

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 4TH 2024 @ 06:00 PM.

1 Present:

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

Apologies:

1.2 Cllr Beverly Appleton

2 Minutes

2.1 The minutes of the parish council meeting on Monday February 5th 2024 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 in Fernhill Road obstructing footpath – with OCC – no progress

4.3 Rowel Brook weed infestation – added to Fix-My-Street - no progress

4.4 Gigaclear Ltd – to attend annual parish council meeting and outline proposals.

5 A44, Highways & Begbroke Science Park

5.1 Pedestrian Crossing – updates from Mike Wasley are that OCC will Issue all relevant documentation, with works order in April for delivery of the Toucan crossing. No firm start or completion dates given.

5.2 20mph consultation – No updates.

5.3 Willow Way repairs – No updates.

5.4 Cycle paths – it was noted that cyclist do not always use paths and there are insufficient to provide safe cycling. Another cyclist recently killed on Frieze Way.

6 Reports from County/District Councillors/Other contributors

6.1 County /District Councillor – report for March

Cllr Ian Middleton – OCC and CDC; Cllr Fiona Mawson - CDC

Budget OCC

The budget was passed after a marathon 10-hour meeting. There were amendments proposed to the administration budget by both Labour and the Conservatives.

The main thrust of the Conservative amendment was to spend £1m more on potholes and a small amount more on SEND.

The Labour amendment called for more controlled parking zones, some additional funding for SEND, more ANPR enforcement and things like reducing the amount we paid to social care providers and more money for potholes. Altogether there were large increases in borrowing being proposed to pay for these things which the council would be on the hook for some time.

Initially we were minded to support the Conservative proposals as they had the lowest fiscal impact, but after further negotiation they started to add other conditions about the operation of the administration that had nothing to do with the budget. The alliance partners felt they were unreasonable but the Conservatives refused to negotiate on them.

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Labour refused to negotiate on any of their terms so we were left in deadlock. The Green/Lib Dem alliance does not have the votes to carry a budget on its own.

So, after 10 hours of trying to reach a conclusion which we are legally obliged to do and personally liable as councillors if we don't) we agreed to the Labour amendment and the budget was passed. More details of the implications are available on the OCC website. Many of the amendments are also subject to Cabinet approval based on sound business cases.

Budget CDC

This went through with less lengthy discussions than OCC. There was a small surplus available and the Progressive Oxfordshire group amended the budget to spend the surplus on amenities which would help residents. These were passed by Progressive Oxfordshire and Conservatives. Labour voted against but didn't submit any amendments.

These were:

- Delay the introduction of a charge for replacement waste and recycling bins
- Freeze the charge for bulky waste collections, with the introduction of an extra service for residents needing faster collection
- Freeze the charges for use of recreational facilities at the NOA, Cooper School and Stratfield Brake
- Keep Pioneer Square public conveniences open in Bicester

Planning

PR8 - This is still ongoing.

PR9 inspector examination meeting – Cllr Ian Middleton (as YPC) attended this with Dave Thornhill and Steve Smith as YFDG to discuss the ongoing flooding issues in Yarnton and Begbroke. Several of PR9 problems had already been addressed beforehand between the planning department and Merton. One concerning problem is the 50% affordable housing that has been reduced to 43% social rent housing. This potentially opens the door for other developers to 'tweak' the affordable housing numbers which are for Oxford's unmet housing needs, not Yarnton, Begbroke, G & WE and Kidlington.

Begbroke crossing

A further report has been issued from OCC on this but with no updates to the previous information. I'm still assured that work will start in the next few months and will be keeping the to that.

Additional street lighting in Yarnton

I've asked an officer to arrange to meeting with YPC members on site to discuss additional coverage after complaints about dark spots. I understand this is in hand.

Buses

Ian has had discussions with the OCC officer in charge of the bus routes. We've been told there is no scope to extend the S7 to cover Begbroke and Yarnton but that this will be taken into consideration when the PR8 project is under way. In the meantime, there may be some scope to add to the route served by Our Barton Buses. Ian has asked for this to be looked into. Concerns have been raised about the unreliability of the S3 service as well as the digital information boards. The problems with the latter are mostly to do with connectivity between the buses and the boards which are operated by OCC. OCC say this is often due to the drivers not switching on the transponders which are connected to the ticket machines. Ian has asked for this to be looked into.

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Kidlington roundabout

This is going to be continuing until June. I am in frequent contact with the civil engineering contractors Milestone to monitor things and also suggested some alterations to their traffic management arrangements many of which they have implemented. Sadly, there was another death of a cyclist on Freize way which I don't think had anything to do with the works but I am waiting for more information.

Rising Bollard/ANPR Kidlington High Street

Ian has been pursuing the idea of replacing the rising bollard that has never worked properly with an ANPR system that would be self-regulating. Authorised vehicles could be registered and would be allowed through and all others would automatically be fined. The Bollard would no longer be operational. This has taken some considerable time to get agreed with OCC Highways and was initially going to be funded by KPC. However, after some persistence Ian has managed to get agreement that the scheme will be installed in the next few months and will be funded by OCC.

Cycle path in PR8

Fiona has been in touch with Lindsey Ions (OUD) requesting that cyclists be allowed to use the Begbroke Science Park roads to cut through from Sandy Lane, Kidlington or the A44. This would be a temporary measure until building works start but would encourage more people to cycle through the site safely now there is the new cycle path through the site. There are also ongoing discussions re dog poo bins and litter bins along the route. There was also some discussion regarding dogs being kept on leads on the site as a few dogs have caused problems with staff and also been allowed to get onto the building site. This has still to be confirmed.

Lighting on PR8 new science block buildings

Fiona has raised this again with Lindsey and it now seems to have been addressed. From discussion, the buildings are nearing the final stages.

PR9 – flooding update and inspector exam

Ian attended the public inquiry and made representations for the local area. OCC and CDC flood officers attended but withdrew all their previous objections leaving only YPC to argue the case about flood risks. This was rather disappointing as the inspector decided the Merton college flood alleviation plans were adequate for the development. YFDG has stressed that any flooding issues need to be reported now to Thames Water – Report A Problem as sewage going into the canal/brook requires immediate attention.

Gosford & WE PC– meeting with Christchurch developers

There was supposed to be a meeting with Christchurch and Barwood Developers (PR6A and PR7A) in March but as yet nothing has been put in the diary. This is to update the council(s) as to where we are at in the process. At some point it will be good to do the same with PR9 and PR8 developers so we can be updated.

OUFC

Plans for the stadium at the Triangle were submitted and then removed – it is going to be several more weeks until they are up for consultation.

The application is currently passing through Validation Checks and is not yet ready for consultation and notification. Once Validation has been completed, you will receive new consultation and notification emails.

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It is estimated that they will go to CDC planning in July (although this isn't confirmed)

20mph

The signage has been seen all over the villages and most are now showing 20mph after being greyed out.

6.2 Cherwell District Councillor – report (Meeting attendance rota below.)

District Councillors Report

Cherwell District Council – New Chief Executive

The new Chief Executive will shortly be taking tours of the major settlement areas within Cherwell, with the Kidlington Area planned for 21st March, 2024.

Cherwell District Council – Local Plan

The council will now consider all the comments received during the consultation period and will put forward the proposed Plan for comment during the summer of 2024.

The Triangle

O UFC have announced that they have submitted a planning application for the proposed stadium at Kidlington Triangle. They state that a planning application for a pedestrian bridge providing safe access across the Oxford Road will be submitted later. One of Oxfordshire County Council's requirements for the land to be released for the stadium is that the club must provide plans for a new safe access across the Oxford Road. Planner responsible: Laura Bell.

Kidlington Area Strategy

Cllrs Walker, McLean and Conway's question at Full Council has resulted in CDC launching a strategic review of the Kidlington Area, which should consider how to integrate new developments with the current settlements and develop strategies for, flood risks, community integration, utilities, public transport, traffic management, Sandy Lane/Green Lane, active travel, employment. As local councillors we aim to be involved so that we can feedback views from local councils and residents.

PR6a – (Savills/Bellway) no further updates.

PR6b – no further updates.

PR7a – South (Barwood)/North (Hills). No further updates.

PR7 – no further updates.

PR8 – no further updates. Total units now 2230.

PR9 – appeal completed, awaiting final report.

OCC request for funding towards already completed works denied. Outdoor and indoor sport contributions agreed. Community worker and Public Arts both refused.

Sandy Lane – awaiting Transport and Works Act submission from Network Rail.

GP Facilities.

A meeting has been held with BOB: ICB Primary Care Estate in order to understand the planned local provision in light of the expected uplift in population. Yarnton (Key Medical) Medical Centre will bring some under used areas into use as practice areas in order to increase capacity, in addition Exeter Close surgery will implement the inclusion of the Health Care services areas into the main surgery again providing additional capacity. Gosford Hill Surgery will remain as is.

Campsfield

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A recent application for works/extension of a changing/welfare room (it later emerged it was for the prison warden training college located near the site) was submitted under the Campsfield name. No clarity in the application about the purpose of the room (particularly that it is not part of the proposed IRC expansion project), many public objections were sent in., the application was removed by Planning from the register and a 'new' one later listed which does not reference Campsfield IRC.

Airport

Replacement Airbus Helicopter due for completion by June. Work on the Langford Lane Science Park at the entrance to the Airport is due to begin in April. The airport's application for a change in airspace use is still in preparation. **Cllrs McLean, Conway and Walker**

6.3 OALC Report/ CDC report. There is a small grants fund available to village halls for disability access, toilet upgrades and kitchen refurbishment. There was also a free Kings Official portrait available – clerk to arrange.

7 Council Representatives

7.1 BVHMC Les reported on the last meeting. The accounts were healthy, rear patio improvements were being discussed, lounge floor had been replaced, door adjustments in progress, CCTV – The Data Controller and has been reminded that registration with the ICO is necessary.

7.2 Oxford Airport – no meeting

7.3 Four parishes meeting – none to report. Next meeting 11th March 6.00pm.

8 New Business

8.1 Dog bins – CDC are changing the way they deliver the dog bin service as from 1st April 2024. The committee believe this means less emptying but charges remaining the same.

8.2 Vandalism to Football Goal nets. It was decided to ask the clerk to get MH goals to provide a quote to replace on health and safety grounds.

9 Planning

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

9.1.1 Making of Tree Preservation Order No. 8/2024 - Two Horse Chestnut trees located at The Old Rectory, 4 St Michael's Lane

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

10.1 None

11 Financial Matters

11.1 Balances/Liabilities: £20,011.98 (Money) Bank Statements : Current £16,014.82 Reserve £4,001.19 Transfer: £0.00 from reserve to current. Liabilities (listed below and outstanding cheques)

11.2 Income: Bank interest – £5.24

11.3 Expenditure

11.3.1 Jeffrey Wright Clerks salary February 2024 £660.99 CN: 1109

11.3.2 HMRC PAYE/Ni Liability to 22/03/2024 £141.40 CN:

11.3.3 No other transactions

The above transactions were unanimously approved.

11.4 Quotations/Tenders/Grants

11.4.1 None

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11.5 Bank Matters

11.5.1 None

11.6. Other Financial Matters

11.6.1 CDC Council Tax and Precepts Approval for 2024/25 – Payments to be made 10th April 2024 & 11th September 2024

12 Health and Safety Matters

12.1 Playground inspection reports were received from Les. The clerk had met Mark Richardson at play area to discuss minor remedial work. It was thought the gate entrance require some more attention such as additional gravel.

12.2 Rota: March - Malcolm, April – David.

12.3 Play Area Risk Assessment was reviewed and unanimously approved.

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 – no update but OCC are pushing for a response.

16 Village – Natural Environmental Matters

16.1 Proposal to put an additional bench in Begbroke Lane was postponed for further discussion.

16.2 It was unanimously agreed to provide additional plants such as snowdrops, cowslips, daffodils and primroses in Begbroke Lane. Perhaps more wild flower seed. Clerk to investigate suitable suppliers.

16.3 The clerk showed pictures of the current state of St Michaels Lane in the conservation area, thought to have been caused mainly by contractor's vehicles who are currently carrying out works on the Old Rectory. To be reported to CDC Planning Dept.

17 Website & Information

17.1 Website reviewed. Clerk has added a link to Trainline and altered heading to Bus and Train

18 Proposed dates of the Next Meeting (s):

18.1 April 8th 6.00pm 2024

Signed _____ Malcolm Ryder – Chairman Begbroke parish council 8th April 2024