

BIX AND ASSENDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
24TH JANUARY 2022

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 24th January 2022, 7.30pm at Bix Village Hall

Attendees:

Mrs. Ina Chantry (Chair), Mr William Murdoch (Vice Chair), Parish Councillor Mr. Fredrick van Mierlo, SODC councillor Jo Robb, OCC Councillor David Bartholomew, Jackie Walker – Chair of Village Hall, Karen Wheeler (Clerk), 2 x member of the public

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

Parish Councillor Ms Sophie Roper, SODC councillor Lorraine Hillier.

2. Member's declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None

3. Confirmation of the minutes on 1st November 2021

These minutes were declared a true and accurate account of the meeting, then signed by the chair, Ina Chantry.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Armistice tree – Contact to be made again with donor to confirm tree supply to ensure maximum potential to establish and limit maintenance needed during summer. Suggested Montessori could look after tree. Location and protective surround to be agreed with Common holders. Recommendation for British Legion representative to plant. Clerk to confirm. Village Hall also interested in donating should this be an option.

Charities to support, ongoing plan – It was agreed to support the following charities with a donation of £100 each - Cleanslate and CAB.

5. OCC Report – Cllr David Bartholomew

See separate document

6. SODC Report – Cllr Jo Robb

See separate document.

7. Queen's Platinum Jubilee – 2-5th June 2022.

Date: Saturday 4th June, approximately 1pm – 6pm

Event: An afternoon comprising drinks reception, lunch followed by tea and dancing. The location on the Bix Common Field; a suitable marquee has been reserved at Lulu Marquees.

Meeting: A more detailed meeting to organise the event is being held at Bix Manor, 7pm on Tuesday 8th February. Those wishing to volunteer to help organise and assist on the day, welcome.

8. Public comments/questions

None

9. Chairs Report

At our last meeting it sounded as if Covid 19 had another card to play with the Omicron variant, which I think led many people to have a quiet Christmas, but I would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year.

On the 5th November I met with John Howell and his secretary, the topics for discussion were traffic calming, in particular the motorbikes on the dual carriageway. It was agreed a meeting would be set up with Matthew Barber to involve representatives from the parish councils affected. There was also a brief discussion on planning. John Howell was instrumental in setting up Neighbourhood Plans but was surprised to find out about the potential costs. A Neighbourhood Plan would give a parish council more control over planning.

On the 16th of December I attended a Zoom Super-User training session. This means I can report potholes and damaged kerbs on the Fix My Street system. The two types of repairs are Sweep and Fill and Sawcut repairs for potholes on minor roads and pavements. Damaged kerbing can also be reported particularly if it could cause damage to road traffic. The key point is to report damage that is a safety issue and not aesthetics. I am allowed to mark the problem with white spray paint. Becoming a Super-User means repairs can be dealt with more quickly. However, we are limited as to which roads we can report for.

That same evening, I attended a meeting in Benson with several other parish councils. The meeting was led by John Howell MP and Matthew Barber, Thames Valley Police Commissioner. This meeting showed the level of frustration and anger felt by parish councils speaking on behalf of their residents. Matthew Barber talked about two counties who are trialling sound cameras, however, there is the issue of identifying the specific bike as riders tend to ride in groups. The second trial is average speed cameras, and this has the problem of the number of lanes and other roads that lead off the biker's route making it difficult to collect an average speed. Matthew Barber is interested in setting up speed traps with a van identifying the speeding bikes and a pinch point to stop the bikes and issue fines.

It became clear that the police are no longer sending out warning letters because of Speedwatch data when that data has come from machines purchased by parish councils – ours was funded completely by a grant. However, parishes can still carry out the Speedwatch surveys and send in information about regular offenders and peak times for speeding. The police will then decide on sending out a van or other course of action.

I suggested the police motor cyclists could go to the H café and talk to the bikers about the problem but also check bikes exhausts, the removal of the baffle, can be significant contributor to excess noise. Putting the police in the speed camera van out on a Sunday would also be useful as would using the layby going northwards along the dual carriageway.

Matthew Barber will be meeting with senior police officers to decide upon operational issues, for the following year, speeding bikes was going to be raised. A second meeting to look at progress and impact will be set up for May / June.

On Wednesday 19th January I met Steve Harris from OCC and he explained the flooded lane at Lambridge Woods had been closed for safety reasons. The lane is so far below the level of the surrounding land that drainage is impossible and remedial action will be very costly.

On Thursday 20th January I met Timm Sonnex from SODC to discuss further trespass at the allotment site. This is being pursued. At the same time SODC will clarify and agree access rights for the residents of Henley Cottage.

