

Begbroke Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of 2nd December 2024

1. **Attendance:** Malcolm Ryder (Chair), Les Allen (Deputy Chair) Beverley Appleton, Peter Finbow, Lindsay Gregory, David Wintersgill, Dionne Wright, Louise Wright (Clerk)

Apologies: None.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting of 4th November 2024.** The minutes were unanimously agreed as correct.

3. **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Gifts or Hospitality-**None to declare.

4. **Matters arising-**No matters arising.

5. **A44, Highways and Begbroke Science Park**

The Chair met with the representative from the Science Park and are due to contact regarding the drains at the end of Fernhill Road. This has not yet happened.

6. **Reports from County/District Councillors/Other contributors-**overviews of main points included below.

Cllr Linda Ward - CDC

Flooding and Storm Bert

From visiting many residents who have suffered again from flood water, it is now clear that there are many varied problems – due to a range of issues including pumping stations being overwhelmed, poor gully maintenance, inappropriate planning, and ground water unable to disperse.

OCC are proposing an extra £1.5m funding for drainage infrastructure but it's likely that the majority of this will be used to clear gullies.

Section 19 flood investigation reports are being prepared by OCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority for Yarnton and Kidlington. We are encouraging as many people as possible to report flood damage to OCC so they have a complete picture of what is going on.

www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/emergency/report-flood/

Campsfield House

This is still ongoing and there was another protest last Saturday that was well attended.

Ian spoke at the meeting about how this is an inappropriate building for this area (and any area in the country).

Sports Survey Strategy

The 6 CDC councillors for East and West Kidlington have finalised a sports strategy survey to be sent to as many residents within the villages as possible.

2040 Draft Local Plan

This is now approaching completion and is due to be signed off for the next stage of consultation by the CDC Executive on the 5th December. After that it will go into Regulation 19 consultation

A44 Bus Layby (near Budgens)

After nearly 4 years of pushing Ian has finally managed to get this properly closed with sensible barriers that won't blow all over the A44!

Begbroke Crossing A44

No further updates on this-the works are on target to start on 6th January 2025.

Hallam development site - Yarnton

Out-line planning approved although still concerns about the number of trees along the A44 that are shown on the plan as being slated for removal. This was apparently at the request of OCC. Ian is pursuing this with the senior tree officer.

Kings Garage Site – Bicester Road Kidlington

This was passed at the last planning meeting at CDC. Cllr Mawson and Cllr Middleton raised the issues of lack of affordable housing within Kidlington. This plan was passed with the proviso that any affordable aspect will be dealt with by the officers when the rest of the flats have been sold.

OUFC Stadium Proposals

Concerns are still being raised by local groups about difficulties in seeing their submissions on the planning portal. These are now being addressed by CDC planners although they are still refusing to un-redact responses from organised groups on both sides.

Ian is also pursuing with OCC why details of the proposed community benefits support for local recreational facilities promised by OUFC as part of the development are still redacted on the publicly visible version of the 'Collaboration Agreement'.

Local services satisfaction survey

CDC is asking residents to take part in its Satisfaction Survey to share their experiences with the council and provide feedback on services.

You can respond here <https://cherwell.citizenspace.com/communications-strategy-and-insight/www-cherwell-dc-gov-uk-survey2024/>

Polling Places and Boundary Reviews-This is nearing completion and a report will be published next year.

Planning Applications

Both East and West Kidlington councillors are questioning some of the planning applications that seem to be going ahead before permission is given. Proposals to develop an 8 bed HMO in Kidlington went ahead after Highways withdrew their objections despite Ian gaining agreement from them that they would raise concerns.

Area Oversight Groups

This is a new initiative that follows the successful model developed in Bicester. There will be AOGs for Banbury, Bicester, and Gosford and Water Eaton; Kidlington, Yarnton, and Begbroke (known as 'The Four Parishes') More information here : <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/news/article/1156/new-advisory-groups-will-strengthen-community-voices>

Cost of living support

CDC has committed additional funding to the tune of £64,000 for 13 projects during 2024-2025 including food, energy-saving, help to stay warm, and personal hygiene products. months.

OCC invites people to and invest in its net zero plans

People are to be invited to get involved in Oxfordshire County Council's plans to become a net zero organisation by 2030 and be a part of the journey for the whole county to become net zero by 2050. As part of these plans, the council is now launching the first round of the Oxfordshire Green Investment, which will allow residents and businesses to invest in the greener future of their communities.

Find out more here <https://www.abundanceinvestment.com/council/oxfordshire>

Budget Consultations

CDC is in the process of setting a new budget for 2025/26 and is asking for residents to respond to a survey to give us more of an idea of what is important to them on the link below. The consultation closes on December 23rd.

<https://cherwell.citizenspace.com/communications-strategy-and-insight/budgetconsultation2025-26/>

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/budget-consultation-2025-26>

Motion opposing the Badger Cull

Ian is bringing a motion to OCC asking for the council to ban badger shooting on its own land and to write to the government calling for an immediate end to the cull which has been shown to be ineffective as a way of combatting Bovine TB.

Fiona Mawson – CDC

Linda Ward - CDC

Ian Middleton - CDC & OCC

7. Council Representatives

BVHMC report from Deputy Chair.

- **The village hall lock** has been installed and we are on the way to having a fully remote system.
- **Trustees** Marco, Paddy and Bruce agreed to be the new trustees.
- **Minutes Secretary** - Charlotte Screnock has volunteered to fill this role.

