

**BIX AND ASSENDON
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
2ND NOVEMBER 2020**

Clerk - Mrs. Jane Pryce, 56 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village, Reading, Berkshire RG4 6PP
Tel: 01189 475915 Email: parishclerk@bixandassendon.org.uk

**The minutes of the Bix & Assendon Parish Council meeting held on 2nd November 2020
7.30pm via Zoom**

Parish Councillors present:

Mrs. Ina Chantry (chairman), Mr. William Murdoch (vice-chairman) and Mr. Fredrick van Mierlo

Oxfordshire County Councillor David Bartholomew
SODC councillor Jo Robb

Also present: Mrs. Jane Pryce (Clerk) and 6 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

092/20 Apologies for absence

None.

Cllr. Freddie van Mierlo was delayed but joined the meeting at 7.35pm.

093/20 Members declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None

094/20 Confirmation of the minutes on the 7th September 2020

The cheque for the audit was not clear and the clerk will change then email to the Chairman.

The minutes will be signed and agreed as true and accurate record of the meeting by the chairman. These will be scanned and forwarded by email to the clerk.

095/20 OCC Report from Cllr. D. Bartholomew (DB)

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

The subjects are:

New National Restrictions from 5th November

OCC Challenges Government Planning White Pan

Parents Urged to Have Their Children Vaccinated Against Flu

Flu Vaccination Eligibility

The clerk confirmed that parish council response for the Government Planning White Paper had been submitted and a thank you for it had been received.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BIX & ASSENDON

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS (VAS)

The poles are now installed and the VAS heads are on order. The supplier/installer of the sign has advised of a slightly longer lead time than they would like (at 6 to 8 weeks) so this should

have them up and working by mid-December. All funding by the Parish Council, the County Councillor Priority Fund and OCC directly.

Q. The post at Middle Assendon was obscured by trees as vehicles approach and would the radar be activated?

A. The clerk had emailed OCC Highways for this to be checked.

CLEARANCE OF DRAINAGE DITCH IN MIDDLE ASSENDON

Subsequent to unblocking of road drains I arranged in Middle Assendon, the topic of obstructions in the drainage ditch arose. I explained clearing these obstructions was the frontage owners' responsibility as they were covered by 'Riparian Rights'. As ever, this topic generates strong feelings and the PC should be aware the issue may come to the fore again.

This was discussed with a need to contact owners of riparian rights to make sure ditches cleared but some sections are of uncertain ownership. This will be looked into. A BAG will be issued when this was clear.

HENLEY HGV BAN

I previously advised that Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak, Henley's representative at OCC, is campaigning for an HGV ban in Henley. I have much sympathy with his objectives but my concern is that HGVs will simply be deflected along the B481 if this occurs. When the Bix duals were being resurfaced a few years ago and HGVs were unable to use them, the increase in HGV traffic along the B481 impacted on parishes along the road. Councillor Gawrysiak has acknowledged this concern and has informed me he has written to parish councils along the B481. My view is that a holistic plan for the whole area is required and one that simply deflects HGV traffic is not acceptable.

Q. Electric vehicle charging points were questioned for the policy on that.

A. Fines are being looked into for fining those using a charging bay by a non-electric vehicle or an electric vehicle not charging. As for villages having charging points, it was likely that they would follow what was happening in Henley.

Q. What would be the impact on the dual carriageway at Bix with the ban in Henley?

A. Stefan Gawrysiak would explain in his report below.

096/20 SODC Report

SODC Cllr. Jo Robb

The full report can be found on-line on the website.

Subjects include: The Local Plan, Government Planning White Paper, COVID Community Hub details, Leisure Centre Update, Parking Policy Consultation and Oxford-Cambridge Arc Public Briefing Event.

The Government Planning White Paper has had a good response but highly critical of it as seen as not democratic.

Local Plan consultation closed today.

The business support newsletter should be subscribed to via svbe.co.uk.

Unitary not happening any time soon, maybe 2024.

Q. Can the parish council do something about the development at Chalgrove air field?

A. It is a brown field site but isolated and a car driven location. Homes England are developing it. Consultation closed today.

097/20 Heavy Goods Vehicles (7.5t) zone limit

Cllr Stefan Gawrysiak (Henley Town Council)

Awaiting Power point presentation which will be available on the website.

The clerk was thanked for setting this up.

Would the council pass a resolution to support this ban? Decision to come.

Stefan was thanked.

Q. Would bollards on the junction at Asquiths Teddy Bear shop help?

A. The larger lorries do mount the pavement here to turn and if bollards placed there, it may mean that Henley would gridlocked. But it may come to that.

Q. Could a map be provided of the likely routes the lorries would take if a ban was enforced?

A. Yes.

098/20 Clerk's Report

The Government commitment 1st October to protect 30% of the UK's countryside (advance from 26%). It has been suggested the greatest threat to biodiversity comes from the number of visitors it attracts. So, at times, people should be excluded. Does the parish council agree with this stance for the old dump site?

It was agreed that no action could be taken until a SODC survey had been carried out so councillors knew what they were taking on, if it was agreed to purchase the land from them.

There have been enquiries from Rotherfield Greys residents about a Speed Watch group and use of a SID (Speed Indicator Device) machine. As only one area can be used for this – the rental of our machine was suggested. A rental of £10 for a week and a deposit of the average cost of repair was suggested.

Costs for the most common repairs were needed. It is unlikely that a parish borrowing the equipment would have time to put it on their insurance. Or the amount of B&Apc excess payment – this would be need to be discussed with our insurers as they are not aware of the SID machine might be rented out. This would be discussed again when the cost of the deposit was gained.

The change of image and format of BAG was noted. The image of the Bix village hall is now tagged with the artist's name providing the image of Alix Horne-Amax Designs. This has been kindly provided free of charge.

Cllr. Freddie van Mierlo is to attend (via Zoom) a 'New Councillor' course on 7th November. I will forward login details when I receive them.

Ina Chantry - New email accounts will be created for all councillors shortly. This is in line with NALC (National Association of Local Councils) guidance. These will be only for council business and the protocol for use will be forwarded when the accounts are created. The format will be 'councillor name'@bixandassendon.org.uk.

One defibrillator (The Rainbow Pub) has a new battery and pads. Ina Chantry fitted these and other councillors will be trained to do this as backup for the other two.

099/20 Casual Vacancy for councillors

Two candidates put themselves forward. Sadie Hellon was proposed by Ina Chantry and seconded by William Murdoch. Sophie Roper was proposed by Ina Chantry and seconded by Freddie van Mierlo.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Members' Interests forms will be emailed to them and then scanned back to the clerk for signing and registering.

The candidates were thanked for stepping forward.

Freddie van Mierlo had to leave the meeting suddenly.

100/20 Planning

Cllr. William Murdoch

A clarification of the current responses allowed from South Oxfordshire Planning department was explained. The only two/three options allowed now are:

SUPPORT this application for the following reasons

has a RESPONSE to this application

OBJECTS to this application for the following reasons:

a) Applications Received

P20/S2280/FUL

Land adjacent to Drews Wood Cottage, Bix RG9 5DL

Temporary (3 years) siting of mobile homes (essential rural workers dwelling)

Decision required by 17.11.20

b) BAPC Recommendations

P20/S3371/FUL

Leys Cottage, Old Bix Road Bix RG9 6BY

Variation of condition 2 on Application P14/S1602/FUL - amendments to design and form of approved stables building.

(Proposed removal of existing stables and concrete apron and replacement with new stable building comprising a foaling stable and three stalls with a new concrete apron).

BAPC supports

SODC Target Decision Date: 6th November 2020

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

This application was amended in August. The pc submitted the same decision but the target decision date has not been changed.

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: 30th September 2020

P20/S3638/HH

Highfield, Middle Assendon, Henley-On-Thames RG9 6AX

Relocate an existing garden shed, construct new external terrace areas and install new wraparound aluminium folding sliding doors and French double doors

BAPC supports

SODC Target Decision Date: 24th November 2020

c) SODC Decisions

P20/S2753/HH

Holly Cottage, Old Bix Road, Bix RG9 6BY

Alterations and single storey side extension.

