

Bix and Assendon Parish Council

Clerk - Mrs. Jane Pryce, 56 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village, Reading, Berkshire RG4 6PP
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The minutes of Bix and Assendon Parish Council meeting held on 3rd September 2018

Parish Councillors present:

Ms. Lisbeth Thiesen (Chairman), Mrs. Ina Chantry, Mr. Robert Walmsley, Mr. William Murdoch (Vice-Chairman) and Mr. Matthew Beesley

Oxfordshire County Council councillor David Bartholomew

Also present: Mrs. Jane Pryce (Clerk) and 14 members of the public.

Key: BAG – Bix & Assendon Grapevine alert email service to residents.
CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy
OALC – Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils

067/18 Apologies for absence

South Oxfordshire District Councillor David Nimmo-Smith emailed apologies.

068/18 Members declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None.

069/18 Confirmation of the minutes of 2nd July 2018

The minutes of 2nd July 2018 were declared true and signed by the chairman.

070/18 OCC Report from Cllr. D. Bartholomew

GENERAL OCC REPORT

The full report can be found attached to the minutes and was emailed to councillors before the meeting.

The report includes details of:

The approved proposals of the partnership between Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council

Students A-levels

Carillion Collapse costs

Improvements in delay of transfer of care numbers

Healthy Travel

Kids' Cycling Safety.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BIX & ASSENDON

DAMAGED/OBSCURED SIGNS ON DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

I am continuing to press for a firm date for repairs. As of today, there was no news.

OLD BIX ROAD FIX MY STREET 858273

In response to a query from the clerk, I followed up the issue of overgrown trees on Old Bix Road. A Highways Inspector has visited the site and I am awaiting details of actions proposed.

The cutting back of vegetation on the Old Bix Road had been done in some places but the hedge owners had not been informed. Bats had been disturbed and had not returned. It was questioned as not usual for this to happen without notification. David Bartholomew to check.

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND

As advised in earlier reports, if the PC identifies Highways projects costing a total of £2k, I will meet half the cost from my fund (subject to the conditions outlined previously).

This was confirmed as the white lining refresh for Middle Assendon 30 circles in the road between Lower Assendon and Middle Assendon. This was waiting on an inspection of the repeaters as some seem to be covered by vegetation. It was agreed that the circles be done regardless of the 30 mph repeaters.

The clerk mentioned the missing bollards on the Lower Assendon triangle and David Bartholomew asked for the 'Fix-my-Street' log number to be emailed to him.

Unitary Councils have been put on hold until various other councils have started the process and the results of this are being fed back to government to judge effectiveness of it.

071/18 SODC Report from SODC Cllrs David Nimmo-Smith

No report.

It was decided to email David Nimmo-Smith about advertising signs on the A4130/B480 triangle and any ideas to enforce parish council policy of 2 weeks before and removed straight after.

07218 Clerk's Report

The clerk has been liaising with Brig. Andrew Myrtle about the Armistice Day event. William Murdoch and Jane Pryce had attended a meeting (28th August) with all parties involved to ensure all points are covered. The event will involve a short speech, the last post and the beacon lit then the bells will ring out for peace. Refreshments are being funded for £200 by the parish council.

The SODC councillor grant has been applied for which is £1,000. This is for the new bus shelter at Bix south side. The previous grant application for the Bix village gateway and path clearance (£1,000) that has now been completed and closed. Although after applying for the grant, it has been requested to provide details of need, such as a public consultation or requests for it. I have contacted Thames Travel to get any information on usage. Matthew Beesley offered to help the clerk draft a BAG to get documented use for this.

Jane Pryce was BAG for two weeks as Chris was on holiday and did get the hand of the link for planning this time. The clerk thanked Chris for the extra training for this.

The abandoned car in Middle Assendon had been reported and was removed.

073/18 Grass cutting

Lisbeth Thiesen obtained quotes and the parish council agreed to contract Paul Wyatt
The quote for grass cutting covers the following areas:

Lower Assendon

The triangle

The cut through Middle Assendon

The large triangle by Fawley Bottom Lane

The ditch from the beginning of the triangle to the end of Chestnut Close

The small triangle by Rectory Lane

The annual cost works out to £640 for 4 cuts per annual and we have £1,000 in the budget.

The large grass triangle off the A4130 at Lower Assendon, is being mowed by Henley Town Council, will cost £300 per annum for 3-4 cuts.

OCC has been informed of this and precept request should be raised by total annual cost of the additional work being carried out on OCC behalf.

May the clerk ask Paul if he can fix the Jubilee tree guard outside the village hall? The council agreed.

074/18 Village Fete report

Matthew Beesley reported that the village fete was on the 14th July and attendance was up on last year, best part of 250 people. The event raised £2,000 for the church and associated local good causes.

075/18 Allotment Report

Plot 6 is nearly cleared. The fence round needs work and the sub-dividing of the plot cannot be done yet as ground too hard. A new gate will be positioned.

The clerk requested that a trench be dug on the long edge so rabbit proofing can be done. As NJ Vincent has a Bobcat, it was suggested he be asked to quote. Likely to be about £300-£400. Again the ground is too hard at present. The council declined.

Due to rabbits, plot 1 is asking for plot 4 when it comes vacant. Once plot 1 is vacant, rabbit proofing can be done for that too.

There is also problems with voles and deer. But once the fences are done and the voles made homeless, this should not be an issue.

The holder of plot 2 has come up with another add-on solution of the water butts and has put in a quick-fit connector which then can be used to either filling up a water butt or be used with a hose. This will then mean plot holders do not have to use very long hoses to water either plots. Thanks to John Steadman for this.

Ragwort has been eliminated due to a plague of Cinnabar moth caterpillars last year.

076/18 Planning

a) Applications received

[P18/S2480/HH](#)

Spring Cottage, Lower Assendon RG9 6AH

Construction of garage and storage building.

BAPC response extended to 9th September 2018 (approved but not yet submitted)

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[P18/S2291/HH](#)

Delemere, Bix RG9 6DB

"Extend/adjust current dropped kerb to enable safer and easier access to driveway/garage"

BAPC response extended to 9th September 2018 (approved but not yet submitted)

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[P18/S2585/FUL](#)

Blythewood, Bix RG9 4RY "Demolition of existing dwelling; erection of replacement dwelling with associated parking and landscaping."

BAPC response required by extended to 9th September 2018 (approved but not submitted)

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[P18/S2705/LB](#)

Fairmile Cemetery, Fairmile RG9 6AA

Conversion of the first chapel into a columboruim comprising the installation of wooden and glass (bookcase style) alcoves for the storage of ashes/and associated lighting.

BAPC response required by 8th September 2018

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[P18/S2708/FUL](#)

American Barn, Crockmore Farm, Henley Park, Fawley RG9 6HY

Proposed conversion of existing American barn and existing stables with linking extensions to create a three bedroom dwelling house with associated parking and amenity space provision.

BAPC response required by 8th September 2018

b) BAPC Recommendations

[P18/S2380/HH](#)

Kulgoa Road Running North From Junction with Old Bix Road To Start Bix RG9 6BU

Yoga studio with hydro pool

BAPC - NO OBJECTIONS

SODC Target Decision Date 5th September 2018

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[P18/S2191/HH](#)

Lambridge Wood Farm, Bix RG9 4RZ

"Roof conversion and extension to the Old Stables. Rear extension to existing garage to provide additional storage."

BAPC - NO OBJECTIONS

SODC Target Decision Date 20th September 2018

c) SODC Decisions

[P18/S2404/LDP](#)

Brawns, Bix, Henley on Thames, RG9 4RY

Application for Certificate of Lawful Proposed Development for a hard standing

SODC APPROVED

Information only

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[P18/S1978/HH](#)

14 Bix Common, Bix RG9 6BS

Erection of two storey side, front and rear extension.

BAPC OBJECTS - comments overdevelopment with additional pressure on sewage and roads. Our earlier comment 'much larger than previously recommended re. policy H13

SODC REFUSED

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[P18/S1125/HH - Amendment No. 1](#)

Old Manor Farm Cottage, Bix, Oxon RG9 6BY

"Demolish existing breakfast room and utility and erect an extension to the kitchen together with a new double garage."

BAPC OBJECTS - This is overdevelopment of the plot

SODC APPROVED

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[P18/S1125/HH](#)

Old Manor Farm Cottage, Bix RG9 6BY

"Demolish existing breakfast room and utility and erect an extension to the kitchen together with a new double garage."

BAPC OBJECTS comments - Over-development of the site.

Will damage the keeping/historic as part of the village.

This cottage is at the centre of the village and should project the image of the village.

This size of development, particularly, the garage is disproportionate and inappropriate.

SODC GRANTED

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[P18/S2039/FUL](#)

Halfacre, Bix RG9 6DB

"Variation of condition 2 - Approved Plans on application P16/S3421/FUL.

The demolition of existing dwelling and redevelopment to form two dwellings."

BAPC 'NO OBJECTIONS'

SODC GRANTED

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[P18/S1704/HH](#)

Chalk Hill, White Lane, Middle Assendon RG9 6BD

"Double storey porch / bedroom extension, window replacement, drive alteration, external decoration work, internal revisions, and external revisions"

BAPC - OBJECTS - comments - windows on first floor facing north and east overlook another property - removes privacy as trees screening property have been removed.

SODC GRANTED

P18/S1247/HH

The Rickyard, Section off B480, Through Middle Assendon RG9 6AP

"Construction of an extension in the form of a barn to the rear of the property. Extension and installation of glazing along the existing rear facade. Single storey extension at first floor level on the north facade to create two new bedrooms.

Swimming pool in the rear garden. New entrance in the form of pillars and gates."

BAPC OBJECTS - comments - over-sized extension relative to history and the site.

