

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 7th January 2019

Parish Councillors present:

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

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

Also present: Mrs. Jane Pryce (Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

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

001/19 Apologies for absence

Mr. Matthew Beesley emailed his apologies.

002/19 Members declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None.

003/19 Confirmation of the minutes of 12th November 2018

The minutes of 12th November 2018 were declared true and accurate and signed by the chairman.

004/19 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.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BIX & ASSENDON

DAMAGED/OBSCURED SIGNS ON DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

The Traffic Technical Officer has now received details of the necessary specialist sign supports and foundations for the sign. He is now arranging for contractors to price and undertake the work, which includes taking opportunity to cut back the vegetation along the verge and remove / chip up any arising debris. I am awaiting confirmation of timing.

DOBSONS LANE, LOWER ASSENDON

I have received further complaints about the condition of this lane and raised the matter again with the Principal Officer, Area Operations (South). The response is as follows:

“...one of my colleagues from the Highway & Drainage team visited Dobsons Lane between Christmas and New Year, hence the uneven road signs which have now been placed on site. His report to me confirmed that the road is in need of attention. Initially

a road closure will be required in order to clear the area of the compacted detritus so that the road surface can be reviewed. In the short term, patching is probably the only option, however it will be promoted as a potential surfacing site in the future. I do not have a timescale for any of these works unfortunately, however I will arrange for the road to be inspected periodically for safety defects."

WHITE LANE ROAD CLOSURE

A request has been received from Thames Water for a temporary road closure to apply to a section of White Lane whilst leaking water mains works are carried out. A temporary Notice is being made to implement the temporary closures and will operate from the 4 March 2019 up to and including the 6 March 2019. This is a daily 24 hour closure. Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for those frontages within the closure area, subject to the progress of the works and liaison with the works supervisor.

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

A member of the public mentioned the rubbish on the dual carriageway. This was passed to the District Councillor. David Nimmo-Smith noted this.

005/19 SODC Report from SODC Cllrs David Nimmo-Smith

There was no monthly report as Christmas and New Year was between last report (December) and now.

The **SODC Local Plan** is signed off with proposals and now in consultation from 7th January – mid February. There will be a public exhibition with officers to take questions at Henley Town Hall Saturday 19th 10-2pm and it was encouraged that people see the proposals. The plan will be then reviewed with any feedback and the intention is that the plan will be adopted by the end of year.

SODC are going through their Budget cycle and would be put forward for a likely increase of £5 per band D house roughly 4%.

William Murdock asked about the new deadlines of 28 days for parish council response (this is from the date SODC receive the application). This was confirmed as a statutory requirement. If there was a problem/objection David Nimmo-Smith asked that he be informed.

006/19 Clerk's Report

No report

007/19 Speed Watch

The SID machine has been repaired and the next stage is to book it out for 2 weeks. People who attended the training or who had expressed an interest were contacted and some speed watch dates will be set.

008/19 Allotment Report

No report

009/19 Planning

a) Applications received

P18/S4092/HH

Henley Cottage, LA RG9 6AH

Two storey extensions and alterations to existing dwelling

BAPC response deadline: 14.1.2019

b) BAPC Recommendations

[P18/S3444/HH](#)

The Fightle, Old Bix Road, Bix RG9 6BY

Erection of two storey extensions

BAPC - NO OBJECTIONS

SODC target decision date: 27th 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: 19th December 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 response - NO OBJECTIONS

SODC target decision date 20th September 2018

c) SODC Decisions

[P18/S3347/HH](#)

8 The Green, Middle Assendon RG9 6AT

Single storey side extension.

BAPC response - NO OBJECTIONS

SODC granted

A member of the public asked about the American Barn application. This was discussed and there had been no further updates. It was requested that the public keep an eye out for any digging up of the old foundations. One of the conditions is that the old foundations must be kept.

010/19 Planning response procedure

The procedure for gaining a planning response is to have 3 councillors to put in their response and whether this can be cut down. This will be looked into as it is difficult to achieve and with the new deadlines, will be even more so.

The present procedure is written into the parish councils Standing Orders.

A member of the public asked about Blythewood and it was confirmed that the parish council has had no update.

011/19 Broadband update

It is reported that there had been a big uplift in speeds but not all at Bix was receiving this.

012/19 Bus shelter update

Report that the foundations have been laid. Phone call from supplier to say the shelter is installed but seat is still to be done (probably next week).

It was reported, that it was very nice and gave shelter.

013/19 Correspondence

Letter from Royal British Legion to thank the parish council for the donation of £200 for Armistice Day.

Open Spaces Society (which to which the parish council subscribe) asking for a donation for costs to stop deregistration of commons for Warcop, Cumbria, Blackbushe Airport and Yateley Common, Hampshire.

The parish council declined to support at this time.

014/19 Finance

Payments to be made:

a) Cheques for payment

Clerk's wages and office rent for January/February 2019 = £470.68

Doteasy (BAG) domain name for 2 years to 2021 \$40 = £32.41 plus bank fee (dollar conversion of £0.87.

Cheque Total = **£503.09**

Annual payment (2019) for COMET buses (via Nettlebed and District Good Neighbour Scheme) = **£536.00**

Additional support cost for BAG and website to C. Chantry = **£240.**

b) Payments received:

Interest of £8.58

Bank balance £16,243.68

015/19 Budget 2019/20 and Precept Request

The precept amount to ask for was suggested at £7,181. Last year (2018/19) was £7,100. This was agreed.

The budget for 2019/20 was emailed to councillors before the meeting and was agreed.

The bus shelter is yet to be paid for and is £5,960 (£1,000 SODC grant still to be paid, will make this £4,960).

A flashing speed sign will cost about £8,000 and will need quotes and maybe considered in the future. Additional village gates were not seen as useful, entering Middle Assendon.

The list of charity payments was read out and agreed. The Royal British Legion donation was a one off for 2018/19.

Also there are two CIL payments of £1,209.38 paid this year 2018/19 and in 2017/18. These would have been used for the white lining but that will be free now except the 30 roundels approximately £300. CIL payments (total £2,418.76) needs to be spend by 2021.

Agreed to pay Chris Chantry £1,000 next year. He spends more time on BAG and on the website than he had expected.

The precept request form was signed by Lisbeth Thiesen and Jane Pryce for £7,181.

Matt Beesley had emailed his approval of the budget beforehand.

016/19 Footpath Report

When walking the paths a few weeks ago I found no serious problems.

I was told about a fallen tree blocking the Oxfordshire Way behind Mill Close. I reported it as it was too big for me to deal with. Before anything could be arranged someone removed it. Many thanks to whoever it was.

Some arrows on trees need to be refreshed, so I will be going round with paint and brushes.

There is a bush leaning over the path down to Swiss Farm which I will trim. It isn't really causing a problem yet.

If any walkers come across problems please let me know on 01491 575881

Jane Aitken.

Thanks were given to Jane Aitken for the report.

017/19 Village Hall Report

Sophie Jackson (from the Montessori Nursery School) is on maternity leave.

The clerk had previously asked if the minutes from the village hall committee meeting have to be published – this was checked through Community First Oxfordshire and confirmed that is was not a requirement.

The bank used by the village hall has been changed and electronic payments for bookings can now be made. The deposit for booking has been reduced to £100.

We are looking at a community, basic first aid course being run.

A secretary was still needed.

018/19 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.

Robert Walmsley asked if there was a mandate for the website – an aim of what it would deliver? He asked if he could look into this and suggest additions. This was agreed.

Cllr. Matthew Beesley has declared his intent not to stand at the forth coming election. As 2019 is an election year the timetable was discussed. This will only be followed if it is contested. It was seen as preferable to have a candidate from Bix to provide their viewpoint. The 26th March is when the ‘Publication of Notice of Election & Nominations Open’ starts. Wednesday 3rd April is the deadline for receipt of nomination papers and withdrawal of candidature.

The 7th May is when all councillors retire and existing/new councillors come into office.

On the annual ‘Electors’ parish council meeting 13th May 2019, all councillors must sign their declaration of acceptance of office.

By the 4th June all councillors must completed their registration of interests.

Robert Walmsley mentioned there was quite active Facebook page for Bix.

019/19 Public Comments

It was requested either a BAG or something on the website for a contact number for trees down on the road to be dealt with.

Robert Walmsley noted this for an addition to the website. It was suggested to have a list of useful numbers.

Next Meeting – Monday 4th March 2019 (Annual Parish meeting followed by the Parish Council meeting) at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm