

Minutes
Berrick Salome Parish Council
22nd January, 2015

The Meeting of the Berrick Salome Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Berrick Salome, on Thursday 22nd January, 2015. Present:

Derek Shaw (Chairman)
Ian Glyn (Vice Chairman)
Anne Kilduff
Douglas Taylor
Craig Tribe (Treasurer)

1. Apologies received
Sarah White (Clerk)
Steve Harrod, County Councillor
2. To approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting
The minutes of the meeting of 6th November 2014 were approved and signed.
3. Matters arising from Minutes
 - I. A response from RAF Benson to the Parish Council's letter regarding noise and flight level has been received and it appears the point has been made with the villages experiencing slightly less issues.
 - II. Thames Water – see agenda item 8.
 - III. Village verges:
 - a. The verge posts are all installed – there are 3 left for any villagers who require them – please contact the Parish Clerk. One of these could be used for the Rokemarsh triangle where one has been damaged.
 - b. A complaint was received that the posts were not 450mm from the road but when it was explained that the initiative was set up to re-claim the verge edge this was understood and accepted.
 - c. Jamie Franklin has been asked to add top soil to the verges in the summer.
4. Treasurer's report and 2015-2016 budget
 - I. Bank balances as at 31 December 2014 totalled £11,514 and there were no unrepresented cheques. The total reserves of the Parish were therefore £11,514.
 - II. At 31 December 2014 the accounts show a surplus of income over expenditure of £2,699. The budget for this period is a surplus of £2,546.
 - III. The Council confirmed payment of the cheque shown in the Schedule of Payments and the bank transfer, both within Appendix 1.
 - IV. The previous claim for a refund of input VAT paid to the end of 30 June 2014 of £125.32 was received 6 November 2014. A claim for input VAT as at 31 December 2014 of £101.13 will be submitted shortly.
 - V. A detailed budget for the 2015-16 year, together with a note of the underlying assumptions, had been provided to all the council members. The budget showed a deficit for the year of £2,629 because of budgeted expenditure on the playground and a parish defibrillator. The council has sufficient reserves to cover this. A band D precept of £38.66 is recommended. This is a 2% increase on that for 2014-15. The total precept would be £6,240 (2014-15 - £6,000). The 2015-16 budget and precept was approved by the Council.
5. To receive a report from our County and District Councillors
 - I. No report was received from Rachel Wallis, District Councillor
 - II. Steve Harrod, County Councillor was delayed and unable to make the meeting. His monthly report is available on request from the Parish Clerk.

6. Neighbourhood Police report

PCSO Jenny Cox and PCSO Marie Davenport presented the Neighbourhood Police report:

I. Update on the recent fire in Rokemarsh, at SODC and a local funeral home – as it is a live investigation only so much could be discussed:

- a. At 02.30 on Thursday 15th January the fire brigade was alerted to the fire in Rokemarsh where a series of gas canisters were found.
 - b. The fire at SODC covered both the north and south wing as well as the reception. The high nature of the winds that evening led to the flames being spread throughout the building. The CCTV showed the car driven through the front doors and stopping in reception, linking the defendant to the crime. At the time no other vehicles were in the area.
 - c. The fire brigade found the funeral home on fire; a gas canister was also discovered there.
 - d. Andrew David Main is facing 4 charges: 2 arson with intent to endanger life, 2 arson reckless as to whether life was endangered
 - e. The police have spoken to all partner agencies and have no concerns of any reprisals from any member of the Main family.
 - f. Residents felt the support provided by the police on the night was acceptable however felt little support was provided after the event including how to respond to press questions. The Police have looked to resolve this by holding a meeting for the Rokemarsh residents on 20th February and they intend to deliver an update leaflet through doors.
 - g. It was confirmed by the Council that the village does have an emergency plan which is held at SODC and OCC.
 - h. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the police and also the way the village came together with the offers of help and places to stay for those evacuated on the day. Thanks were also given to Hayden Thomas for providing the village hall key in the early morning.
- II. There has been an increase in theft of push bikes across the whole area with high value bikes being targeted. A few arrests have been made.
- III. Thefts of car number plates are also on the increase, with criminals stealing plates, putting them on their own cars in order to enable them to fill up with fuel and leave without paying.

