

Begbroke Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Louise Wright, 21 Park Avenue, Kidlington, OX5 2AS.

e-mail at: clerk@begbrokepc.org.uk

Website: <https://www.begbrokepc.org.uk/>

Minutes of meeting 03 March 2025

1. Attendance Malcolm Ryder (Chair), Les Allen (Deputy Chair) Beverley Appleton, Peter Finbow, Lindsay Gregory, David Wintersgill, Dionne Wright, Jeffrey Wright (Assistant Clerk) Cllr Nigel Simpson OCC

1.1 Apologies: Louise Wright.

2. Minutes of previous meeting of 3 February 2025

2.1 Unanimously agreed.

3. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Gifts or Hospitality

3.1 None declared.

4. Document reviews

4.1 The committee unanimously approved the updated 2025 documents carried over from February meeting; Standing Orders, Financial Risk Assessment and Freedom of Information policy.

5. A44, Highways and Begbroke Science Park

5.1 Cycle and walking routes-attachment was discussed. It was stated that we already have routes along the A44 such as an overgrown footpaths and cycle paths that require maintenance. **Action:** Nigel to progress.

5.2 The Toucan crossing remains inoperable, primarily due to traffic loops not being installed. This will necessitate further lane closures which the contractor is currently in the formal process of arranging. Other outstanding works, remedial works & any comments from a Stage 3 Road Safety Audit are being considered and implementation of the 40mph limit is also now delayed. It was mentioned that this would be a good opportunity to install waiting restrictions near crossing as well as text on the service road to say look left or right. **Action:** Nigel to discuss with Highways.

6. Reports from County/District Councillors/Other contributors

6.1 County Councillor report

OCC budget: Agreed at the February full council meeting. Highlights are:

- £1m of funding for the expansion of early years support (under 5s) so that all children can get the best possible start in life.
- The council proposes has allocated £1.141m of extra funding in 2025/26 relating to special educational needs (SEND) and education, health, and care plans (EHCP). A total of £641,000 of this would be additional money to complete EHCPs more quickly and £500,000 to facilitate the provision of expertise from special schools focused on children with EHCPs who are in mainstream schools.
- £2m of new money partly funded by new government grant funding to support families to overcome challenges at the earliest opportunity, prevent escalation and effectively intervene with problems.
- £400,000 additional funding to cover the costs of the increase in number of children with SEND requiring home to school transport.
- £3.6m for flooding measures including £2.1m for proactive work with communities who have suffered flooding and £1.5m additional funding for highway drainage in 2025/26, with the council moving to an annual highway drainage gully emptying and jetting cycle.
- £1m funding for revenue or capital spend to leverage investment in rail, including supporting active travel access, improvement programmes and the development of strategic cases and masterplans to prove the environmental, economic and community case for rail.
- £400,000 to support holding the price of a joint ticket (parking and bus fare) at Park & Ride car parks unchanged from 2024/25.
- £38.6m for a two-year highway's maintenance programme, which will extend surface dressing, prevent potholes from occurring and improve drainage across the highways network in Oxfordshire. A further £16.2m will be used to repair and maintain bridges and £4m for improvements in road safety.
- £1.8m for active travel measures to encourage walking and cycling including £500,000 for active travel in rural areas.

More information is available on the OCC website.

CDC budget

This was passed with a few amendments from Conservatives supported by Labour.

Highlights are:

- Brown bin fee to remain unchanged although kerbside glass collection could now be delayed due to Conservative amendments, but Ian will be pushing to bring this forward as soon as possible as the executive portfolio holder for waste and recycling.
- The capital programme agreed by council includes funding for a series of improvements to sports and community facilities across the district. This makes use of monies secured through Section 106 legal agreements with housing developers.
- The budget also earmarks continued funding for grants to support the ongoing improvement of housing in the district, including to help people with disabilities live independently. Additional funding to tackle homelessness and support vulnerable members of the community was also agreed.

OUFC stadium

Consideration of the planning application has now been delayed until June 2025 due to waiting on information such as Very Special Circumstances for building on the green belt. There are also concerns about lack of water and sewage capacity from Thames Water. TVERC are also still doing surveys on the land as some are incomplete.

Yarnton Nurseries planning application.

Thames Water cannot fulfil requirements and issues with flooding in the area. There is also an objection from CDC due to the lack of any affordable units within the site. Ian has also raised an issue concerning accessing the Yarnton Nurseries site from the Begbroke Science Park Access Road to reduce congestion and the problem with lorries accessing it from Sanday Lane.

Battery storage planning application near the Cassington Roundabout

An objection has been put in from OCC about flooding in field which could affect the highway and Green Lane, the Turnpike. Ian has also raised concerns about flooding and potential fire risks.

Bicester Road potholes

Ian has been chasing for a proper repair of a major pothole which has had five failed repairs. It is likely that the road will need to be closed to get the job done properly. Ian is also still trying to get Heidelberg to re-route their HGVs away from the road and down Freize Way instead.

Begbroke crossing.

This is now almost completed, and the lights are due to be switched on soon.

Poplar Trees on the Gosford section of the Bicester Road (link Road)

Ian arranged a meeting with the OCC tree officer to discuss why two of the poplars will have to be removed. These have been tested and have been found to be degrading internally. They will need to be removed for safety reasons but will be replaced by trees with a similar growing profile. All the trees along that stretch are coming to end of their lives and will need to be monitored again in 4 years. OCC will plant two more trees for every one removed as per their tree policy.

Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution

Discussions continue at all levels. The current preference from CDC is for a unitary authority with West Oxfordshire, including the City. The other options would be for a full Oxfordshire unitary or an expanded City boundary authority although no one really knows what that means. There is still a degree of confusion about what can and cannot happen in general.