Questions over choice of roof materials. Overdevelopment of site. Inappropriate in size for village surrounding. Zinc roof not in keeping with surrounding slate and tile roofs

SODC GRANTED

Some residents from Henley Park had come to ask the parish council to note their objections to planning application P18/S2708/FUL – the American Barn. The previous and current aerial photos were produced and will be emailed to the clerk.

The Chiltern Society and CPRE will be putting in objections.

It was advised to put in individual objections now. A professional is being contracted to provide the main objection for the residents.

The parish council confirmed they would take into consideration the objections for the response.

077/18 Broadband update

Matthew Beesley had received an email from Better Broadband for Oxfordshire about the cabinet 37 at Bix that it will be customer ready by end of Sept. This is the 3rd time it has been delayed. And they had received information from Open Reach this might be delayed again as the large number of live-to-live connections to be made.

A question of connection to Bix Bottom. In theory it should but the connection to there is not known by him.

078/18 Correspondence

OALC via Woodland Trust is giving one free native tree with plaque to each Oxfordshire parish, to mark the 100th Armistice Day event.

It was suggested that next to others trees that mark WW2 near the Bix church.

This was agreed if the Bix Common Field Holders and tenant allowed this.

Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter for August. Ina Chantry was given a copy and will give the Chris Chantry for website and would draft a shorter version for BAG to include a link to it.

PCSO Janice Smith has offered the loan of their SID machine for two weeks and training. Council interested. Jane Pryce to organise.

Citizens Advice notice about parking fines and how to deal with them. This was decided against to publish as not deemed a local issue.

079/18 Finance

a) Cheques for payment

Tree cutting at Middle Assendon for Paul Wyatt **£110**

Clerk's wages and office rent for August/September 2018 = £470.68

Parish council expenses (paid by the clerk):

OALC course in planning for William Murdoch £48.00

Cheque Total = **£518.68**

The CPRE annual subscription paid by direct debit **£36**

Donations:

Nettlebed & District Commons Conservators - **£100.00**

Bix Parochial Church Council - **£500.00**

Henley & District CAB - **£100.00**

Chiltern Conservation Board - **£50.00**

Sue Ryder - **£100.00**

Thames Valley Air Ambulance - **£100.00**

CRC Associates for IT support (website) **£480.00**

Jane Pryce for renewal of annual subscription for Constant Contact **£138.60**

The replace the 2 rotten oak posts at Dobson's Lane triangle – this was agreed as estimated cost - £41.24 (VAT £8.25) = £49.49 from Nettlebed sawmill or Norman Cox (photos to be taken to match). Parish Council agreed to this being done.

It was suggested to have them concreted in.

b) Payments received

Bank interest £8.27

Bank balance £16,033.19

080/18 Footpath Report

This is my first report after taking over as Path Rep for the Parish recently.

I have managed to walk all the paths and, so far, come across few problems.

There is a tree down on **Path 130/24** leading up from the Bix side of the cemetery. This is a steep part of the path so involves a bit of a scramble to get round it. It has been reported.

Path 130/10 from the Dairy Unit to near the dual carriageway needs some undergrowth cut back.

Path 130/3 leading from Bix Common in the direction of Crocker End had a water pipe leak which has now been repaired, I presume by Thames Water, so the path is now drying out.

A style on **Path 130/17** near Keepers Cottage had almost disappeared into the hedge and has now been cleared.

Jane Aitken

31 August 2018

081/18 Village Hall Report

Jackie Walker (chairman of the village hall committee) a whole list of works identified as mostly done to be ready for the Armistice Day event. Mostly all done, just the bracket for guttering and one post to paint. The floor is being organised to be done in October. We now know that the flooring is engineered boards.

The pop-up adverts appearing on the village hall website had us considering to move to the parish council website. The payment of a subscription for the website has stopped the adverts and now we can consider a way forward and what we really want long term. This is on the agenda for the next village hall meeting is 18th September. Still need for new secretary – another BAG was suggested.

082/18 Any other business

A USB stick was handed to Lisbeth Thiesen to have an off-site backup of parish council documents. This would be forward at every meeting with an up-to-date second USB stick.

The inspection log lists all parish assets that the parish council looks after and insures. The clerk had inspected the milestone and the allotments, also the Dobson's Lane Triangle Bridge has now been inspected by Robert Walmsley, due to the clearance and grass cutting so the current (Nov to May inspection) is now complete. It was suggested As the inspection for May to November 2018 hadn't been started, the November on was moved forwarded to September 2018 to May 2019.

This was handed to Matthew Beesley.

Speed/volume devices has not been installed yet as the proposed location was strapping to a deer sign, which has been knocked over, fell in the ditch and then removed but not replaced. It was asked to get sign back. The clerk confirmed she will ask again for this.

083/18 Public Comments

Restricted visibility was reported at several locations on White Lane and Rectory Lane and junction with B480 junction. The 'give way' white lining is missing at the Bix Bottom junction.

A beech hedge is also hiding a road sign there. It was requested to be dealt with and the clerk was instructed to do so. Photos were requested and emailed to the clerk to report.

Next Meeting – Monday 12th November 2018 at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.32pm