

BIX AND ASSENDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
6TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Clerk - Mrs. Karen Wheeler, Home Cottage, Nuffield Lane, Wallingford OX10 6QJ
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Minutes of the Bix & Assendon Parish Council meeting held on 6th September 2021 7.30pm at Bix Village Hall

Attendees:

Parish Councillors: Mrs. Ina Chantry (Chair), Mr. Fredrick van Mierlo, Ms Sadie Hellon

Oxfordshire County Councillor: David Bartholomew

SODC councillor: Jo Robb

Also present: Karen Wheeler (Clerk), member of the public, Jackie Walker – Chair of Village Hall

Key: BAG – Bix & Assendon Grapevine alert email service to residents
CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy
OALC – Oxfordshire Association of Local Council
FMS – Fix My Street – website to report highway problems

1. Apologies for absence

Mr William Murdoch (Vice Chair)
Ms Sophie Roper, Parish Councillor
SODC Councillor Lorraine Hillier

2. Member's declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None

3. Confirmation of the minutes on 5th July 2021

These minutes contained an error related to the 20's plenty survey – now corrected. These were and declared a true and accurate account of the meeting, then signed by the chairman, Ina Chantry.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Report on Assets of Community Value Chris Chantry has received the information from an online presentation and will put together a report for the meeting in September- report o/s -to follow up.

Welcome pack for new residents – development continues.

Comet bus – Request for an additional £250 (3% of preset) requested. Contact to be made to SODC and OCC for any funding.

Bin stickers – Communication of sticker availability to be sent to Parish.

Armistice tree – contact details to be provided to close off activity.

Charities to support -List of charities to be distributed and approved. Funding amounts to be decided at November meeting.

5. OCC Report – Cllr David Bartholomew

GENERAL OCC REPORT

Subjects are:

PRIORITIES OF NEW ADMINISTRATION

The new LibDem/Green/Labour administration has announced its priorities. The priorities are:

1. Tackle the Climate Emergency
2. Tackling inequalities
3. Prioritisation of wellbeing
4. Review and reform of the social care system
5. Increased investment in travel network to reduce car

journeys 6.Improved access to nature and green spaces 7.Supporting children and young people to achieve improved health, wellbeing and educational outcomes 8.The creation of a resilient local democracy 9.Support for local employment and businesses to make Oxfordshire a centre for green technologies

The vast majority of the emails received are about road maintenance/improvement, traffic accidents, drains, grass cutting, flooding, footpaths, waste disposal and planning matters there is some concern by Councillor Bartholamew that he feels that the administration seems to focus on national issues than the fundamentals of running a local council.

THANKING PEOPLE IN OXFORDSHIRE FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

People in Oxfordshire who are wanting to donate items to help those who have been evacuated from Afghanistan are being thanked for their warm-hearted reaction to the situation. The generosity of Oxfordshire people to date means that no further donations are needed just now. Some of the items donated have already been distributed and gratefully received by arrivals at RAF Brize Norton from Afghanistan over recent days. OCC will be working closely with the district councils and the city council in coming days and weeks as the situation develops. Further information on support for refugees in Oxfordshire can be found here: <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/support-afghan-refugees/>

OAKLEY WOOD HWRC UNDER THREAT?

There is some concern by Cllr Bartholamew that Oakley Wood household waste recycling centre (HWRC) could be under threat. Please respond to the following consultation and forward it to any residents you think might be interested. <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/tell-us-what-you-think-of-countys-household-waste-and-recycling-centres/>.

N.B - Cllr Frederick Van Mielo has contacted OCC and they have assured that the site is not under threat.

ROUTE REVEALED FOR OXFORDSHIRE STAGE OF WOMEN'S TOUR CYCLING RACE

This year's Women's Tour professional cycling race comes to Oxfordshire on **Monday 4 October**. Route details can be found here: <https://www.womenstour.co.uk/stages/stage-1/>

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BIX & ASSENDON

HENLEY TO NETTLEBED CYCLE PATH

In the light of the sad news early in the summer about the death of a cyclist, Councillor David Bartholomew is attempting to get more impetus behind this proposal which he first engaged with over a year ago but has progressed little due to staffing/resource shortages. Two options are being pursued:

Option 1 (original and most likely): Link existing Henley to Assendon shared use path to old Assendon to Bix path (which would need substantial repair/upgrading), then link this path to the existing Bix to Nettlebed path which would need siding-out/upgrading to form new shared use path.

