cyclists crossing in to the path of vehicles. It was also pointed out that sections of other bus lanes approaching roundabouts such as Kidlington Sainsbury, Cutteslowe and Loop Farm are able to be used

5.6 Temporary Speed Limit Restriction at Begbroke, A44 (between Bladon Roundabout & Langford Lane) 08 January 2024 up to and including 09 February 2024.

5.7 Request to re-consider 20mph decision was discussed. Whilst most members had reservations, stated in the in the minutes of July 2023, it was unanimously decided to ask Cllr Middleton to refer the issue to a County Council consultation.

5.8 Other matters

6 Reports from County/District Councillors/Other contributors

6.1 County Councillor – report.

Ian Middleton – Councillor Report – Kidlington South Division (OCC) and Kidlington East Ward (CDC) Fiona Mawson – Kidlington East Ward (CDC)

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LPPR Site PR9 (Spring Hill)

This application was refused by CDC for a number of reasons. It was also in the process of being appealed by Merton College due to non-determination.

We understand the Yarnton Flood Defence group are considering making an application to attend the appeal hearing but as the reasons for refusal did not include flooding concerns so it's unclear if they will be allowed to make representations on that. Ian has written to the lead flood engineer at OCC asking why OCC did not make more of a point about flooding concerns and Ian has tabled a question to the cabinet member for the environment for the next OCC Full Council meeting asking if there is any more that we can do as the lead Local Flood Authority on this application and any other in the future.

LPPR Site PR7a (Bicester Road)

This application for full planning consent is coming to the planning committee on the 7th December. The officer recommendation is for approval subject to conditions.

Kidlington Roundabout

Ian raised a question at the last OCC Full Council meeting about a start date for works on this project and received the following reply this week: "The Kidlington Roundabout works are due to commence construction from 8 January 2024. There will be a small contractor presence from 2 January. Works are scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2024. Details of the project have been updated on the County Council's public website and communication with councillors and key stakeholders will take place in early December"

Begbroke Crossing

This continues to drag on and Ian has asked the officer concerned to do what he can to expedite things. He has also tabled a question about progress to the next OCC full council meeting.

Aysgarth Road pathway

Ian is also continuing to push for the whole of the pavement on this road to be resurfaced. The highways officer says that it has now been scheduled but there is no definite date for the works.

Re-organisation of OCC Highways

This is under way at the moment which is making it difficult to find the right person to contact for specific issues. This may also have been causing some of the delays in local works. Ian is assured this will be completed by January and is awaiting a further briefing.

Additional funding from government for road maintenance

You may have heard the news about this from the media. Around £8bn of funding is being 'redirected' from the funding for HS2 to road maintenance. That sounds like a lot but it's over 11 years. Oxfordshire's share of that will £82.3million, including £3,706,000 for potholes. But spread over 11 years that means we get an extra £337K a year for pothole repairs. Considering the budget for road maintenance at the moment is around £40m with less than a third of that being provided by central government. It's safe to say this is the proverbial drop in the bucket.

Budgets

Both OCC and CDC are in the process of setting budgets for the 2024/25 financial year. Consultations are currently ongoing for both councils and can be accessed via their websites.

New responsibilities for parishes on biodiversity

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You may be aware that a duty comes into force on 1st January for parish and town councils to consider biodiversity from time to time. There is no requirement for town and parish councils to produce a biodiversity report, but it is recommended that the council considers biodiversity when making decisions which could have an impact on biodiversity, such as managing buildings, recreation grounds, cemeteries and allotments.

Further information is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty>

Parking enforcement

Issues about lack of enforcement of parking regulations has been raised by a number of Parish councils and was discussed by KPC at a recent meeting. Ian is making enquires at OCC about the feasibility of parishes funding a dedicated enforcement officer for the area. This would have to be facilitated by OCC and billed back to the councils. He has asked if the cost of this could be offset against any fines levied.

ANPR to replace the rising bollard in Kidlington High Street

Ian is still in discussion with the appropriate officer at OC about this. He is checking to see if the existing camera would be compliant with requirements for ANPR. Otherwise, a new camera would have to be installed. Ian understands that a meeting was scheduled to discuss this but there has been no further feedback so far.

OUFC

OCC have made it clear that they will not countenance road closures across the Oxford Road. Ian understands that they have been told that another solution needs to be found. As a bridge/bridged would seem not to be financially and/or technically feasible, it remains to be seen what they come up with. We understand that they are still proceeding with a planning application to CDC though. Ian is monitoring the situation and will continue to press for OCC to continue to resist road closures which we think would be catastrophic for the area.

Campsfield House

An inaugural protest was held outside Campsfield House on the 2nd December. Ian was asked to speak but unfortunately was away. He sent a statement to be read out and we hope to be at future protests.

Councillor Priority Fund

Ian has recently approved grants for the newsletters at Begbroke and Yarnton and is still considering a number of other local applications.

Botley West Solar Farm

We attended the recent online briefing about this project. There seemed to be little in the way of new information and a lack of clarity on issues such as the financial backers and claims about how Oxfordshire residents benefiting from cheaper electricity. One proposal was that BWSF would set up their own distribution company which would offer a 10% discount to local residents. It remains to be seen if that happens.

