

**Minutes**  
**Berrick Salome Parish Council**  
**3rd March, 2016**

The Meeting of the Berrick Salome Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Berrick Salome, on Thursday 3rd March, 2016. Present:

Ian Glyn (Chair)  
Hannah Bradley (Vice-chair)  
Craig Tribe (Treasurer)  
Steve Rhodes  
David Bridgland  
David Turner (District Councillor)  
Chris Cussens (Clerk)

1. Apologies received  
Steve Harrod (due to urgent County group meeting to discuss Unitary Councils in Oxfordshire)
2. To approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting  
The minutes of the meeting of the 14th Jan, 2016 were approved, with one change: Action Ref 12 from Nov 12<sup>th</sup> meeting should have been placed on Steve Harrod instead of David Turner.
3. Matters arising from the Minutes  
From meeting of 12 Nov 2015  
Ref 3.3 To complete the Land Registry application form, Steve needs details of the Recreation Ground registration, whose trustees are described as "Parish Trustees of the Parish of Berrick Salome".  
**ACTION** For this, Craig would provide him with a copy of the registration documents.  
Ref 8 David wrote to Vodaphone, EE, O2 and Three early in January requesting responses to our complaints on poor reception for mobile phones; this was confined to our parish as we suffer by far the worst reception locally. To date, he has only received a response from Three, claimed by 8% of the parish in our survey. He has now written again via registered post for responses from the outstanding companies. The response from Three asked that dissatisfied customers contact them directly.  
**ACTION** David Bridgland to contact Three customers requesting them to contact Three.  
**ACTION** David Turner to report on developments re the outstanding suppliers.  
Ref 9.5 Andy Maton is retiring from the Benson base, but still has good connections there, so suggested that our Chairman contact him to review the situation. David provided the phone number.  
**ACTION** Ian to contact Andy Maton  
Ref 10 Steve has provided the Child Safety contact information on the parish website.  
Ref 12 **ACTION** Steve Harrod (transferred from David Turner) to advise re Oxfordshire Together insurance arrangements if we undertake work in the villages hitherto undertaken by OCC.  
From meeting of 14 Jan 2016  
Ref 11 We have bought and installed a lockable filing cabinet in the village hall.  
**ACTION** Ian (with David Langston) to store archive in the cabinet.  
Ref 12 Ian has spoken to the pubs about the Queen's birthday celebration. The Home Sweet Home don't want to do it as it's too close to their Rokefest. The Chequers will be delighted to put something on – details tba. David Turner advised us that SODC has made £50k available for villages who wish to put on some sort of event. **ACTION** David to provide details to the Clerk.  
Ref 15.1 Ian has contacted a number of properties about damage to verges resulting from building activity and has received agreement that they would be repaired once building is completed. See also section 7 below.  
Ref 15.3 The piles of topsoil have all been distributed.
4. To receive reports from the District and County Councillors:-
  - 4.1. David Turner provided the District Council report, ([click for online version in full](#)):-
    - 4.1.1. The SODC Food and Safety Team won Team of the Year at an independent Employee of the Year Awards in Oxford.
    - 4.1.2. SODC's Legal Team has passed their annual Lexcel assessment.

- 4.1.3. One of our housing associations, SOHA Housing, is celebrating the building of its 2,000th home.
- 4.1.4. A recent decision by the Secretary of State on a planning appeal should help protect South Oxfordshire from some unacceptable planning applications.
- 4.1.5. Our latest round of community funding opened on Monday 1 February. It's a pot of money to help build and improve community facilities, and covers things like building sports pavilions and village halls or giving them a facelift, or buying new equipment.
- 4.1.6. South Oxfordshire Low Emission Strategy 2016. South Oxfordshire District Council invites you to comment on a draft low emission strategy for the district which puts forward some ideas for improving air quality across the district and in settlements where this is a problem. (Details in full version)
- 4.1.7. The SODC annual budget showed a zero increase in the SODC part of the Council Tax. David was very disappointed in the budget decision to appoint a Cabinet Policy Advisor.
- 4.1.8. Unitary Councils. Five Council leaders are proposing a ground-breaking plan that will revolutionise public services in Oxfordshire and neighbouring areas. The plan would see the abolition of Oxfordshire County Council, with its functions transferring to three or four new Local Unitary Councils working together in partnership with the National Health Service, Police and the Local Enterprise Partnerships. David has an open mind on this. Any decision may well require a referendum of some sort, but that could be 18 months or 2 years away.
- 4.1.9. CIL adopted. SODC have officially adopted a new way of securing money for infrastructure, and we will start using it from 1 April this year.
- 4.1.10. David warned us of a [fraud scam](#) from the "RepKiller Team" which was recently reported in a Thames Valley Police Alert. This is one of a series covering various local police issues. ACTION Chris to encourage parishioners to sign up to receive these.
- 4.2. Steve Harrod, County Councillor, provided the County Council report ([click for online version in full](#)):-
- 4.2.1. BUDGET. Prior to Christmas, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) went out to consultation on possible additional budget cuts totalling £51m, at the time believed to be the worst-case scenario. However, due to a change in the funding formula, which penalised shire counties, the settlement was even worse than expected and the additional savings required now total £69m. In response to protests from shire counties, on 11th February the Government announced transitional funding and OCC will receive £9m across two financial years in respect of this. After further debate last month, the net result of this is that the council will be able to set a balanced budget in 2016/17 but over the medium term now has £15.2m of unidentified savings to make as opposed to the previous figure of £11.2m. The new £4m of unidentified savings all fall in 2017/18.
- 4.2.2. PROPOSALS FOR DISTRICT UNITARY COUNCILS. On Thursday 25th February a surprise announcement was made by Oxfordshire's District Councils and Oxford City Council which called for the abolition of OCC and the establishment of four district unitaries.
- A new Southern Oxfordshire Unitary Authority would cover the area currently administered by Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils.
  - An Oxford City Unitary Authority would be formed in the centre of the county, covering the area currently administered by Oxford City Council.
  - A West Oxfordshire-Cotswold Unitary Authority covering the area currently administered by West Oxfordshire District Council and Cotswold District Council.
  - A Cherwell-South Northants Unitary Authority covering the area currently administered by Cherwell District Council and South Northamptonshire Council.
- OCC welcomes the District Councils' engagement in the Unitary debate and will shortly be putting forward its own proposals.
- 4.2.3. There was a partial building collapse of Didcot A Power Station on Tuesday 23rd February and a major incident was declared.
- 4.2.4. Oxfordshire communities are being urged to tap into a special 'resilience' fund to help them to cope better with emergencies.
- 4.2.5. Various Berkshire councils and enterprise groups have been campaigning vigorously in recent years for a new Thames crossing known as the 'Third Reading Bridge'. An initial report is due this autumn.

5. To receive the report from the Treasurer
  - 5.1. Bank balances as at 29 February 2016 totalled £8,509. There were two un-presented cheques totalling £234. The total reserves of the Parish were therefore £8,275.
  - 5.2. At 29 February 2016 the accounts show a deficit of income to expenditure of £2,951; however this is better than forecast in our budget.  
See Appendix 1 for Receipts and payments account for the period ending Feb 29<sup>th</sup> 2016.
6. Review of planning applications (see Appendix 2 for details)
 

Decisions since previous meeting:

  - 6.1. The Garden House, Roke. Planning permission granted.
  - 6.2. Rosebank, Roke. Planning permission granted. (On day after meeting: Mar 4<sup>th</sup>)
7. Continuing destruction of the verges this winter
 

It is dispiriting to note the continuing damage to the village verges this winter, usually caused by large lorries travelling through or delivering. Various suggestions have been made (more posts, passing places, kerbs, chicane, etc.) but no solution seems available to us. We would ask, however, that householders discipline delivery vehicles to park in an appropriate place. The Parish Council would welcome all suggestions as to how the situation could be improved.
8. Thames Water Update
 

David has heard from Denise Kinsella of Thames Water, who described their four stage process:-

  1. Survey of flooding issues around the county
  2. Two year risk assessment, due for completion Nov 2017
  3. Options appraisal process, consulting with us to put plans together
  4. Carry out Stage 3 plans

For stage 3, David will be asking that they look at the size of the pipe from our village to Benson.  
**ACTION.** David is going to ask Denise when the promised survey for residents is due to arrive and will then request of the parishioners that they all complete and return it individually.
9. Should we have a neighbourhood plan?
 

Derek Shaw provided a report which can be [viewed here](#). The consensus was that we should make a preliminary investigation, for which Derek agreed to form a team of three or four people.
10. Date of next meeting
 

May 12th which is the AGM
11. AOB
  - 11.1. Rubble outside the back of the village hall has arranged to be collected.
  - 11.2. Rob Marsh has agreed to come to our next meeting to discuss PAGE. The inspector who has been appointed to look at the county council's view has been quite critical of the county council and their statements. He has backed up some of the PAGE contentions. The county council has produced a robust reply, which needs to be resolved in the next month or so. PAGE is now part of a larger outfit called OXAGE, which is likely to increase our effectiveness; they have requested another £500 from our budget.
  - 11.3. The bend at Rokemarsh was described as an accident waiting to happen. Can safety improvements be made? **ACTION** Ian agreed to talk to the Highways Department.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed ..... Chairman

Date .....

## Appendix 1

### Schedule of payments

1. Confirmation of the Council requested for the following cheque payments:

Date	Chq. no.	Payee	Amount (£)	Purpose
28/01/2016	100665	Oxford Office Furniture	96.00	Filing cabinet for archives
24/02/2016	100666	OALC	133.07	Annual subscription

There have been no inter account bank transfers since the last meeting.

2. Claim for refund of VAT paid for £719.35 has been received.

## Appendix 2

### Planning Applications

Planning ID	Location	Application	Status 04.03.16
<a href="#">P15/S3823/FUL</a>	Rosebank, Roke	Demolition of existing dwelling. Erection of new dwelling with detached ancillary garage building. Closing up of two existing vehicular accesses and formation of single new vehicular access. As amended by revised plans received on 03 February 2016 showing a reduction in the scale of the development and removal of side facing glazing and amended street elevation received on 29 February 2016.	Recommended for approval by PC with reservations re flooding risks. Approved 04 Mar 16
<a href="#">P16/S0042/HH</a>	The Garden House Roke	Single storey side and rear extensions with roof alterations	Planning Permission granted 25th February 2016
<a href="#">P15/S4144/HH</a>	Old Farm Cottage Roke	Conversion of existing three car barn garage into single bedroom guest accommodation.	SODC (and PC) are waiting for amended plans to show what is actually being proposed. SODC website still shows Target Decision date of 21.03.16