

Begbroke Parish Council

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MINUTES OF

MEETING OF BEGBROKE PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY OCTOBER 7TH 2024 @ 06:00 PM

1 Present:

1.1 Cllr Malcolm Ryder (Chair); Cllr. Leslie Allen (vice Chair), Cllr. Dionne Wright, Cllr. David Wintersgill, Cllr Beverley Appleton, Cllr Peter Finbow, Cllr. Lindsay Gregory

1.2 Apologies: Cllr Ian Middleton,

2 Minutes

2.1 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting Monday 2nd September were confirmed as a true record.

3 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Gifts or Hospitality

3.1 Nothing to declare.

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Clerk responded to last solar farm consultation to re-iterate that Begbroke parish council remains completely opposed to the proposed solar farm. In fact, the latest consultation has increased fear of destruction of the local environment and especially the veteran trees. The committee saw the excellent document produced and submitted by Michael and Karin Brown to this 4th Botley West Community Consultation and fully agreed with the observations and conclusions contained within.

4.2 New Gigaclear contact: Michelle Tanfield will be taking over as the Community Engagement Manager.

5 A44, Highways & Begbroke Science Park

5.1 Toucan pedestrian Crossing – installation to commence 6 January 2024 weather permitting. Possible reduction of speed limit to 40 mph. SSE who will install the electricity supply cables have not yet accepted the contract.

6 Reports from County/District Councillors/Other contributors

6.1 County Councillor – report. OCC and CDC report for August/September 2024

ODD (PR8)

Outline planning has now been passed by CDC. There is still plenty of work to do along the way before everything is finalised. We both spoke remotely at the planning meeting as we were away at the time. Points that were highlighted were that ODD should not assume that the affordable housing would be for their exclusive use and that the issue over the future closure of Sandy Lane and any alternative routes should be settled ASAP. ODD have proposed funding a pedestrian and cycle crossing but there were no details. We also raised concerns about Sandy Lane being used as an access road for the works as the last time this happened the verges were severely damaged by HGVs.

Sports facilities provision

The 6 Kidlington CDC councillors have been working on a PR wide sports strategy with CDC to see where the £106 money is to be best spent.

Transport strategy

The same 6 councillors will also work on the PR wide transport strategy to include cycle paths, walking, bus routes etc. This will encompass the connectivity between the villages. We feel that the councillors are best placed to try and work through this to get the best outcome from the developers.

Golf course update (PR6b)

There was some discussion at the sports strategy meeting, and it appears that the new golf course will only be provided if there is shown to be need. At present the North Oxford golf course is one of the most well used in Oxfordshire. We are pressing for clarity on this.

Flooding

Yarnton Flood Defence Group have met with CDC to discuss how best to deal with sewage/flooding in Yarnton and the surrounding areas. The new PR8 site backs onto Kidlington and KPC are setting up a flood defence group to tackle certain areas in the village. This may impact onto Gosford so input from GWEPC would be welcome. A further meeting was held with YFD, including members from BPC and KPC and various representatives from agencies involved in flooding. This was a useful exercise and should help us prepare for any future floods. Hopefully they won't be as severe as recently but with climate change now biting that may be optimistic. Ian has also followed up on the responsibility of the watercourse next to the Royal Sun pub. It's been confirmed that this down to the Environment Agency and they are now in communication with the business owner.

Occupation of site on Bicester Road

A company calling itself 'Unique Landscaping' has started to operate from the site near Hebborn's Yard without any planning permission. This has been reported to CDC and is also in the hands of TVP.

Heidleberg HGVs on the Bicester Road

Ian met with representatives from the company and discussed alternative routes from Parkway on to the A34 via Freize Way. He is still waiting on a reply.

Cassington Quarry

As above, Ian's meeting was at Cassington Quarry to discuss the extension of their planning permission there. It was established that the extension will only be to enable remediation of the site into a wildlife area. The company need the extension due to delays in getting materials etc. Ian agreed to withdraw his objection through OCC on the condition that no further quarrying works will be allowed on the site. The company have agreed to this, and Ian has confirmed to OCC planning that he is happy with this. It's hoped that the works will be completed by the end of next year.