Local 'Right to Grow'

Ian is bringing a motion to CDC asking for a 'Right to Grow' policy to be adopted which would give local communities the right to grow food on designated areas of council owned land. We are also

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asking for a register of such land to be drawn up and made publicly available and for land awaiting development to be given temporary use licences as well as encouraging developers to include community growing spaces in any new development.

6.2 Cherwell District Councillor – No report

6.3 OALC Report

7 Council Representatives

7.1 BVHMC Report. Next planned meeting was 12th December 2023 but may change. It was agreed to say to BVHMC that a five-year plan presented to the parish council is necessary to consider any financial help. The schemes should be compared and prioritized. Additionally, three quotes will be necessary – threshold amount to be agreed.

7.2 Oxford Airport Consultative Committee

7.3.1 Four parishes meeting – the committee retrospectively agreed the letter from Dave Robey (KPC) to OCC regarding Oxford United stadium proposals and closure of the Oxford Rd on Match days. However, they considered it should have been approved before sending.

7.3.2 PR sites – apparently facilities on these sites will not be for the local communities.

7.3.3 Section 106 requests need firming up.

8 New Business

8.1 Solar Farm - The second phase of consultation will launched on **30 November 2023**. until **8 February 2024**. Considered that consultations are fairly meaningless as they seek opinion in order to address answers to make applications more attractive to deciding authorities. Details have been circulated by applicants to residents.

9 Planning

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

- inspected for relevant applications

9.2 Draft development brief for Local Plan Partial Review site PR8 – Land East of the A44 will commence on Wednesday 22 November 2023.

9.3 23/02404/ADV - Begbroke Science Park OX5 1PF -5 No temporary, moveable installations that provide canvasses for artistic and cultural works. Consent for a maximum of 5 years

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

10.1 WI Grant application

11 Financial Matters

11.1 Balances/Liabilities: £20,658.07 Money. Bank Statements : Current £16,765.72 Reserve £3,986.60

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

11.2 Income: Bank interest – £5.06

11.3 Expenditure

11.3.1 Jeffrey Wright Clerks salary November 2023 with back pay and increment £972.03 CN: 1096

11.3.2 HMRC PAYE/Ni Liability to 22/12/2023 £219.00 CN:1097

11.3.3 Jeffrey Wright Clerks expenses to 17th Nov. 2023 plants paper compost £35.20 CN: 1098

11.3.4 Cancel cheque No: 1061 £90 as not presented since June – presumably lost – agreed.

11.3.5 Jeffrey Wright Clerks refundable expenses to 4th Dec. Software £79.99 CN: 1098

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11.3.6 Baylee Construction Invoice BPC 309B Install seat at FP 7 £189.00 CN: 1100

11.3.7 Begbroke WI – grant £150 CN: 1101

11.3.8 No other transactions

The above transactions were unanimously agreed

11.4 Quotations/Tenders/Grants

11.4.1 WI Grant application – unanimously agreed.

11.5 Bank Matters

11.5.1 None

11.6 Other Financial Matters

11.6.1 Budget for 2024-25 – discussed and a 3% increase in precept request unanimously agreed to £31,717.74

12 Health and Safety Matters

12.1 Playground inspection reports - received from Peter Finbow. Reports outstanding from other councillors to be e mailed.

12.2 Rota: December - Peter

12.3 Peter thought the pedestrian gate to play area was locked (the next day, Les freed the buffer that had stuck)

13 Training

13.1 No requests

14 Freedom of information requests/receipts

14.1. None

15 Footpaths, Bridleways and Restricted Byway (RUPP)

15.1 Parkers Farm – OCC Countryside Records have produced a draft report:

Conclusion regarding the documentary evidence

- There is no evidence of the legal creation of the route as a highway.
- The only evidence of the reputation of the route as a public footpath is the Oxford & District Footpaths Bridleways and Commons Preservation Society objection to the omission of the route on the 1953 draft map and the recording of the route on the 1953 modified draft map. The landowners objected to the recording of the route, the footpaths society submitted that they did not wish to pursue the matter, and the county council decided not to record the route on the 1953 definitive map.
- There is evidence of the reputation of the way as a private rather than a public way from the 1818 Kidlington Inclosure Award and the 1844 Oxford and Rugby Railway Plan and Book of Reference.
- The ordnance survey maps and 1981 aerial photograph provide evidence of the physical existence of the route but these are not sufficient to prove public status

It was decided to refer the matter to the Ramblers for opinion but that the committee considered sufficient evidence had been produced and did not agree with the draft report conclusion. Clerk to report back to OCC Countryside Records.

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16 Village – Natural Environmental Matters

16.1 Woodland Trust – no progress on suggestion recording of ancient trees. [Ancient Tree Inventory - Woodland Trust](#)

16.2 Tree Fernhill Road obstructing footpath reported to OCC who will write to property owner.

17 Website & Information

17.1 Website reviewed

18 Proposed dates of the Next Meeting (s):

18.1 February 5th 2024

Signed _____ Malcom Ryder Chairman Begbroke Parish Council February 5th 2024