

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 12th November 2018

Parish Councillors present:

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

Oxfordshire County Council Councillor David Bartholomew
South Oxfordshire District Councillor David Nimmo-Smith

Also present: Mrs. Jane Pryce (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

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

084/18 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Robert Walmsley did not attend.

085/18 Members declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None.

86/18 Confirmation of the minutes of 3rd September 2018

The minutes of 3rd September 2018 were declared true and accurate and signed by the chairman.

087/18 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. Also available on the website.

The report includes details of: Road repairs, Gritting and snow clearance, investment in Digital Technology, trading standards operation 'Rogue Trader', Broadband and free flu jabs for careers.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BIX & ASSENDON

DAMAGED/OBSCURED SIGNS ON DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

I am continuing to press for a firm date for repairs/clearing. As of today, there was still 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 visited the site and I was advised that the hedge was subsequently cut back, but there was uncertainty with regard to overhanging trees. An issue of a resident abusing contractors was raised but I do not have full details.

Thanks given for the bollards to replace damaged one on large grass triangle in Lower Assendon. It was queried that the ruined old bollards had not been removed and these would be inspected to see if easy to remove themselves.

CAVERSHAM QUARRY

The liaison group met on Thursday 18th October. Key points from the meeting are:

- 52,000 tonnes of sand/gravel have been extracted to date
- The internal road for backfill leading from the A4155 to the weighbridge has been constructed, as has the weighbridge itself
- Construction of the junction on the A4155 to the internal road has now commenced and will take around eight weeks
- Backfilling will commence in January
- Test drilling for a potential new site adjacent to Shiplake College is currently taking place (this is in response to the OCC call for potential future sites some ten years ahead)

It was not known where the backfill would come from.

TOWN AND PARISH LIAISON EVENT THURSDAY 17TH JANUARY 2019

As part of the Thriving Communities vision, OCC wants to move away from the traditional top-down service design and delivery and talk to people to help shape plans and hear local voices. To support this, there will be a town and parish liaison event on Thursday 17th January 2019 at Sonning Common Village Hall starting at 2pm and ending at 5pm. The event will start with a short presentation followed by round table discussions. Please register for the event at townparishevents@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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 is the last reminder I will issue as the January meeting will be too close to the end of the financial year.

The clerk asked about this fund as the refresh of white lining was now to be in the New Year but needs reasonable weather so maybe past the financial year. David Bartholomew requested the clerk obtain a quote as that would be sufficient to meet the criteria to receive the allocation of the funding of £1,000.

David Nimmo-Smith asked David Bartholomew about Dobson's Lane as being in a terrible state and when/if work was going to be done on it. It was confirmed that the Lane was in the programme for some general remedial work but any short turn problems please use 'fix-my-street'.

088/18 Incorrect numbering on agenda – skip

089/18 SODC Report from SODC Cllrs David Nimmo-Smith

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

American Barn - the planning committee meeting was discussed and the process was disappointing. As the planning officers recommended approval and the committee go

along with that. There were 22 objections. Thanks to the councillors who attended. There were concerns about the plans being inaccurate. The parish council would do anything legally to give support.

The District Council Local Plan is about to enter its consultation stage next month and will run into January.

Go-active Gold free swimming in regards to people with diabetes.

Questions about 28 days to view planning if House Holder application. It is a statutory notice period.

The clerk thanked David for grant re. the bus shelter for £1,000.

090/18 Clerk's Report

Model Standing Orders have now been revised by OALC and the options to complete them had been reviewed and agreed by councillors previously. The new revisions did not affect those options. The new Model Standing Orders will be issued to councillors shortly.

Also GDP guidelines have been included into the Risk Assessment.

A resident suggested cats eyes put in from Lower Assendon to Middle Assendon – this was checked with OCC Highways and caused people to speed up so refused.

Paul Wyatt has replaced the two oak posts that had been hit in Dobson's Lane. Seven reflectors were missing or broken on the existing bollards and cost £2.69 for 12. And four for the new posts = 9 new reflectors. Council agreed to the purchase.

Would the council agree to buying 3 gates for Nettlebed Dairy Project which is footpath Bix 13 from Famous Copse wood to Earl's Wood. Gross £669.60 and being refunded net (£558.00) by the Chiltern Society? VAT on this is £111.60. This was agreed by Council.

091/18 Speed Watch

The clerk apologised for the confusion over the first SID training session.

The response to volunteer for Speed monitoring was very good and more than 20 wanted to do the training. There was a request for an evening session was forwarded to the police. A training session was conducted on 27th September 12 noon at Middle Assendon – 9 people attended. Ina will have more information on the SID sessions after. Later the SID machine failed with a loose wire. Once repaired it will be booked again and many resident have shown as interest in the running of future Speed Watches.

Speed/Volume device reports gave the lots of reports which have been summarized that are available on the website. Comparisons between 2012 report and now show less cars and less speeding but seems there was not a speed limit between the two hamlets of Lower and Middle Assendon where both devices were deployed.

There is more speeding coming into Middle Assendon from Stonor. So the SID machine will be used.

092/18 Armistice Day

There was an amazing turnout of 250-300 people. All the elements came together to create a touching and memorable occasion. The food provided stretched to cope. Brig. Andrew Myrtle emailed his thanks to BAPC for help with funding And how rewarding the whole event was.

A silver birch was planted in front of the WW2 Oak tree with the approval of the Bix Common Field Holders and the tenant.

093/18 Allotment Report

Japanese Knotweed was spotted by Ina Chantry and was reported to SODC by the clerk. It was noted last week – it was still there but appears to be dying.

Plot 6 is now divided into 2 and the majority deer/rabbit proofed. Plot 6a is now rented and plot 6b needs work on fencing and clearing but now covered with weed suppressing fabric. Plot 1 has been given up due to rabbit invasion on the front edge. This can now be addressed. But as chicken wire had been put in at ground level – that needs removing first. The clerk is waiting for weeds to die down and then assess. And need corrugated metal sheets £30 for 20 metres. And need 2 sheets. The purchase was agreed.

094/18 Planning

a) Applications received

[P18/S3444/HH](#)

The Pightle, Old Bix Road, Bix RG9 6BY

Erection of two storey extensions

BAPC response deadline: 15th November 2018

b) BAPC Recommendations

[P18/S2585/FUL](#)

Blythewood, Bix, Henley-on-Thames RG9 4RY

Demolition of existing dwelling; erection of replacement dwelling with associated parking and landscaping. (Heritage Statement and revised plan no. 171113-05 Rev A showing change of roof material from slate tile to clay tile, received 4 September 2018).

BAPC 'no objections with comments - 'We consider the design and style of the dwelling is not in keeping with the surrounding rural area.'

SODC Target Decision Date 21st September 2018

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[P18/S3347/HH](#)

8 The Green, Middle Assendon RG9 6AT

Single storey side extension.

BAPC - No objections

SODC Target Decision Date 4th December 2018

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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 NO OBJECTIONS

SODC target decision date: 21st 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/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 GRANTED

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[P18/S2480/HH](#)

Spring Cottage, Lower Assendon RG9 6AH

Construction of garage and storage building.

BAPC - NO OBJECTIONS

SODC GRANTED

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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 - NO OBJECTIONS

SODC GRANTED

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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 - NO OBJECTIONS

SODC GRANTED

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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 OBJECTS with reasons: "The existing barn and stables are temporary structures and therefore cannot be 'converted' into a permanent residence. The site location is within an AONB where we understand 'permitted developments' do not apply."

SODC GRANTED

The original application was in 2002 – Jane Pryce to check old minutes to report the response then, as requested by a member of the public.

095/18 Broadband update

Some parts of the parish are still without ‘Superfast Broadband’ the Bix box is being re-worked.

096/18 Bus shelter update

There has been a very large response to the BAG re. the bus shelter requested on south side (A4130) side at Bix. The number of emails is 14 with 8 adults and 13 children using the stop and were very much in favour of a bus shelter. This information was forwarded to SODC for the grant. And the grant application for £1,000 was accepted.

The quote (£7,152.00 VAT £1,192.00) for this is still valid even though from March 2018.

The work for this had not started yet.

097/18 Correspondence

Henley Police Newsletter – it was agreed to put on the website and the main point was that security of assets in gardens should be looked at by residents and all gates and door be locked.

Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice request of grant (current donation is £100). Thanks received from Bix PCC for donation of £500, Thames Valley Air Ambulance for donation of £100, Henley CAB for donation of £100, Nettlebed Commons for donation of £100, and phone call from Bix Royal British Legion to thank council for donation £200.

098/18 Finance

Payments made:

Paul Wyatt - Jubilee tree work £21 & work to replace 2 posts - £26
Henley Town Council - Grass cutting at Lower Assendon £360 (£60 VAT)
British Royal Legion - Donation £200.00

a) Cheques for payment

Clerk’s wages and office rent for November/December 2018 = £470.68
Parish council expenses (paid by the clerk): £22.13 allotment hose connections,
Two oak posts from Nettlebed Sawmill £15
Cheque Total = **£507.81**

Website and BAG costs might rise as there was an underestimation the work required. This will be noted for budget 2019/20.

b) Payments received

SODC 2nd half precept 2018/19 £3,550.
Bank balance £16,742.91

099/18 Footpath Report

Gates are going to replace stiles at the dairy unit. I don’t as yet have the date to install them.

There is a fallen fence post with barbed wire lying on the path above the cemetery on the Bix side. I am trying to find out who owns the land. If anyone knows please let me know.

Some paths were a little overgrown with nettles but these are now dying back so shouldn't be a problem till they regrow in the spring.

Jane Aitken

Chiltern Society footpath representative for Bix & Assendon.

Email received about mountain bikes using the footpaths in Bix Bottom. The clerk informed Jane Aitken who would check the signage.

There was mention of quad bikes on the Bix Common and was reported to police.

100/18 Village Hall Report

Jackie Walker stated that all the works needed to be done by Armistice Day had been completed. The restoration of the floor was noted as very well done. The meeting is next week 20th 7.30pm.

101/18 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. This would be given to the clerk later.

Meeting dates for 2019: 7th January, 4th March, 13th May, 8th July, 2nd September and 4th November 2019. The dates have been booked for the village hall.

As next year is an election year, it has been advised, by the election office, to budget for an election. If the parish council thinks there will be contested election then it might cost £2,500 if not, then £100. It was decided that it would not be contested.

The parish External Structures Inspection Log was handed to the clerk by Matthew Beesley. This was all completed except by Jane Pryce to add comments for the allotments and old milestone.

Ina Chantry mentioned the free compost, in spring, give away at Crowmarsh Clifford. Just take a sack. More information will be give nearer the time.

102/18 Public Comments

Field shelters should be moved every 5 years and any that had not needed to be reported to planning enforcement. It was requested these be located and emailed to the clerk to report.

Next Meeting – Monday 7th January 2019 at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm