

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 & Assendon Parish Council meeting held on 13th January 2020.

Parish Councillors present:

Ms. Lisbeth Thiesen and Mrs. Ina Chantry

Oxfordshire County Councillor David Bartholomew
South Oxfordshire District Councillor Lorraine Hiller

Also present: Mrs. Jane Pryce (Clerk) and 12 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

An announcement was made by the chairman Cllr. Lisbeth Thiesen:

Good evening and welcome

I must inform you that the meeting tonight will not be quorate due to Bill Murdoch, the vice chair, being unable to attend because of illness. We wish him well and a speedy recovery.

This means that no decisions can be made tonight but will be deferred to the next meeting scheduled for 2 March.

We will hear any reports and comments.

We could co-opt a councillor but find that it is not fair nor correct to ask a person to vote on something they have not had a chance to get familiar with.

We will however welcome any suggestions for items for the agenda for the next meeting.

001/20 Apologies for absence

William Murdoch emailed his apologies.

002/20 Members declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None

003/20 Confirmation of the minutes on the 4th November 2019

As the meeting was not quorate the minutes could not be approved and signed but carried over till the meeting on 2 March 2020

004/20 OCC Report from Cllr. D. Bartholomew

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

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BIX & ASSENDON

SPECIAL THIRD READING BRIDGE MEETING FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY 2020

The chair at Sonning Common has called a meeting of parishes in my Division to consider a joint response to the situation in advance of the MP 'Summit Meeting' in March. I very much hope two representatives from each parish will attend. Please respond to the email sent by the SC PC clerk on 21st November if you haven't done so already.

Date and time: Friday 31 January 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Venue: Sonning Common Village Hall, Wood Lane, Sonning Common RG4 9SL

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SPEED SIGNS

Having been assured by the clerk that there has been local consultation with favourable results, I have agreed to contribute 2 x £500 towards the cost of two VAS devices. The clerk needs to complete the application form and submit it to the Councillor Priority Fund email address for approval. This is now urgent as the closing date for applications is imminent.

The clerk was instructed to fill out the application even without a quote.

DOBSONS LANE, LOWER ASSENDON

Stage I of the remedial work was completed at the end of February. Stage II of the works was completed in September. I have received emails from residents pleased with the improvements, although there some complaints about uncollected debris which I investigated and I believe the matter has now been resolved.

The debris has not been collected. David Bartholomew requested that the clerk be informed if not done this week and let him know.

005/20 SODC Report

SODC councillor Lorraine Hillier

The full SODC report can be found with the minutes and on the website.

A copy of the Local Plan letter from the Secretary of State were handed out. And is attached to the minutes

The following problems were reported:

Litter on the dual carriage verges and central reservation was appalling but public are not allowed to near the road. A lane closure would have to in place for contractors to do this.

Small dust cart was requested to always be used on Dobson's Lane as when a larger vehicle was used, the road verges were damaged.

Both of the above were noted by Lorraine Hillier and she would report back.

Reports of 8 drains blocked on the Old Bix Road and flooding was occurring. Lorraine Hillier would kindly put this on FMS website to be dealt with.

006/20 Clerk's Report

Village Spring Clean – Sunday 8th March proposed and the members of the public were in agreement. The clerk will order the litter picking equipment and a BAG will be put out nearer the time. More bags were requested as last year some volunteers ran short.

Time was spent on fulfilling the Freedom of Information request regarding minutes and meeting of 4th November.

007/20 Casual Vacancy for a councillor

There were no candidates.

008/20 Speed Awareness measures

The clerk thanked SODC councillor Lorraine Hillier for their grant of £2,100 towards the SID (Speed Indicator Device) for the Speed Awareness group. This is 80% of the cost.

Various ideas were aired by members of the public for future speed reduction measures. It was pointed out that any measures needed a public consultation before they could be implemented.