Option 2 (new but likely to be very difficult): As above, but instead of repairing the old Assendon to Bix path, convert to the existing eastbound (downhill) section of the dual carriageway to single track and create a new two-way shared use path on the redundant carriageway.

Councillor David Bartholomew has again pressed the Group Manager Traffic & Road Safety for an update. He assures me the matter is in progress, with attention focused on Option 1, as Option 2 is considered too problematic. With regard to timing, the officer stated: *"We have included the scheme for an optioneering report/design for delivery in the 22/23 council year. We are currently about to share out design list with our service provider and I can confirm it's on the list."*

6. SODC Report – Cllr Jo Robb

Subjects include:

Garden Waste Suspension

Regrettably, the Council was given no alternative but to agree to Biffa temporarily suspending the garden waste (brown bin) collection service at the start of August. This was to preserve the core waste collections of rubbish, recycling and food. Regrettably this means that the garden waste service is still suspended and will remain so for a while longer. Customers who do not receive their contracted collections will be provided with appropriate remedy. This is still under discussion.

Please see SODC's waste website with further information and again, our sincere apologies for this.

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste/>

Councillor Community Grants

Applications are open for this year's Councillor Community Grants. Lorraine and Jo each have £5000 to spend in our wards so please get in touch if you have any ideas for projects you'd like financial support for. [Councillor community grants - South Oxfordshire District Council \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/councillor-community-grants)

A Hospice for South Oxfordshire

Cllr Stefan Gawysiak is leading a campaign to bring residential palliative and end-of-life care back to South Oxfordshire following the closure of Sue Ryder in Nettlebed.

Important Consultations: Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and the Oxford-Cambridge Arc

Consultation on the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan is open and closes on Friday 8 October. We warmly encourage Parish Councils, residents, businesses and community groups to give their views on the proposed options. Useful info can be found at <https://www.oxfordshireopenthought.org/>

Big Green Week

SODC is inviting residents and community groups to organise and take part in a River Clean-up on World Rivers Day, Sunday 26 September. [World Rivers Day](#). If you'd like to organise a local event there are a number of organisations that can offer advice and support: [Surfers Against Sewage](#), [Clean Access Clear Waters](#), [World Rivers Day](#), [Wandle Trust](#), [Thames 21](#)

Move Together

Earlier this year a new county-wide programme "Move Together" launched to support hundreds of Oxfordshire residents most affected by Covid-19 to move more and protect their health and wellbeing. You can find out more about Move Together via this website.

www.getoxfordshireactive.org/move-together

Planning

Following a unanimous decision by Full Council, we are returning to the old system of planning call-ins, whereby Parish Council objection triggers automatic call-in to Planning Committee for minor (9 houses or fewer) applications.

The Government's National Bus Strategy

The Government's National Bus Strategy sets out a vision for dramatically improving buses.

Old Tip between Middle and Lower Assendon

Historic contamination survey stated that the land was not contaminated for current use.

7. Public comments/questions

Complaint received from resident about the lack of notice given by others for loud music at a recent event held in a private garden to celebrate a wedding located near to the Rainbow Pub and on the opposite side of Bix Common. Apologies have been received via local communications. A Parish WhatsApp is available for communications.

8. Chairs Report

July and August are always quieter months for parish councils. A number of the items mentioned here will be discussed in more detail as an agenda item.

Karen has been working hard to reduce the sheer volume of paperwork a parish council accumulates, and I would like to thank her for doing this.

Soon after the meeting we were contacted by Crowmarsh Gifford PC who had taken the lead on trying to reduce the speed of motorbikes going through all of the villages between Henley and Shillingford. I sent a positive response but have heard nothing since.

We also received an invite to meet with John Howell MP, we felt this was worthwhile as long as here was something concrete to discuss. Traffic calming and planning have been put forward as suggestions, unfortunately the time slot we have been offered is not possible for either of us to do. I was provided with information about Traveller incursions. OCC has a dedicated Traveller service and will manage to move groups onto to one of their approved sites within two weeks free of charge if ownership of the land can be proved. Otherwise, it will cost anything upwards of £4,000. This information and a link to the relevant part of OCCs website has been passed onto the Commonholders.

I have added more to the PC welcome letter and contacted Jackie Walker, village hall, Kevin Duthie, church and Curly Chandler at The Rainbow. At the popup pub I spoke to a couple more people who offered to write something. I also contacted SODC to see if they had leaflets or would give permission to copy directly off their website.

