

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 5TH 2024 @ 06:00 PM.

1 Present:

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

Apologies:

1.2 Cllr Ian Middleton (OCC) Cllr Lesley McClean (CDC)

2 Minutes

2.1 The minutes of the parish council meeting on Monday December 4th 2023 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 Tree Fernhill Road obstructing footpath – ongoing as owner not in occupation and uncertain of house number

5 A44, Highways & Begbroke Science Park

5.1 North Oxford Corridor Improvements Cassington Rd to Peartree Interchange – unappealing in appearance with differing fence types, pipework attached to bridge stone work, conventional barriers and pipe railings. Lines roughly 300mm in from kerb edges on cycle path are distracting to motorists.

5.2 Pedestrian Crossing – could start in June with completion by August. The committee were disappointed with this timescale considering that a site meeting was held December 2022.

5.3. Sandy Lane – no updates

5.4 Bus issues – and electric bus rollout is in progress but only in Oxford City. Also, it was noted that the S3 and S7 often follow each other.

5.5 Temporary Speed Limit Restriction at Begbroke, A44 up to 09 February 2024 – work complete although it was considered that barrier work for crossing at Begbroke could have been carried out whilst traffic management and specialist contractors were on site.

5.6 20mph consultation – date to be advised.

5.7 Willow Way repairs – road was measured recently but no works programme.

5.8 Service Road potholes – some were filled as well as Fernhill Road.

5.9 Rowel brook weed infestation – to be reported to Fix My Street as risk of blockage and flooding to pub.

5.10 No 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)

We both had Covid over the Christmas and New Year break so were unable to do much during that period. Some meetings were subsequently missed but we are both well now.

10 minutes february 5th 2024

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Kidlington roundabout roadworks

After concerns were raised by cyclists and pedestrians Fiona and I took a walkabout and ascertained the major traffic concerns and danger spots.

The space for cyclists isn't wide enough and may cause problems. Pedestrians need to be extra cautious as traffic can't see them when crossing the roads. This is particularly concerning crossing the Bicester Road from Sainsburys. Pedestrians are hidden from view at this junction and the fact that not all vehicles signal to leave the roundabout makes it difficult to cross the road safely.

There were quite a few cyclists coming down the Oxford Road from Parkway to Kidlington and the area isn't well lit, especially when it bottlenecks into the roadworks.

Ian took all this up with the contractors - Milestone - and with relevant OCC members and officers and some adjustments have been made, but there are still problems to be resolved. Ian is trying to organise a site meeting with Milestone, officers, councillors and cycling and pedestrian groups as soon as possible.

Flooding

During the heavy rain in early January Ian responded to local concerns about localised flooding on Mill Street/Evans Lane near the shops as there were worries that there might be water ingress into properties. He organised a delivery of sandbags and on the following day asked for the road to be closed as vehicles were causing bow waves and further flooding.

Ian also responded to flooding concerns in Yarnton although the officer reorganisation at OCC has made it difficult to find the right person at times. We were also not in the area during the worst of the flooding so a lot of the help had to be organised on the phone.

A new CDC flood group is being proposed with a Cherwell-wide Flooding Event 'Conference' this summer. The council wants to use Yarnton Flood Defence Group as an exemplar to learn what residents can do to prepare and deal with the increasing flood events.

It is a very complex problem as our villages/areas have historically been built with little regard to previous drainage/sewage requirements. CDC are looking into working more closely with villages regarding land ownership and responsibilities as well as tackling fly-tipping and general littering which can cause flooding back ups and mismanagement of drainage ditches.

Fiona and Ian will be having a meeting with Ian Boll to discuss problems/solutions more fully. This is particularly important as Yarnton, Begbroke and Kidlington will be connected more closely as a result of the various LPPR sites.

Glebe House

The alarm keeps going off and Ian has had to contact the security officers on several occasions.

LPPR Site PR9 (Spring Hill)

this has been refused due to non-determination. There will be a week-long planning inspectorate starting February 13th. YPC have been allowed to attend under Rule 6 to put their case forward about flooding in Yarnton which will also affect Begbroke and Kidlington as the villages are

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connected by waterways and flood plains. Ian is due to be a witness at the appeal supporting the Yarnton Flood Defence group.

LPPR site PR8

Outline planning details put back to March 6th because of National Highways concern over the impact this site may have with the A34.

Begbroke Crossing

The design for this has been agreed and a rough timetable for the works to commence circulated. Ian is pressing officers for a definite schedule and this will hopefully be available soon. We're being assure that works will begin by April at the latest.

20 MPH

This has now been approved for Yarnton including a reduction in the limit on the whole of Sandy Lane to 30 MPH. New signage should be going up soon.

Ian has supported Begbroke Parish Council in its last-minute bid to be included in the scheme subject to the outcome of a consultation in the village which will be held soon.

ANPR to replace the rising bollard in Kidlington High Street

Ian is still in discussion with the appropriate officer at OCC about this. He's been written to again in fairly strong terms asking for them to get a move on!

Budgets

Both OCC and CDC are in the process of setting budgets for the 2024/25 financial year. New pressures were introduced on the OCC budget when government funding turned out to be lower than expected and additional responsibilities were added. This pushed the funding gap to over £11M from around £9m previously. After further work the gap has been reduced to £900K and work is ongoing to close this.

This includes taking into account an improved forecast as to how much council tax will be collected in Oxfordshire raising an extra £300K, reductions in contingency funding of £100K, moving to make the council's innovation hub (iHub) self-financing, which creates a saving of £300K, and increases charges for on street parking and CPZs which will raise a further £200K.

OUFC Stadium

Despite expectations that OUFC would lodge a planning application for the stadium in Kidlington before Christmas this didn't materialise. This may be because they have yet to come up with a safe solution for getting fans on to the site.

A recent news story in the Oxford Mail has also suggested that Firoz Kassam, the owner of the club's current stadium in Cowley, is open to negotiation for the club to continue to play there.

Morton Close/Avenue

Residents in Morton Close continue to raise concerns about proposals to develop the former open communal area at the far end. We're both monitoring the progress of the planning application. We've also had reports from residents in Morton Avenue of increased traffic on the road as it is being used as a cut-through into Garden City to avoid the congestion on the Oxford Road. This is likely to increase as works on the Kidlington Roundabout get into full swing

Local 'Right to Grow' motion

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Ian was planning to bring 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 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.

This was deferred to the next council meeting as Ian tested positive for Covid on the day of the meeting.

6.2 Cherwell District Councillor Cllr McLean – press release

Kidlington needs infrastructure before development Monday 29th January 2024: Kidlington's Liberal Democrat Councillors have demanded Cherwell District Council take action to make sure the huge scale of new developments in the Kidlington area do not overwhelm services. Lib Dem councillors want investment in local services and infrastructure before the new homes are delivered. Kidlington West District Councillors Jean Conway, Lesley McLean and Dorothy Walker raised the issue during December's Council meeting. They insisted there should be an integrated approach to infrastructure planning. Thanks to their pressure, Cherwell Council has agreed to dedicate an officer to make sure the developers and councils coordinate in the delivery of the infrastructure we need. They will work with local Councillors to ensure that community, public transport, health, utilities, education and traffic management infrastructure are all considered across the whole of the Kidlington area. It is not enough simply to fulfil the requirements within each of the individual development sites. Cllr Conway said: "We are seeing huge development in our area. More houses require more services. We welcome this new focus on an integrated approach." Cllr McLean said: "We must have coordinated investment in infrastructure for our current and future residents. Cherwell should lead in bringing developers together and joining up their plans." Cllr Walker said: "Funding from developers must be spent responsibly within the community. We represent the local community and are best placed to help direct developer funding for the benefit of our residents (Meeting attendance rota below.)

6.3 OALC Report – discussed briefly.

7 Council Representatives

7.1 BVHMC Report.

- Kings Portrait - awaiting further development & info from Artist.
- £29.9 K in bank - further £800 to be invoiced.
- Grant funding discussed - applicant to pay 50% - unlikely to proceed further at the moment.
- Patio extension, - it was stated that contractor will be lifting and relaying existing. Ramp to be included. revised quote awaited. BVHMC appear to be under the impression that the proposal will be discussed at the PC meeting 5 Jan 24.
- 5-year plan under development. - items continuing to be added. -next version will have calendarisation of spend.
- Correspondence between PC clerk and BVHMC to be acknowledged - correspondence to be sent to BVHMC secretary for onward distribution. BVHMC requested that the Treasurer should also be included.

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- Flooring contractor has gone into voluntary liquidation - therefore BVHMC have lost approx. £900 they paid up front. Alternative suppliers being sought. New cost expected to be in the region of £2 K
- Orders placed for fire door and window repairs - due in 15 Feb.
- Yarnton Blues football team - use of field - apparently there might be a split in the group - keen on doing something at Begbroke. Further discussions expected on what needs to be done to the field and who is going to do it.
- CCTV images no longer being recorded - Playgroup apparently is registered as a data controller, (this was contrary to the discussions at the previous meeting) but probably not as the user of a CCTV system.
- Bowls season starts in May.
- WI has run successful candle making sessions.
- Playgroup - Caroline now doing the day to day running.
- Church - on going maintenance continuing - probably looking for additional funding support from the community.
- Road crossing -update on timings given - questions raised about restricted parking near crossing and corner of Begbroke Lane.
- Update given on PR9 planning & flooding etc.
- Update on tree responsibility -now CDC. - Question was raised - who looks after the trees in Begbroke lane (the stretch that goes through to Kidlington)?
- Health & safety - BVHMC have been advised that LA is unable to comment as no documentation has ever been made available. Also due to other commitments involvement is unlikely to be considered within the next four months. Chairman to search files.
- Jude advised that she and Phil are intending to move shortly so a replacement treasurer need to be appointed.