The public was assured that no funds had yet been spent on VAS signs, and it was possible that the decision of purchasing all 3 signs, could be overturned at the next quorate Parish Council Meeting

These issues will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

009/20 Planning

a) Applications Received

P19/S4226/HH

Brawns, Bix RG9 4RY

Demolition of the existing single garage and replacement with a 3 bay oak framed garage, including Room over, a garden store and log/bin store. Construction of an outdoor swimming pool. To move the existing tennis court approx 5m to the west to enable construction of the swimming pool.

BAPC response required by 23.1.20

P19/S4227/LB (Listed Building)

Brawns, Bix RG9 4RY

Demolition of the existing single garage and replacement with a 3 bay oak framed garage, including Room over, a garden store and log/bin store. Construction of an outdoor swimming pool. To move the existing tennis court approx 5m to the west to enable construction of the swimming pool.

BAPC response required by 23.1.20

P20/S0039/HH

Oak House, Lower Assendon RG9 6AW

Insertion of first floor window in permitted extension.

BAPC response required by 30.1.20

b) BAPC Recommendations

P19/S2047/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: 22nd August 2019 – still under consideration

P19/S1548/FUL

Grey Lodge, Old Bix Road, Bix RG9 6BY

Demolition of existing dwelling and studio and replacement with a new house.
BAPC - NO OBJECTIONS
SODC Target Decision Date: 24th July 2019 - still under consideration

P19/S4429/HH

9 Bix Common, Bix RG9 6BS
2 storey side and rear extension, with single storey rear element.
Single storey front extension to create hall.
BAPC - NO OBJECTIONS

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 - NO OBJECTIONS

c) SODC Decisions

P19/S3355/HH

Hamilton House, Middle Assendon, Henley-On-Thames RG9 6AS
Extension and remodelling of existing house. Demolition of existing two storey flat roof rear extension and conservatory, construction of new two storey and single storey rear extensions.
BAPC – NO OBJECTIONS
SODC GRANTED

P19/S3204/HH

Greenmarsh Cottage, Road running South West From Junction With Track Leading To Bix RG9 4RY
Erection of 2-storey side and rear extensions.
BAPC – NO OBJECTIONS
SODC GRANTED

P19/S3413/LB (Listed Building)

Henley Cemetery, Fairmile, Henley-on-Thames RG9 6AA
Removal of existing rainwater goods and associated local repairs to the eaves. Replacement rainwater goods to the same design and specification as those recently consented for the adjacent chapel.
BAPC 'NO OBJECTIONS'
SODC GRANTED

010/20 Former Assendon Tip, Lower Assendon

The clerk have received an email (6th January) from Social Affordable Housing Development Officer and it confirms the site has contamination. This is in reply to a request for information on the process and liabilities for the parish council to possibility buying the land. This email has been forwarded to the SODC 'Projects Team' and 'Property Team'. No reply yet.

A verbal confirmation from Cllr. Jo Robb indicates that District will favourably consider selling the land to the parish council. There is no decision by the parish council to purchase the land, and it is likely only to be considered if it was for a nominal sum i.e. £1.

The Nature Survey that needs to be done to back up the case for a Wildlife Reserve has been delayed by the surveyor. A botanical survey will also be carried out in May.

There was a suggestion that if this goes ahead that a cycle path be made to it from the Fairmile.

011/20 Allotment Report

No report

012/20 Footpath Report

Jane Aitken – Chiltern Society representative for the parish.

Three path problems have recently been cleared up.

Path 24, by the cemetery, has had the fallen tree cut back. As the tree has been down for a considerable time, walkers have opened another route and entrance into the woods. This has now been blocked and the correct entrance made more visible.

Fallen and overhanging trees were reported on path 33. These are scheduled to be removed.

No more path problems have been logged.

013/20 Correspondence

The clerk had just been informed that ‘The Link’ magazine will not be going out for the foreseeable future. The parish council information questionnaire will now have to be hand delivered.

Open Spaces Society requesting a donation – we already subscribe and the projects requesting funding are not in the parish (or county). To be voted on at the next meeting

Oxfordshire Rural Services Survey for CFO. Survey data requested of community services in the parish but the only services provided were the Bix nursery school and the COMET and Henley Handibus. The clerk would complete the survey.

Citizens Advice has asked that the following two items be highlighted with information provided (via BAG):

Relationship Breakdown

And

A request for volunteers

This was agreed.

Thank you was received from Citizens Advice Bureau for donation £100.

Road closure for Dobson’s Lane – locate and excavate 1 blockage in existing BT duct – 1 day 30th March.

The layout of the closure was looked at and it was decided not to BAG and it was obvious how to use the diversion.

Cycling event 29th March but on the Marlow Road (start/finish) and on the B480 for a short distance. It was noted that this event will have no direct effect on the parish and would only be a problem for going to Nettlebed.

OCC has a new service to help with home repairs for those of limited income. The poster and a BAG was agreed.

SODC guide to help rough sleepers. The guide was seen as useful and so a BAG was agreed.

SODC and Bell and Hart surgeries are starting a weekly gentle ½ hour walk in Henley. A BAG for this was agreed.

As there is no financial liability in putting notices on BAG these decisions could be taken with an inquorate parish council

014/20 Finance

a) Cheques for payment

Clerk's wages and office rent for December/January £470.68

Bus shelter repairs done by manufacturers Externiture Ltd £132.00 (VAT £22.00)

These two items had been approved previously and the cheques were signed.

Cost for responding to FoI request and printing questionnaire for putting in the Link magazine were deferred to the next meeting.

Donations/Subscriptions

None

b) Payments received

SODC grant for SID machine £2,100.

Interest: £10.32

Bank balance £21,743.59

015/20 Budget and Precept 2020/21

The budget and precept could not be approved due to the meeting being non-quorate.

016/20 Community Infrastructure Levy

Total CIL 2019/20 receipts = £9,246.86

017/20 Village Hall Report

The following report was emailed by Jackie Walker who had another meeting to attend.

We held our last meeting 12 November - all reported as running smoothly and going well regards the Montessori School, the bookings to hire the hall, responding to maintenance issues as and when they arise (there is a current issue with the guttering in the process of being dealt with) plus some forward planning for areas such as the toilets and the roof.

Also the committee were asked about donating towards the requirement of 6 new gazebos for the Village Fete and agreed to the purchase of them, I have advised Matthew Beesley who will be organising the purchase and delivery.

The next meeting will be the Village Hall Committee AGM on the 18th February at 7.30pm.

018/20 Any other business

Training Available for parish councillors: :

New courses 2020

Planning - West Oxfordshire DC 24th February.

NEW Website Accessibility – 22nd January am, Oxford

Parish Meetings - 30th January am 2020, West Oxfordshire DC

Preparing for Audit – 5th February am 2020, Begbroke Science Park

Understanding Internal Audit – 5th February pm 2020, Begbroke Science Park

Charity law – 12th February 2020, full day, Didcot

The clerk received the resignation of Robert Walmsley on 5th January:

The resignation of Robert Walmsley was received on 5th January and a Casual Vacancy notice has been issued – co-option date is 29th January.

“I am writing to inform you of my decision to resign from the Bix and Assendon Parish Council.

Unfortunately my work commitments are not such that I cannot guarantee to attend a significant number of the meeting, and so it is not fair on the other councillors or the residents of the Parish.

I would like to thank both you and the councillors for all your support during my tenure as a parish councillor.”

Robert was thanked for service and time.

A Casual Vacancy notice has been issued – co-option date is 29th January.

Agenda item for next meeting was requested to make the parish aware of the seriousness of the lack of councillors. There is a risk the parish council could be folded and be absorbed by another council. Possibility to Henley or Stonor or Nettlebed.

A BAG was requested for this Casual Vacancy.

An updated USB stick backup of council business was given to the chairman and swapped for the previous update. This forms an offsite backup.

019/20 Public Comments

None

Next Meeting – Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 9 pm