

Bix and Assendon Parish Council

Clerk - Mrs. Jane Pryce, 56 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village, Reading, Berkshire RG4 6PP
Tel: 01189 475915 Email: jane@lindonpryce.demon.co.uk

The minutes of Bix and Assendon Parish Council held on 7th March

Present:

Mr. R. Aitken, (RA) Mrs. I. Chantry (IC), Mr. M. Beesley (MB) and Mr. W. Murdoch (WM)

Also present: Mrs. J. Pryce (JOP - Clerk) and 8 members of the public.

017/16 Apologies for absence

David Bartholomew and Ms. L. Thiesen sent apologies.

018/16 Members declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None

019/16 Confirmation of the minutes of 11th January 2016

The minutes were declared true and accurate and signed by the vice-chairman.

020/16 Report from Cllr. D. Bartholomew (the attached report was emailed prior to the meeting)

The Oxfordshire Together section was read out

“OCC is looking at alternative ways in which it can deliver a number of different public services across a wide range of areas. The way public services are delivered will shift towards enabling people and communities to take ownership of local priorities. OCC will continue to provide community leadership and foster partnership working, but the days when the council could deliver all services to all people have gone. OCC has started talking to town and parish councils to identify opportunities to work together. An initial engagement event for town and parish councils took place on 21st September. OCC's vision is outlined in *Oxfordshire Together – the Model* booklet, with further details on some of the initial services in scope included in the *Transitional Offer of Highway Services* booklet. Both can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiretogether.”

A member of the public asked about verge cutting and grants for this and the information is being sought. Awaiting an OCC report to finalise the proposal.

The Bix dual carriage hedging: “I was asked to investigate whether the new hedging was under warranty as some sections were dying. Furthermore, some sections of hedging had been stolen. I was advised by officers that the hedge is under warranty, and dead sections will be replaced at an appropriate time. Unfortunately, there is no means of insuring the stolen sections, and these will not be replaced.”

Questions about Broadband

A councillor explained that you need to speak to your supplier to switch to Superfast and the expense was not much more.

Next meeting: The next stage is to see what improvements have happened. Figures for next meeting are being collated. It was suggested that a survey be put out on BAG to find out the new speeds being obtained.

A member of the public from Bix can't work from home with broadband service at present. OCC grants are coming available for this and once the broadband survey is complete, the parish council may be able to help with this.

Oakley Wood Household Waste Recycling Centre

"For much of the year, the future of Oakley Wood was in doubt as part of the general Household Waste Recycling Centre review. At one stage it appeared that the nearest county centre for residents in my parishes might be near Abingdon. I led a strong campaign against this proposal and am pleased to report that my concerns were listened to, and the future of Oakley Wood is safe in the medium term."

021/16 Report from the SODC councillor.

Please see Annual Parish Council minutes.

022/16 Assisted Transport

WM has raised the question of possible funding for assisted transport to be provided for hospital visits similar to the 'Good Neighbours' in Nettlebed. A BAG plea for neighbours to help with this was decided.

The bus shelter on the south side of Bix carriageway was suggested as the Bix Village Hall were thinking of funding it. Potential usage figures of a shelter would need to be confirmed and whether there will still be a bus in future.

023/16 The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations Saturday 18th June 2016

Bix & Assendon Village Fete 2016 incorporating a Celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday. Matthew Beesley gave the following report.

This event is scheduled to take place on Saturday 18th June from 1-4pm on Bix Common. As well as serving as the Church's Annual Fete, on request from the Parish Council, this year the Fete will also incorporate a celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday. Sadly we are unable to hold the Fete over the weekend of the 11-12th June, to coincide with the other National celebrations for the Queen's 90th, because of a prior booking at the Village Hall. On that basis, we will be holding this combined event the following weekend. In return for making the event free for all to attend, the Parish Council has offered to make a substantial donation to the Church, in lieu of these gate receipts.

Taking place on Bix Common, in front of the Village Hall, initial plans are to place the very successful and crowd-pulling Dog Show at the physical heart of the Fete, with the usual stalls and games situated around the perimeter of the Dog Show. To make this event stand out, the intention is to add in some extra "special" attractions to differentiate this year's event from other previous events. It is very much our hope that our Food offering can be one of those differentiating events. Luscombes from the Golden Ball will be offering a buffet-lunch whilst the much loved Cream Teas will this year come with a Regal Theme.

As well as the usual selection of stalls, of games, arts & crafts, face-painting and the popular bouncy castle plus the Raffle, the current intentions are to differentiate the event further with an intra-village Tug of War competition, and a "Send your Birthday Wishes to the Queen" balloon release.

This is the Church's biggest money-raising event of the year, but more than that, it is an event that brings the whole Parish (the three villages) together. At a time of National Celebration, our hope is that this is even more the case than usual.