7.2 Oxford Airport Consultative Committee Tuesday 30th January 6.00 pm. Lindsay reported on: Training school has moved to Spain; 21% reduction in training flights; 39% increase in business flights; 12,200 passengers were carried, rebuilding in progress and ambience of accommodation is excellent; Helicopters due to return in April; Car park has 300 spaces; Solar Farm will need a “corridor” for flight safety; airspace is on the border with Brize Norton and runway lights in field are adjacent to A4095 and straight mile.

7.3 Four parishes meeting – not well attended with some questions for Oxford United.

8 New Business

8.1 Solar Farm - The second phase of consultation launched on 30 November 2023. It will last for 10 weeks until 8 February 2024.

8.2 Complaint regarding Floodlight light pollution at Science Park – resolved

8.3 Reviewed: FOI, Asset register, Financial Risk Assessment and Standing orders. These were all unanimously approved but it was decided to also review the play area risk assessment. Les to action.

8.4 Meeting Timetable for 2024-25 – unanimously approved

8.5 Gigaclear Ltd are to be invited to give a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting
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9 Planning

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

9.2 Draft development brief for Local Plan Partial Review site PR8 – Land East of the A44 will. APP/C3105/W/23/3329587 & - 21/03522/OUT – comments submitted to Gerald Eve LLP for Planning Inspector inquiry 10.00am Tuesday 13th February 2024

9.3 23/02098/OUT – submitted to CDC.

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

10.1 WI Grant - thanked the parish council for grant.

11 Financial Matters

11.1 Balances/Liabilities: £20,814.17 (Money) Bank Statements : Current £16,817.21 Reserve £3,995.95 (to 26th Jan 2024) Transfer: £0.00 from reserve to current. Liabilities (listed below and outstanding cheques)

11.2 Income: Bank interest – £4.60 - 29th Dec 2023. VAT Refund £3,107.23

11.3 Expenditure

11.3.1 Jeffrey Wright Clerks salary December 2023 £661.19 CN: 1102

11.3.2 Dovey Accountancy Services Ltd Payroll services Inv 2023/12/8 £126 CN: 1103

11.3.3 HMRC PAYE/NI Liability to 22/01/2024 £141.20 CN:1104

11.3.4 Function28 Ltd Website hosting invoices 12222; 14184; 10264 £617.97 CN: 1105

11.3.5 Function28 Ltd Website hosting invoice 7336 £288.00 CN: 1106

11.3.6 Jeffrey Wright Clerks salary January 2024 £661.19 CN: 1107

11.3.7 HMRC PAYE/NI Liability to 22/02/2024 £141.40 CN: 1108

11.3.8 No other transactions

Note: The Function28 invoices had been sent to an incorrect e-mail address so never received. The above transactions were unanimously approved

11.4 Quotations/Tenders/Grants

11.4.1 None

11.5 Bank Matters

11.5.1 None

11.6 Other Financial Matters

11.6.1 Precept of £31,717.74 submitted to CDC

11.6.2 New VAT reference XEV126000103767

11.6.3 Grass cutting price increases (6.7%) from Mr Prickett were unanimously approved

12 Health and Safety Matters

12.1 Playground inspection reports were received scanned and logged. It was agreed that if a report could not be carried out, for example absence or poor weather conditions, to submit a blank covering report with reason.

It was noted that the goal height mechanisms require lubrication and that twigs need cutting back from apple tree near bin and some other minor remedial work such as cleaning the signage. It was suggested by children using the play area that a ground level trampoline would be good. However, it was thought that as the area often suffered high water levels, the base below could act as a sump.

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12.2 Rota: February-Les, March-Malcolm

12.3 No other Matters

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 – liaising with Ramblers Association to try and firm up our case.

15.2 An incident occurred on footpath between residents who were allegedly accused of walking on the crops by the tenant farmer, was reported to University of Oxford and a full apology received from them.

16 Village – Natural Environmental Matters

16.1 Woodland Trust – recording of ancient trees. [Ancient Tree Inventory - Woodland Trust](#) – nothing further.

16.2 OCC's tree service will shortly be undertaking programmed parish works in the parish of Begbroke. : [https://uk.pg-cloud.com/main/server/workOrderPrint.php?app=OxfordshireCC&reference=printed-record-](https://uk.pg-cloud.com/main/server/workOrderPrint.php?app=OxfordshireCC&reference=printed-record-659e810b608ed294281186)

[659e810b608ed294281186](https://uk.pg-cloud.com/main/server/workOrderPrint.php?app=OxfordshireCC&reference=printed-record-659e810b608ed294281186)

17 Website & Information

17.1 Website was reviewed.

18 Proposed dates of the Next Meeting (s):

18.1 March 4th 2024

Signed _____ Jeffrey Wright Clerk to Begbroke Parish Council.