I would like to thank the various residents who have and will soon find they have agreed to help organize the Queen's Platinum Jubilee party. I have seen the plans and they look fantastic and it would be lovely if people who can offer their expertise / enthusiasm would come forward to make this an event that all residents feel part of and remember.

10. Planning

Cllr, William Murdoch

Applications Received

[P21/S5115/HH](#)

Gibwen House Old Bix Road Bix RG9 6BY

Replacement single storey rear extension, two storey extension on site of existing garage and outbuildings, general alterations to existing building and new vehicular access from Old Bix Road

Decision due 30th January 2022

[P21/S5073/HH](#)

High Acres Bix RG9 6BT

External remodelling, extensions and conversion of garage to ancillary accommodation

Decision due 27th January 2022

[P21/S3233/FUL](#)

The Fox Wallingford Road Bix RG9 6DB

Change of use from ancillary accommodation to the house - to holiday let/AirBnB accommodation
Minor amendment to existing approved annex (REF: P17/S2257/FUL): with additional window and door on the ground floor.

Decision due 25th January 2022

Decision awaited

[P21/S3201/HH](#)

Bix Underwood, Bix

Erection of two single storey ancillary workshop buildings

Decision was due 8th Sept

SODC Decisions

[P21/S4296/HH](#)

3 Valley Cottages Middle Assendon RG9 6AR

Rear extension. Front porch. Demolition and rebuild of rear outbuilding

SODC GRANTED

[P21/S4229/HH](#)

4 Mill Close Middle Assendon

First floor side extension.

SODC GRANTED

[P21/S4769/HH](#)

Mayflower Cottage Lower Assendon RG9 6AH

Two storey rear extension, single storey front extension with open porch

SODC GRANTED

11. Common Field Holders Notice

A notice regarding limiting “unwanted” access to the common was issued following problem with cars joy riding. No comments received. Question raised regarding hedging.

12. Traffic calming project update A comprehensive document is being produced covering all potential activity. Interim meeting with Councillors was held on 17th Nov 7.30pm and 15th Dec 7.30pm to develop the document and action plan. Update at next meeting. In addition, it was agreed that a decision on whether the parish should apply for a 20mph limit zone should be made at the next meeting. Cllr David Bartholomew said he would write a letter supporting our application even though he does not support 20 is Plenty himself.

13. Henley HGV A joined up approach still required for the Fairmile, dual carriageway and cycle lane. Debate continues to develop wider county plan. This is included in the strategic transport and connectivity plan.

14. VAS sign to be incorporated in traffic calming.

15. Obscured speed signs – reported on FMS, progress to be monitored.

16. Motorbike noise – A multiple Parish approach is continuing with support of John Howell and Matthew Barber Police and Crime commissioner. Follow up meeting due in the summer following the potential of some trial measures.

17. Gate repairs to be incorporated in traffic calming. May need supported funding via grants.

18. Bollard repair work now completed.

19. Village Hall report There has been no impact due to church renovation. Bookings are returning following COVID restrictions. Montessori school going well. Annual meeting to be held on 22nd Feb.

20. HTC liaison report

Nothing to report

21. Allotment report

SODC are pursuing the trespass issue and will also confirm access rights related to Henley Cottage. SODC agreement to be provided to the Parish relating to its use.

22. Footpath report

Nothing to report.

23. Correspondence

- a. **Flooding** – Road has been closed due to unseen pot holes and laying water. Landowner has been consulted and jointly investigated with OCC possible solutions. Recommended remedial drainage solution is considerably excessive compared to assessed road usage.
- b. **Lighting** – FMS ticket ongoing.

24. Finance

- a. **Payments** - P Wyatt 115, Marquee dep. 1298.88, Padlock 25, Comet bus 564.20
- b. **Income received** - None
- c. **Bank balance:** £10,186.10 as at 20/01/22
- d. **Precept** – £7,350 requested.
- e. **Budget 2022/23** – agreed, to be recirculated to councillors.

25. Any other business

- a. Councillor vacancy** – an interested party has come forward but not able to commit at the current time. Councillors agreed to continue gauging interest from local residents. Formal notice of vacancy to be re-issued.
- b. Archiving – Old parish minutes and accounts are now archived**
- c. FMS open tickets**
 - a. Fly tipping – 3238238 and ENQ21912473
 - b. Street lighting -3194251
 - c. Potholes – ENQ22913829
 - d. Flood – ENQ21907122
 - e. Road sign – 2960905
- d. Litter team** – suggested to have a team to help clean road signs around the parish

Next Meeting – 7th March 2022

The meeting ended at 9.16 pm