Realignment of the Alliance Administration at OCC

The Greens have decided to separate from the joint group with Liberal Democrats but will remain in an alliance with them. This means no change in the way the council is administered but has happened as the Greens feel they need to be in their own group now to play a more active role in the local government reorganisation process.

Local elections

The County Council elections are going ahead on the 1st of May. The Kidlington South Division that Ian currently represents has been divided into Kidlington West (which includes Yarnton and Begbroke) and Kidlington East (which includes most of the rest of Kidlington and Gosford).

Fiona Mawson – CDC; Linda Ward – CDC; Ian Middleton - CDC & OCC

6.2 Cherwell District Councillor Report - Lesley McClean

There is not a full DC report, however I can confirm that I have secured funding for additional flooding resources through CDC. I am also now sitting on the Oxfordshire Flood Task Force organised and funded by OCC and will be putting pressure on OCC to provide additional support to this area. This will also include flood wardens.

An Area Oversight Group meeting has been arranged, with representative from Begbroke invited.
I have requested a meeting with Malcolm and Les to update on local issues, and update on AOG priorities.

6.3 OALC report – discussed and circulated.

6.4 Cherwell Parish Bulletin - circulated.

7 Council Representatives

7.1 BVHMC report Les reported that there had been drain blockages; Risk assessments for hall and grounds needed completion. A member of village hall committee may be willing to undergo training. Legionellae assessment did not cover the pipework to bowling green which is a “dead leg” for much of the year. The ramps were still under discussion and an image of a prefabricated one was shown. It was also discussed that all parts of a village hall should be available to hirers including the annexe unless there was an exclusive use agreement in place covering electricity, water, and uses of space charges for 365 days year.

7.2 Oxford Airport report - none

7.3 Four parishes meeting. \$.0pm 27th March at Exeter Hall for Area Oversight meeting

8. New Business - none

9. Planning - none

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

11. Financial matters

11.1 Balances/Liabilities Unity Trust Bank Note: NatWest accounts are now closed.

Balance: £20,136.95 (SCRIBE) Bank Statements: Current £20 136.94 Reserve £0, Income: Bank interest £0.42

Net	Total	Cashed Date	Description	Supplier	Bank	Payment Ref
6	6	03/03/2025 00:00	BANKING FEE	UNITY TRUST BANK	Current	
200	200	27/02/2025 00:00	Grant Application	Link Magazine	Current	
646.03	646.03	27/02/2025 00:00	STAFF COSTS	CLERK	Current	February salary
234.85	234.85	27/02/2025 00:00	STAFF COSTS	ASSISTANT CLERK	Current	February salary
146.2	146.2	27/02/2025 00:00	STAFF COSTS	HMRC	Current	February tax payment
			MEMBERSHIP OF			Membership from April
55	55	20/02/2025 00:00	ORGANISATION	COMMUNITY FIRST	Current	2025
				BEGBROKE		
384	384	20/02/2025 00:00	Councillor Allowances	PARISH COUNCIL	Current	
						Gate
390	390	13/02/2025 00:00	VILLAGE NEW WORK	BAYLEE CONST	Current	removal
125	125	13/02/2025 00:00	VILLAGE NEW WORK	BAYLEE CONST	Current	6 Monthly asset inspection
0	0	07/02/2025 00:00	INTEREST	NatWest	Current	03 02 2025
6	6	06/02/2025 00:00	BANKING FEE	UNITY TRUST BANK	Current	31 01 2025
210	210	06/02/2025 00:00	VILLAGE NEW WORK	BAYLEE CONST	Current	Light installation in bus shelter

The above transactions were unanimously approved.

11.2 Quotations/Tenders/Grants

11.2.1 link magazine-approved via email-Grant application for crossing celebration £200 – Paid.

11.2.2 Begbroke Bowls club-Grant application, unanimously approved, mower repair £500 Clerk to action.

12 Health and Safety

12.1 Playground inspection report's - received from Lindsay for February and March 3 from Les

12.2 Rota- March Leslie, April Malcolm.

12.3 An urgent safeguarding issue arose from a recent playground inspection when an adult entered the play area from a neighbouring property. A discussion and practical solutions were offered such as a 1.8m x 2.5m section of railings along the play area eastern boundary. **Action:** The assistant clerk to refer to BVHMC as an urgent matter.

13 Training

11.1 None requested.

14 Freedom of information requests/receipts/FixMystreet reports

12.1 Woodland between Begbroke and Bladon to Forestry Commission to ratify Blenheim's claims regarding cutting down of woodland. This followed a complaint by a resident.

12.2 Many reports were shown on Fix My Street. It was evident that some disappear without action, and some are simply not attended to. The chair gave an example of gulleys that had not been fixed and assistant, one reported in April 2024, showing as fixed in November 2024 when nothing had been done.

15 Footpaths, Bridleways and Restricted Byway (RUPP)

15.1 The assistant clerk met Nigel Simpson to discuss the deteriorating condition of Begbroke Lane. He provided images and details of parish boundaries. Action: Nigel to follow up

16 Village and Environmental Matters

16.1 It was considered that Kidlington should provide a further dog waste bin at the junction of FP7 and Begbroke lane. It was noted that the canal and river Trust had removed the one on the canal and Kidlington had installed a new one in Partridge Place. **Action:** Nigel to discuss with KPC

16.2 Land registry documents of land ownership of the A44 and Royal Sun were shown prior to a meeting between Lesley McClean and Malcolm regarding Rowel Brokk Maintenance adjacent to the pub.

17 Website and Information

17.1 No issues raised.

18 Proposed dates of next meeting

Monday 7 April 2025 Annual Council Meeting 6.30pm + Annual General Meeting 7.00pm

Malcolm Ryder – Chair _____ 07 April 2025