Kidlington Rising Bollard/ANPR

No further news on this with respect to the ANPR proposals, but CDC are about to join a community CCTV project with TVP and other local councils which may see the bollard more effectively monitored. If that happens it may start working properly again. But in the meantime, Ian is still pursuing the idea of ANPR although at the last meeting he was told this wouldn't be scheduled until February 2025 and even then, there was no firm commitment to this.

Water Eaton Lane

A new OCC officer has now been appointed to deal with yellow lining and Ian is speaking to him about the proposals for yellow and white lines. Unfortunately, he seems to be starting from first principles so some more work will need to be done. Hopefully this can be completed quickly. The road sign at the top of the lane that was reported as damaged is going to be replaced by CDC.

OUFC Stadium

The planning application for this continues to be updated and is likely to be considered by the planning committee early next year. Legal agreements have been signed off by OCC but there are concerns that the commitments to community benefits are still vague and the agreements that have been made public appear to be very weak. Most of the details of the lease option have not been made public. Ian has written to the OCC CEO and Monitoring Officer as well as the Cabinet member for property and the OCC Leader asking for more clarity on why agreements were signed without the promised consultation with parish councils.

Begbroke crossing

Ian is still pursuing this and arranged a meeting with the new officer dealing with it along with BPC Chair Malcolm Ryder. It was agreed that we would have regular monthly meetings with updates from now on. A start date for the project of 6th January 2025 was provided and it looks likely that this will now be a reliable commitment. But we will keep pressing to ensure this date is not missed,

PR9 appeal costs

As everyone will probably know, Merton College are looking to recover costs and punitive damages from both CDC and OCC over the appeal on the Spring Hill site. As neither authority really put up much of a fight on the day, it's perhaps not surprising that this would happen. We're waiting to see how much it comes to, but it could be a dangerous precedent to set given that there are other sites in the pipeline. The other concern is that part of the appeal resulted in a reduction of the affordable element from 50% down to 43%. This may also be something that the other sites look to replicate

OCC reorganisation

There is another officer reorganisation going on at OCC, but this one only affects senior levels. Some new positions have been created but now it's a little unclear what they will be doing. The whole matter is confidential but the papers for the debate at the last full council meeting didn't reach members until 2 days before the meeting and some didn't see them until the day of the meeting. This caused some consternation from members. However, things are now going to consultation. I am assured that these changes will have no impact on local projects/services but that remains to be seen.

Campsfield House

The government has announced that they intend to continue with the refurbishment of Campsfield House in line with the previous government's plans. We have both attended several meetings of the local 'Keep Campsfield Closed' group and Ian spoke at a rally in Oxford a few weeks ago. Ian raised a question with the leader of OCC and asked her to write to the Home Secretary making our concerns clear, particularly in terms of the impact on residents and on local businesses, as well as moral objections.

If there are any further questions on any of the above feel free to contact us.

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

6.2 Cherwell District Councillor – see above

6.3 OALC Report-Circulated

6.4 Cherwell Parish Bulletin-no report

7 Council Representatives

7.1 BVHMC Report

- Meeting to be held with BVMC to discuss basketball safety surface. Goal is often unused since provision of new goals. Discuss removal and sale.
- Clerk has been asked by bowling section if hedge fronting Begbroke lane could be reduced in height
- Bookings are on the rise, and charges are going to be reviewed
- Quotes to be obtained for access ramp at the back
- Appointed a caretaker and given cleaner 1 months' notice
- Playgroup at full capacity by Easter 2025
- No church update
- Picnic went well
- Possible outdoor lighting in bin area
- Electronic booking system is proposed.

7.2 Oxford Airport report - meeting 8th October.

7.3 Four parishes meeting – 15th October teams meeting, link has been circulated.

8 New Business

8.1 Bus stop survey – has been completed online and images attached – no confirmation of receipt received.

8.2 Clerks/Assistant & Clerks positions – revised contracts of employment have been signed by the Chair. Louise to commence as clerk on 1st November.