- **CCTV** is wanted and we will start with solar power outside cameras. Videos are stored on the Cloud; there is no need to pay for storage of more than 30 days. Karen confirmed the playgroup is fine with CCTV – it has GDPR forms from parents but the Designated Safeguarding Lead would need to be present if the film is shown to anyone. Les reminded everyone of the need to follow ICO guidance and policy on cameras.
- **Kitchen** – Full clean in process
- **Rubbish in front of playgroup** – Complaint received so this is now being dealt with.
- **Bright light needed for bin area** – two complaints have been received.
- **Permanent lighting** – waiting on quote from David Verdon. LED and dimmable floodlights have been chosen.
- **A shared electronic folder (Dropbox/SharePoint) is needed.**
- **Licenses AP** - Everyone should gather necessary documents (entertainment licenses, alcohol licenses, PPL PRS, Legionella assessment) and we will discuss at the next meeting.
- **Electricity at playgroup** – Committee decided to repurpose the heaters on the back wall of the village hall and put them in the playgroup building. This will replace the storage heater and help with the bill.
- **PAC testing** is due for building.
- **Scottish Southern Electric is wanting to put in smart meter.** Committee agrees.
- **Fence by the playgroup** – Due to be installed
- **Fire risk assessment** – Full report coming in but main requirements are ramps from lounge door and one of the back doors and a break glass fire solution on a commercial board (because we hire the hall out).
- **Defibrillator** – This needs to be assessed and someone will be contacted regarding this.
- **Risk assessment** – Mike and Les are working on this, aiming to be finished by the end of January.
- **Health and Safety** – no hinge protection in village hall. Legionella test & assessment is completed. We need a Health & Safety Person – Mike agrees to be this person.
- **Safeguarding Rep** - Karen has just done all the training for being a Designated Safeguarding Lead and has volunteered to fill this position.
- **Purchases** – Committee agrees that Mike can purchase 2 stainless steel kettles, a new hoover head, and a label maker.
- **OCC Update** - The old A44 bus stop may be used as part of a circular bus route between Kidlington-Yarnton-Begbroke. There is now an unlocked notice board up in the northbound bus stop. You can now comment on Botley West Solar Farm on the website. Planning for 14 Begbroke Lane (5x2 bedroom flats, 7 parking spots) has been submitted. Alert Cherwell Council about your feelings on this by December 24.

7.1 CCTV Policy for Village Hall and new lock: The Parish Council has concerns regarding CCTV that is proposed to be installed at the village hall. Including the following:

- Who has access to the footage
- If the Village Hall have registered themselves as a data controller with the ICO.
- The lock is not easy to use and could be especially difficult for those with dexterity issues
- Are there any insurance issues using a ring camera? And has the policy been updated?

- Another issue related to the village hall is the lack of door hinge guards. This is a very serious issue and Les will make sure this hazard is immediately addressed.

Action: Les to take concerns to the next Village Hall Committee meeting.

Oxford Airport report-No report received.

Four parishes meeting- No report received.

8. New Business

Lindsey has had a chat with the PCOS's about speeding and parking around the village. They have been invited to come to Begbroke to have a chat on Thursday.

9. **Planning**-no submitted plans for discussion at meeting.

10. **Correspondence (see register for full details of postal correspondence)**

11. Financial matters

a. Balances/Liabilities

Balance:£28 911. 96 (SCRIBE) Bank Statements : Current £27 514.19 Reserve £4039.99 Transfer: £0.00 from reserve to current.

Income: Bank interest – £4.97.

b. Expenditure

CN1171: Assistant Clerk reimbursement expenses £100.70

CN1172: Ritetech Ltd. Cycle rack £190.20

CN1173: N R Prickett invoice 2391 £501.60

CN1174: Ritetech Ltd. Fixing bolts Invoice 0272 £36.00

CN1175: Begbroke Parish Council (Deposit to Unity Trust Bank) £500.00

CN1176: Assistant Clerk salary £387.65 (month 8) (includes national pay rise and backpay)

CN1177: Clerk salary £722.38 (month 8) (includes national pay rise and backpay)

CN1178: HMRC £203.80 (month 8)

c. Quotations/Tenders/Grants

Grant application: WI £150-Unanimously agreed.

Grant application Link magazine: £500 Unanimously agreed after confirmation of increase in subscription charges.

Action: Clerk to arrange payments to each group.

Begbroke Lane Hedge cutting: £500-Unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to contact Mr Prickett to arrange.

- d. **Online banking update (LW)**-Online banking is now up and running but Councillors will need to ensure they log in and activate their log in details.

Action: All to log in using details sent by Unity Trust Bank.

12. Health and Safety

12.1 Playground inspection reports-Two big goals, the south goal could do with being moved to a different place to prevent the ground becoming over worn.

12.2 Rota; Dec – Beverly; January - Peter; February - Lindsay; March – Leslie.

- 13. **Training**-Unanimously agreed that the new Clerk can register to undertake the clerk training offered by OLAC.

14. Freedom of information requests/receipts/FixMystreet reports

14.1 Gully Cleaning-Response due 25th November-Received and shared with PC

14.2 Willow Way-Response due 25th November-received and shared with PC.

[Your Reports: FixMystreet](#)

15. Footpaths, Bridleways and Restricted Byway (RUPP)

Canal and River Trust have given permission for the Chair to clear rowel brook but he is awaiting permission from the University.

- 16. **Village-Natural Environmental Matters**-Nothing to note.

- 17. **Website and Information**- The Clerk has updated the look of the website.

18. Proposed dates of next meeting

3 February 2025

Malcolm Ryder