7. To receive a report on plans and planning decisions

- I. A summary of current and decided Planning Applications since the last Parish Council meeting are set out in Appendix 2.
- II. For the time being SODC are unable to process planning applications due to the fire at the council offices. For the latest information visit: <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk>
- III. It was suggested from the floor that planning consents ought to include a condition obliging the applicant to make good any damage caused to road verges. **Action:** DT to raise with SODC planning.

8. Thames Water meeting

A summary of the Parish Council meeting with Thames Water Utilities Ltd (TWUL), held on the 21 November, to discuss the state of repair of the sewage network in the Parish was presented.

- I. In attendance at the meeting were: a delegation of six from TWUL; John Howell MP; and Cllr. Steve Harrod on behalf of Oxford County Council.
- II. TWUL conceded that the various remedial works to the sewage network which have been carried out to date are not a long term solution to the periodic sewage overflows. TWUL confirmed that our Parish is included in one of its sewage catchment areas which are now to receive priority. Currently, TWUL is undertaking a study to determine the root causes of the periodic sewage overflows and to identify possible long term solutions. It was agreed that a further meeting would be held, provisionally in late February, at which TWUL will present their findings to the Parish Council.
- III. The Parish Council will continue to liaise with TWUL and other interested parties including the regulator, OFWAT, in the expectation that TWUL will be making its best efforts to implement a long term solution in a timely manner.

9. Playground

- I. A failed safety inspection (due to rotting wood at the base of some of the equipment frames) means a substantial amount of repair or replacement work is required to rectify the situation. This will be costly however part of the money is eligible for a Community Capital Grant from SODC. **Action:** AK and DS to meet with the grants team when applications open in June.
- II. In the meantime, for safety reasons, the playground swings have been taken out of action.
- III. The Parish Council is continuing to look for repair options and obtain quotes for the remedial works.

9. Faster broadband

- I. Both Roke and Rokemarsh now have fibre enabled broadband and are obtaining speeds of between 8mbs and 20mbs. Customers with BT appear to have the lowest speed, EE and Talk Talk the fastest.
- II. With Berrick on a different exchange – Stadhampton –it requires cabinet 6 in Newington to be upgraded, which in turn requires extra funding. Anne Kilduff has asked for confirmation of this funding being available, and is awaiting a response. The postcode map provided by the OCC shows Berrick postcodes be receiving it June.
- III. AK will continue to send regular email updates. It is recommended that all remaining / Berrick residents register their interest on <http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/home> to improve their chances of getting the connection sped up.
- IV. The meeting gave its thanks Anne for her continued support and campaigning on behalf of the village.

10. Bridleways

- I. Repairs to the Rokemarsh -Warborough bridleway have commenced with the vegetation being cut back and the resulting wood chips left on the path which had improved its surface.
- II. An acceptable position for the dog bin on the Rokemarsh-Warborough bridleway has been found and its installation is being arranged by AK. There has been no progress, as yet, on the Hollandtide Bottom bridleway. **Action** DS to follow up.

11. Defibrillator

- I. A first responder from the ambulance service was going to attend the meeting on the original date to advise on the benefits and practicalities of having a defibrillator located in the village. Unfortunately he could not attend and it will be re-scheduled. **Action:** CT to confirm attendance at the next meeting
- II. The defibrillator would have a digital lock; it is proposed to be located on the wall of the village hall. If a 999 call is placed from the village the operator will be able to identify the defibrillator location and direct the caller to it.
- III. The full cost is c. £2500 but with subsidisation it would be c. £1400.

12. Newsletter

The Parish Councillor is putting together a newsletter to deliver to the villages. The proposed contents are:

- I. Raising awareness of the upcoming elections with the aim of encouraging more residents to stand for election as a Parish Councillor.
- II. Updates on faster broadband, playground, flood alleviation, pot holes etc. - TBC
- III. Once the newsletter content has been finalised it will be printed and distributed to parishioners.

13. Date of next meeting and agenda items

- I. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th March.
- II. Agenda item
 - a. Current Parish Councillors to state if they intend to stand for re-election in the May.
 - b. Defibrillator

