

**BIX AND ASSENDON
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
8TH JUNE 2020**

Clerk - Mrs. Jane Pryce, 56 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village, Reading, Berkshire RG4 6PP
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The minutes of the Bix & Assendon Parish Council meeting held on 8th June March 2020 via Zoom

Parish Councillors present:

Ms. Lisbeth Thiesen (chairman), Mr. William Murdoch (vice-chairman) and Mrs. Ina Chantry

Oxfordshire County Councillor David Bartholomew

South Oxfordshire District Councillors Lorraine Hillier and Jo Robb

Also present: Mrs. Jane Pryce (Clerk) and 2 members of the public

Key: BAG – Bix & Assendon Grapevine alert email service to residents

CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy

OALC – Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils

FMS – Fix My Street – website to report highway problems

035/20 Apologies for absence

None

036/20 Members declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None

037/20 Confirmation of the minutes on the 2nd March 2020

The sentence ‘It was a legal requirement to report any collision with a deer’ on page 3 under Cllr David Bartholomew’s report was not made by him but by a member of the public.

The minutes were amended for this and were signed and agreed as true and accurate record of the meetings by the chairman.

038/20 OCC Report from Cllr. D. Bartholomew

The full general report can be found attached to the minutes and on the website.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BIX & ASSENDON

READING TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2036 (INCLUDING THIRD READING BRIDGE)

I emailed all clerks in my Division on 17th May to let you know that Reading is now consulting on its Transport Strategy 2036. Several proposals would have major impacts on South Oxfordshire including:

- North Reading Orbital Route (p97)
- A Third Thames crossing (see p98)
- North Reading Park and Rides (p111)

The consultation closes on 30 August and I urge you to respond here:

<https://consult.reading.gov.uk/dens/reading-transport-strategy-2036/>

In addition, you may also wish to email the Leader of OCC ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk

FMS WHITE LANE 1770645 (SOIL BUILD UP)

Whilst not deemed to be an immediate or significant risk, a request has been placed with the District Council who are responsible for street cleansing to sweep the road and thus resolve the matter.

FMS WHITE LANE 7740192 (OVERGROWN HEDGE AND MISSING GIVE WAY SIGN)

On inspection the hedgerows are not considered to be presenting a danger or an obstruction that would at this time warrant intervention from the County Council. Much of the hedgerow is private and without adequate just cause to notify the land owner to take action there is nothing further the County Council would consider doing at this time. Additionally, owing to the time of year the hedgerow is protected to a point for the nesting of birds. Should the situation become sufficiently worse the County Council would be happy to reconsider at that time. The hedgerows will continue to be monitored as a part of the routine highway inspection process.

A sign has been installed at the junction of White Lane with the B480. An inspection this morning confirms that it is in place and in good order. The matter is now hopefully satisfactorily resolved.

OLD CYCLE PATH AT BIX

I have put the clerk in touch with the relevant OCC Cabinet Member to see if any funding is available for reinstating this path.

The clerk confirmed she has been in contact and described the location to the member.

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SPEED SIGNS

Having been assured by the clerk that there has been local consultation with favourable results, I agreed to contribute 2 x £500 towards the cost of two VAS devices from my Councillor Priority Fund. The clerk completed and submitted the application form in early February and copied me on a progress note to Jon Beale in May. Please advise if further assistance is required.

039/20 SODC Report

Please see the full report on the website.

Council tax reminders are going out mid-June. This will take the form of a gentle reminder not a demand.

Grants – money is still available to help in emergencies during the pandemic.

Business support and Discretionary Business grants had helped business that were unaware they could apply.

Our first Planning committee took place (on-line) with only 2 planning applications. Also Licensing for taxi etc. are starting again.

Car parking charges back.

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William Murdoch asked about the new SODC office building was going? Other options will be looked into as more people will be working from home now.

A question was asked about the merger of South Oxfordshire and South & Vale district council. This is still being considered.

040/20 Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Ina Chantry was proposed for chairman by Lisbeth Thiesen and seconded by William Murdoch.

William Murdoch was proposed for vice-chairman by Lisbeth Thiesen and seconded by Ina Chantry.

The 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' forms were signed and witnessed by the clerk.

The forms will be scanned back to the clerk to be signed.

041/20 Clerk's Report

The week before lockdown, volunteers to help the vulnerable, were called for. I cannot say how much pride I felt in the response. All volunteers were allocated areas to leaflet drop with contact details so people could ask for help. With 2 days 99% of houses were covered and help was given. Thank you so much.

The litter pick on the 8th March was a success and again thank you to the volunteers.

Two VAS signs were ordered after locations checked. One will be facing Middle Assendon coming from Stonor and display 30mph. The other will be at Bix facing Bix coming from Nettlebed and display 40mph.

A FMS request was made for the cutting of the long grass on the central reservation at the Bix crossroads due to sight lines being obstructed.

Tap into volunteers to get new councillors was suggested.

042/20 Casual Vacancy for councillors

It was felt that the BAG information should go out first. The number of public for this meeting was low and there was no interest.

The clerk was asked to pursue the BAG to get this out before the next meeting.

043/20 Planning
William Murdoch

a) Applications Received

No planning applications received that the response deadline fell on or after the meeting.

b) BAPC Recommendations

P20/S1494/FUL

Former Halfacre, Section ff A4130 Running Between Bix and LA, Bix RG9 6DB
Variation of Condition 1 of P20/S0170/FUL for amended plans to entrance gates.

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Variation of condition 1 - Approved Plans of application P19/S0284/FUL to omit the walls that surround the cart shed. Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission P18/S2039/FUL to provide a larger garage building and amended parking area.
BAPC response: Supports

P20/S1418/HH

Tanglewood, Henley Park, Fawley RG9 6HY
Part single storey and part two storey utilities extension to existing dwelling
BAPC response: Supports

P20/S1435/FUL

Land at Leys Cottage, Old Bix Road, Bix RG9 6BY
Proposed erection of a new hay barn and equipment barn in connection with existing equestrian use of land.
BAPC response: Supports

P19/S4395/HH

The Barn, Broadplat Lane, Bix RG9 4RS
Alterations to external openings with new glazing, raised chimney stack, new external timber cladding, roof alterations and installation of new rooflights/repositioning of existing rooflights
BAPC response - NO OBJECTIONS
SODC Target Decision Date: 27th January 2020

P19/S1548/FUL

Grey Lodge, Old Bix Road, Bix RG9 6BY
Demolition of existing dwelling and studio and replacement with a new house.
BAPC response - NO OBJECTIONS
SODC Target Decision Date: 24th July 2019

c) SODC Decisions

No current planning applications had received SODC decisions

044/20 Correspondence

Oxfordshire Association for the Blind asking for a donation. It was asked that more detail be provided as to local need. Which was to asked the clerk to produce.

Thanks for donation of £100 from C.A.B.

The Chiltern Society thanked the parish council for their continued support.

JOJU Charging for electric vehicles. Was the council interested in this? Henley Town Council are delivering a scheme for this in conjunction with OCC/SODC. It was decided that the council should see how we could link with this. Jackie Walker (as the parish council representative at HTC) would keep the council informed.

045/20 Internal Audit 2019/20

The Internal Audit paperwork is prepared and the EOY Receipts and Payments 2019/20 were agreed (circulated to councillors before) and will be signed at a later date.

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The Accounting Governance statements were read out and agreed.

When the paperwork is all correctly signed and minute referenced, it will be passed to the internal auditor Jefferies Accounting Ltd, Henley.

It was noted that the delay (3 months) was in line with government guidelines.

It was decided to hold off submitting accounts till after the July 6th meeting as all paperwork/minutes/cheque book might be still with the auditor.

046/20 Annual CIL Spending Report 2019/20

The EOY 2019/20 CIL spend report was completed. CIL received was £9,241.93. CIL spend by the parish council was £7,404.00 on Bix village gate £594.00, SID machine (after grants £250.00) and 2 VAS signs (after grant £6,560.00). Remaining CIL monies are £4,850.69. This has to be spent by 2025 or returned to SODC.

047/20 SODC old refuse site

This agenda item was bought at the last meeting but due to lockdown, no further information has been obtained. A site visit by SODC has still to arranged. It was decided that the clerk, a parish councillor and a SODC councillor be in attendance.

No decisions by the parish council on this matter can be made until this takes place.

048/20 Allotment Report

Jane Pryce

Japanese Knotweed seems to be growing a foot a week. This has been reported. No reply from SODC.

All rents for plots have been received. All plots are, on the whole, being well cared for and look productive.

49/20 Finance

a) Cheques for payment

Clerk's wages and office rent for April/May/June 2020 = **£682.50**

Although a letter from Barclays to confirm signing arrangement to remove Robert Aitken had been received two years ago, after a mandate to add Ina Chantry was drawn up, it appears this was not done.

The mandate and ID given in at the Barclays Bank branch in Henley in March 2020 was lost. This has been drawn up again and Lisbeth Theisen and William Murdoch signed their authorization for Ina Chantry to be a signatory. The request to remove Robert Aitken as a signatory was included.

Paul Wyatt – grass cutting (and trees) - **£160**

More work was suggested (by Paul Wyatt) as a tree was impairing sightline at the junction. This would cost £75. This needs to be clarified for tree pruning – with nesting season in mind. Details for this work was requested for the clerk to obtain.

A BAG was also suggested to warn of this work being carried out.

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b) Payments received
Allotment rent **£90.00**

First half precept **£3,590.00**

The VAT reclaim 2019/20 has been made for £659.71

Bank balance £11,708.45

050/20 Footpath Report

Jane Aiken

There is nothing to report for this meeting.

051/20 Any other business

Village hall report – a week ago the nursery was opened for 11 pupils. But some parents were not happy with other nurseries and were thinking of moving their children to the Bix village hall.

No rent to be paid whilst lockdown going on.

Name and address of vulnerable people was requested from the clerk as obtained during the start of lockdown. The clerk would contact the carers to ask permission for this. This would help with a contact list in the event of a service, such as water, electricity and gas being cut off, being prioritised.

No cold calling area being started – the person doing it, will be asked by the clerk, to attend the July meeting to see how it is going.

A response to the Reading traffic plan was requested from the clerk for the next meeting.

052/20 Public Comments

None.

Next Meeting – Monday 6th July 2020 at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.48 pm