BAPC Response - Supports

SODC GRANTED

P20/S2978/HH

Little Pightle, Bix RG9 6BY

Artist's studio & pool room

BAPC Response SUPPORTS

SODC GRANTED

P20/S2734/HH

Crossleys, Old Bix Road, Bix RG9 6BY

Single storey rear extension

BAPC Response - Support

SODC GRANTED

101/20 Correspondence

Thank you letters for donations from:

Open Spaces

BPCC

Thames Valley Air Ambulance

Sue Ryder

102/20 Allotment Report

Jane Pryce

No report

103/20 Finance

a) Cheques for payment

Henley Town Council grass cutting (annual invoice)

Cheque total: £360

Jane Pryce: wages/rent (July/August/Sept/Oct/Nov) £ 1,137.50

Cheque total = £1,137.50

During the meeting, the clerk made a mistake in the cheque total. The cheque total was just for wages for 5 months and did not include the pc expenses she had paid which were £736.96. This would be clarified at the January meeting.

Jane Pryce for the online payment (5% discount) for the additional 2 defibrillator supplies

Cheque total: £439.93

b) Payments received

None

Bank balance £ 13,984.78

CIL payments received so far: £12,254.69

Left £6,724.00

As Lisbeth Thiesen has resigned as councillor, the bank signatory for the account has been delayed as the clerks' wages cheque is missing. This cheque had been found but had been destroyed. Please see above about replacement. A bank mandate for removal of Lisbeth Thiesen as a signatory will now be raised.

104/20 Financial Regulations

This document was emailed to councillors to view before. This will be discussed in January 2021.

105/20 Proposal to defer CIL payments

As the CIL payments being received by the parish council was more than could be spent within the timescale allowed, it was decided to allowed SODC to hold these funds. When suitable projects can be funded, the funds would be released.

This was agreed.

106/20 Traffic Calming – update

A FoI request has been lodged with Thames Valley Police to ascertain the accidents and reported speeding numbers along from the Fair Mile (A4130) along to Shillingford (A4074). This is in conjunction with other parish councils along the route to calm traffic and find ways to do so.

The posts for the new VAS signs have been installed. The speed indicators will be fixed on top shortly. It was noted that the neighbouring parish of Pishill with Stonor were curious and when told of the post's intent, were very jealous. Many bad car accidents had been happening further north.

It would seem that the siting of the Middle Assendon post has problems as it can't be seen until on top of it. The clerk has emailed OCC Highways above this concern.

Could these signs be relocated occasionally? And have a number of posts put in for this. The clerk will look into relocation of VAS signs. And the costs.

107/20 Footpath Report

Jane Aitken

No report for this meeting.

108/20 Village Hall report

Jackie Walker

There were more children at the nursery, now 26. An Eco award is being pursued. A representative on the board from the parish council was needed? Ina Chantry will fill the gap in the meantime. Next meeting is 17th November. March meeting of the pc will allocate roles.

109/20 Armistice Tree

As the planted Armistice Tree (a silver birch) had died and likely from its small size, it was suggested that a suitable tree guard be placed to protect a new one. Was a metal guard, like the Jubilee tree or a post and chicken wire one, be acceptable?

The Council agreed to a post and wire one. Jackie Walker informed the council that there were free trees being given out via Patrick Fleming. Jackie would get back to clerk about this.

Options: Metal one similar to the Jubilee tree £150 + delivery (Suffolk Metals)

Or Paul Wyatt can get one for £130-£150 and no delivery charge.

Or he can make a post and wire one similar to the WW2 tree guards. Materials £30-£40 plus labour £30 = £60-£70 approx.

A post and wire guard was agreed.

The village hall committee might be happy to finance this. This will be discussed at their meeting.

110/20 Matters arising from the minutes

As above

111/20 Meeting dates 2021

Meeting dates for 2021 are 4th January, 1st March, 10th May, 5th July, 6th September and 1st November.

112/20 Any other business

Sophie Roper has some details on the ripian owners and those who are not. Sophie was willing to do some extra research. It was suggested it be included (ditch clearing) in the village clean.

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Spring clean 2021 – a skip was mooted as an idea at the September meeting. Can the skip be monitored to prevent general dumping or just green waste? The options of site were discussed but all sites proved problematic. Skips costs were asked for – Sophie Roper has costs. This will be further discussed.

External structures inspection log was with Ina Chantry.

HTC liaison via Jackie Walker. Extending speed limit (40mph) unlikely to happen as it extends to Lambridge Wood Road but no further.

Zoom monthly fee will need to be considered shortly (January). This is £13 per month.

113/20 Public Comments

This skip was again mentioned as was unlikely to avoid the mixing of organic waste and non-organic waste.

Next Meeting – Monday 4th January 2021 at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 9.40pm

DRAFT