In early August we received reports of damage to undergrowth and small trees at the allotments. This was reported to SODC and further action is potentially being taken after a meeting at the allotments with a representative from the council. SODC believed the allotments were run by HTC and they could find no record of an agreement between SODC and B&A. Karen has gone through the paperwork mountain and can only find a five year agreement which clearly ran out a number of decades ago. SODC are happy to provide an agreement and some support for the allotments. I have asked SODC for a standard agreement so we can see what it involves. I have also been speaking to the allotment holders and asking them what they would like in terms of support.

On Wednesday I am attending a short session on Oxford Plan 2050 and will feed back to councillors the key points.

A water pipe leak in Middle Assendon has been reported to Thames Water and it looks as if there might be another one in Lower Assendon, which will need reporting.

This evening we need to approve CIL monies to be held by SODC, this stops the countdown and enables us to build reserves for a worthwhile project.

9. Planning

Cllr, William Murdoch

Applications Received

[P21/S3165/HH](#)

15 Mill close Middle Assendon

First floor extension above existing garage, single storey lean to side extension and internal alterations

P21/S3201/HH

Bix Underwood, Bix
Erection of two single storey ancillary workshop buildings

P21/S3476/HH

Field House Bix
Rear and side extension to the house to create new living accommodation

SODC Decisions

P21/S2557/FUL

St James Church, Bix RG9 6BS
Construction of single storey extension to Grade II listed church for the provision of kitchen and toilet facilities.
SODC GRANTED

P21/S2400/HH

Plough Cottage, Road Known As Broad Plat Lane, Bix RG9 4RS
Construction of a single storey garden room.
SODC GRANTED

P21/S1099/HH

6 Valley Cottages, Middle Assendon RG9 6AR
Dropped kerb
SODC GRANTED

P21/S2927/HH

Old Manor Farm Cottage, Bix RG9 6BX
Proposed application for a single storey extension to the side of the existing house to enlarge the kitchen and utility area, create a new entrance from the driveway and add a garage through two pitched roof extensions
SODC GRANTED

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
SODC GRANTED

10. Highways Matters

Traffic calming project update

Progress has been delayed. Update expected at next meeting.
Also noted about the change in responsibility for on street parking enforcement moving to OCC from Thames Valley Police.

Henley HGV – no update

Cold Ash council – to be included in traffic calming report

VAS sign – Middle Assendon sign is obscured by foliage. Landowner to be contacted as well as reported on fix my street.

Obscured speed signs

In addition this will equally be required for speed signs to be placed on fix my street.

Motorbike noise – A letter has been sent offering our support. Further letter in July has been sent to Police and Crime commissioner.

Stonor events – letter sent to Stonor. Events team made aware of new Parish Clerk details for future communication.

Parking enforcement - Cllr Federick Van Mielo updated on the changes to parking enforcement

11. Village Hall report

Ladies toilets – refurbishment – now completed

Post replaced and painted.

School in now back, next meeting Tuesday 14th September

Projector – would be an item for consideration for any grant funding

Dog mess – increasing problem noted

Lord Alvingham – plaque to be put up in recognition of his support for the village hall., ongoing

Constitution – this is being re-written, ongoing

12. HTC liaison report

No report

13. Allotment Report

Trespass – (see chairs update)

14. Footpath Report

No report but noted that the path in Bushy Copse has been churned up owing to logging. The tree has been removed and the land owner will repair the path after logging has finished.

15. Correspondence

None.

16. Finance

Cheques for Payment

Clerk - £92.39 Parish stationery and storage boxes, £513.50 salary Aug, Sept and expense allowance Jul, Aug, Sept. 40 Mph bin stickers £31.98. Jane Pryce – 20's plenty bin stickers £150.00.

Income

HMRC vat rebate £1826.24 16.08.21

Allotments £27.00 Chantry, Stephen Verge £27 12.07.21

Bank balances

Bank balance: £12,317.30 as at 4th Sept 2021 - £787.87 uncleared

One drive storage – storage centre for Parish documents now set up on annual subscription @ £59.99

PC approval for CIL monies to be held by SODC, until clear plan for spend is developed. – approved.

17. Any other business

WI talks – Rotherfield Greys have requested to publicise their event on Parish news. Approved.

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Queen's Platinum Jubilee – 2-5th June 2022. BAG to be sent to ask for volunteers to form a team to manage a community event.

Salt bin in Village Hall car park- is not being used and has in recent months become a receptacle for rubbish. Approval form Village Hall to be given to remove.

Football post – ownership to be established and potential removal.

Next Meeting – Monday 1st November 2021 at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 9.02 pm