14. AOB

- I. Rob Marsh updated the meeting on PAGE (Parishes Against Gravel Extraction) which attended the Oxford County Council Cabinet Meeting on 25 November in order to express its views on the latest Minerals Core Strategy submission to the Council. The outcome of the meeting was to overturn the decision by OCC agreed in November 2013 to use the rolling 10 year average of sand and gravel extraction for the County and use a figure established by a new group of consultants employed by OCC. This results in a staggering increase of 42% over the previously agreed extraction volume. If and when adopted the Cabinet decision will significantly increase the amount of sand and gravel that can be extracted in Oxfordshire and unbelievably again put PAGE areas under threat of gravel extraction. With the support of the Parish Council's we intend to continue our fight by commissioning further work to explore the next steps for PAGE prior to the next OCC meeting on 27 January 2015. See Appendix 3 for more details.
- II. Access to the village hall car park has become problematic - the overflow car park driveway is now a rutted track. The field is useable but the bridge club had asked whether this could be improved. The cost would be approximately £200 to lay chippings. Quotes are to be obtained by John Bird. The PC may apply to the Quarry charity for a contribution. PC approved the spending in principle subject to confirmation at the next meeting

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed Chairman

Date

Appendix 1

I. Schedule of payments

Confirmation of the Council requested for the following cheque payments:

Date	Chq. no.	Payee	Amount (£)	Purpose
16/12/14	100634	Ian Glyn	1,469.74	Verge posts

Confirmation of the Council requested for the following bank transfers:

Date	Transfer from	Transfer to	Amount £
16/12/14	Business Saver	Community	1,395.00

Appendix 2

Planning Applications:

Planning ID	Location	Application	Status	PC Action
P14/S3929/HH P14/S3930/LB (11 Dec 2014)	Innocents, Berrick Salome OX10 6JR	Single storey side extension	Under consideration by SODC Approved by PC.	Awaiting SODC decision
P14/S3309/FUL (16 Oct 2014) Amendments submitted (5 Dec 2014)	Fairfield, Roke, OX10 6JD	Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of replacement dwelling with detached garage. (Re-submission of withdrawn application P14/S2019/FUL) (As amended by plans and revised Flood Risk Assessment)	Under consideration by SODC Approved (with conditions) by PC.	Awaiting SODC decision
P14/S3225/HH (10 Oct 2014)	Red Roke, Roke Oxon OX10 6JD	Erection of a detached double garage.	Approved by SODC on 28 Nov 2014 Approved (with conditions) by PC	No further action
P14/S3051/HH (29 Sept 2014)	Willow Brook, Roke, OX10 6JD	Extension and conversion of garage to provide annexe and conservatory.	Approved by SODC on 20 Nov 2014 Not approved by PC.	Raising queries with SODC over decision.

Appendix 3

PAGE (Parishes Against Gravel Extraction) update:

PAGE attended the Oxford County Council Cabinet Meeting on 25 November in order to express our views on the latest Minerals Core Strategy submission to the Council. The outcome of the meeting was to overturn the decision by OCC agreed in November 2013 to use the rolling 10 year average of sand and gravel extraction for the County and use a figure established by a new group of consultants employed by OCC. This results in a staggering increase of 42% over the previously agreed extraction volume.

- The debate lasted for over an hour and was focused completely on the LAA (Local Aggregates Assessment). No discussion of the other policies under item 8 of the agenda.
- Speakers from Bachport, OUTRAGE, CPRE and PAGE all made their points in a co-ordinated way showing that the latest Consultants report is flawed, the process failed to include the local communities and the Cabinet should continue with the 10 year average producing a 2014 LAA of 715kta compared with the Consultants figure of 1015kta.
- Four County Councillors, all being members of the Cabinet Advisory Group for Minerals, provided their own strong feelings as to why the Cabinet should reject the Consultant's report and revert to last November's Cabinet decision to use the 10 year average deploying many of the arguments used by the earlier speakers.
- Discussions took place between the Cabinet members and the officers and in concluding the debate David Nimmo-Smith (sponsoring Cabinet member) stated the he was "between a rock and a hard place". The key question being whether to propose the 10 year sales average or 10 year plus to allow for the additional housing, population and infrastructure growth in Oxfordshire. Having listened to the debate he continued to recommend 10 year plus. This was supported by 5 votes in favour, 0 against and with 3 abstentions.
- All the remaining Core Strategy papers including Community Involvement were also agreed to be taken to the full Council for approval without any discussion
- The Minerals and Waste Strategy will go to an extraordinary meeting of the full Council on 27 January.

If and when adopted the Cabinet decision will significantly increase the amount of sand and gravel that can be extracted in Oxfordshire and unbelievably again put PAGE areas under threat of gravel extraction. With the support of the Parish Council's we intend to continue our fight by commissioning further work to explore the next steps for PAGE prior to the next OCC meeting on 27 January 2015.