8.3 Willow Way – clerk is composing response letter to Liz Leffman with FOI requests for further information.

8.4 Winter preparedness. Should we have equipment such a submersible pumps and barriers available? To discuss further.

8.5 Drainage was discussed. The drains are not clear so there would be nowhere for the water to go. A cleaning request have been added to fix-my-street.

8.6 Solar Farm Community benefits agreement - it appears that financial inducements may be offered to supporting the solar farm.

9 Planning

9.1 Search Results - Planning register | Planning register | Cherwell District Council- a) 24/02547/F The parish council unanimously objected to application for number 37 Fernhill Road. Reasons: excessive development and possible parking problems near a junction. b) 24/02529/F Number 90 Fernhill Road, no objections.

10 Correspondence (See register for full details of postal correspondence): None to report.

10.1 None

11 Financial Matters

11.1 Balances/Liabilities: £33,334.60 (SCRIBE) Bank Statements (27/09/2024) : Current £29,895.97 Reserve £4,035.02 Transfer: £0.00 from reserve to current. Liabilities (listed below and outstanding cheques)

11.2 Income: Bank interest – ETBA Precept – 2nd payment ref: CS000836 £18,858.87

11.3 Expenditure

11.3.1 Baylee Construction Inv BPC1961 Play area repairs/bus stop maintenance £870 CN:1159

11.3.2 Clerks/Assistant clerks salary Sep 2024 CN 1161 £661.19 and 1160 £341.57

11.3.3 HMRC PAYE/NI Liability £153.00 CN:1162

11.3.4 NR Prickett – grass cutting Inv 2339 £501.6 CN: 1163

11.3.5 Modus Accountants – accountancy fees to 30 Sept. Inv INV-13160 £90 CN:1164

11.3.6 OALC Training Dionne Wright Playground Inspection Inv W-3544 £180 CN: 1165

11.3.7 CDC Dog Bin emptying 6 monthly Inv 20017313 £334.62 CN: 1166

11.3.8 No other transactions

11.4 Quotations/Tenders/Grants

11.4.1: Hedge cutting quotes to be obtained.

11.5 Bank Matters

11.5.1 Online banking Parish Council Funding | Socially Responsible, Ethical Banking (unity.co.uk)_Application in progress. Microsoft forms to circulated to councillors for information.

11.5.2 Other Financial Matters-Tax investigation service. £100 fee, this has been agreed to be paid by the Parish council.

11.5.3 Modus - protection against HMRC investigations and the associated fees – cost £100 – it was unanimously decided to purchase.

12 Health and Safety Matters

12.1 Playground inspection reports - received but some are outstanding.

12.2 New play area inspection rota circulated.

12.3 Rota: September – Malcolm - October – Dionne; November – David November; Beverly -December.

12.4 Health and Safety Policy is under review by Les for later consideration by committee.

13 Training

13.1 Dionne to undertake formal Playground inspection training in April 2025.

14 Freedom of information requests/receipts

14.1. None

15 Footpaths, Bridleways and Restricted Byway (RUPP)

15.1 Parkers Farm – rejected due to insufficient evidence. However, footpath now established from Grovelands over bridge to Oxford Canal. Clerk obtained landowners property deeds but no further information. Deadline for appeal has passed. The Canal and River Trust has confirmed this.

15.2 Sign for Fernhill Road “leading to” needs to be changed, the Clerk and Assistant clerk will contact the council about this.

16 Village – Natural Environmental Matters

16.1 Royal Sun drainage; agreed that the council needs to go back to the Science Park to ask about reopening the section.

16.2 Malcolm to put in a request to the council to clear drains around areas of Begbroke.

16.3 Flood photos to be collated.

16.4 It was agreed by a majority to install a solar light in the eastern bus stop (Dionne declared an interest) It was also agreed to install a further cycle rack at the western stop and arrange a further clean due to people’s unsanitary behaviour in the bus shelter.

17 Website & Information

17.1 Website was reviewed. Additional information for flooding and TTRO’s has been added,

18 Proposed dates of the Next Meeting (s):

18.1 November 4th, 2024

Signed _____ Malcolm Ryder – Chairman Begbroke parish council 04 November 2024