Volunteers to help in any capacity are of course much needed.

The re-positioning of the Dog Show to be more central will mean that this section of the common will need to be cut earlier but this was been approved by the Bix Common Field Holders. Thanks were expressed for this.

There is a meeting on Tuesday 8th March to organise the provision of food and the bar. To continue the royal theme, a children's royal fancy dress pageant may be organised.

024/16 Allotment Report

The rabbits were doing an excellent job on keeping the grass short. Plot 6 has promised with a help of a friend to bring the plot up to standard. The situation is being monitored. There is a waiting list of one.

025/16 Planning

a) Applications received

The following planning application has been received:

Reference Location/Description	Date Registered Target Decision date
P16/S0472/HH Cob Cottage, Old Bix Road, LA Front porch and single storey side and rear extension Paper plans received and passed to WM 5 March 2016. Response deadline 22 March 2016	25 February 2016 22 March 2016
P16/S0313/LB & P16/S0312/HH The Manor House, Bix Alternation and extension at ground floor level on the north side of the house. BAPC response 'NO STRONG VIEWS' 6 March 2016	8 February 2016 8 March 2016
P15/S4021/HH Campions, Henley Park RG9 6HY New Timber frame double garage and workshop with loft room over BAPC response 'NO STRONG VIEWS' 21 February 2016	13 January 2016 9 March 2016
P15/S4020/HH Campions, Henley Park RG9 6HY Proposed pitched roof to existing garage and external alternations BAPC response 'NO STRONG VIEWS' 21 February 2016	13 January 2016 9 March 2016
P15/S4357/FUL Orchard House, Bix, HENLEY-ON-THAMES RG9 6DB Existing detached residential house to be converted to two semi-detached residential houses BAPC response 'NO STRONG VIEWS' No SODC decision yet 7 March 2016	23 December 2015 17 February 2016

The above planning applications will be reviewed again shortly and responses sent to the clerk for submission to SODC.

b) Decisions

P15/S2154/FUL

Fawleyfields Road Running From Round Hill to 15 December 2015
 Crockmore Farm, Fawley RG9 6HU 17th January 2016
 Proposed erection of a replacement dwelling with linked leisure building and detached triple bay garage block (with annex over), as an alternative to the scheme approved by application P14/S1825/FUL.
 BAPC response 'NO STRONG VIEWS' 14 January 2016
 SODC GRANTED 25 January 2016

P15/S4239/FUL

Witness Farm, Lower Assendon, Henley 23 December 2015
 Two lean-to structures (Retrospective) 17 February 2016
 BAPC response 'SHOULD BE REFUSED' 27 January 2016
 SODC GRANTED 4 February 2016

P15/S4124/FUL

Walnut Cottage, Assendon Spring, Middle Assendon RG9 6AX 10 December 2015
 Erection of new 4-bedroom dwelling with attached garage. 4 February 2016
 Demolition of existing garage & office and erection of replacement garage to existing dwelling.
 BAPC response 'NO STRONG VIEWS' 14 January 2016
 Withdrawn 16 February 2016

P15/S4101/HH

The Studio, Mulberry House, Old Bix Road, Bix 4 December 2015
 Single storey extension 2 February 2016
 BAPC response 'NO STRONG VIEWS' 14 January 2016
 SODC GRANTED 2 February 2016

026/16 Correspondence

HMRC letter for PAYE payments from 2013 onwards. £490.00. This issue is still no resolved and the clerk is still waiting a reply. More information has come to light recently about the HMRC liquidating the company Douglas Tonks who were operating the payroll. Many small parish councils have been effected. The division of HMRC the clerk is dealing with seems unaware of this. The clerk will keep the councillors updated on this issue.

Bix & Assendon were shown medals that could be purchased (minimum order 100 at £99) for the Queen's 90 birthday celebration. No interest.

Henley-on-Thames Town Council letter rejecting the proposal for joint burial arrangements on funding. Resolved to re-issue request after 6 months.

Bank account change from Mixed Payments to Ordinary Business – no change in charges so asked to leave as is.

027/16 Finance.

a) Cheques for payment

Community First Oxfordshire (formerly ORCC) – membership £55 for new financial year.

The Chilterns Conservation Board – donation £50 for new financial year.

Jane Pryce – Wages £400.79 office rent £41.68 and expenses for brackets/screws for Middle Assendon village gate (West side) and paint for that plus Lower Assendon village gate £45.31. Total cheque £487.78.

b) Payments received

First instalment of Precept of £3,500 to be paid 4th April 2016.

028/16 Village Hall Report

Please see the annual VH report.

029/16 Footpath Report

Maggie Templeton, the Chiltern Society representative, has nothing to report.

030/16 Any other business

031/16 Public Comments

Next Meeting – Monday 9th May 2016 at 7.30pm

The meeting ended at 9.15pm