

THE PARISH OF BERRICK SALOME

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2018 at the Berrick Salome Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

1. Apologies for absence

Guy Slocombe, Abigail Clayton, Susan Radice.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2017 were summarised by John Radice. The following errors were corrected:

Item 7: Monica Hyde was elected to the Quarry Charity Committee, and Tim Clayton and Marian Shaw were not.

Item 8: Chris Cussens reported to the Meeting, not Jane Franklin

The corrected minutes were signed by Ian Glyn.

3. The Annual Report of Parish Council

This was presented by the chairman, Ian Glyn.

The pace has increased this year. And, again, the driver for the activity has been what's proposed for Benson and Chalgrove and the effect of those proposals on us in Berrick. But then overlaid on all that came the proposed Expressway. To say that we feel under siege is, perhaps, an understatement.

Before I go in to detail, I ought to refer to a "game changer " that occurred a couple of weeks ago.

Over the last few years, SODC had effectively lost control of the Planning System as they were unable to demonstrate a five-year housing supply. The rules are that, absent a five-year housing supply, a Planning authority has to apply a presumption in favour of granting consent unless there is clear detriment. That's why so many Planning Appeals were won and SODC were reluctant to apply the value judgements that they had previously. A couple of weeks ago SODC announced that they did indeed have a five-year housing supply. Not only did that mean that I had to change the tone of this report at the last minute, but it changes many of the dynamics of what we have been facing. I hope that David Turner will touch on this and explain what's been happening later in the meeting.

Planning in the parish.

We have been asked to comment on 19 Planning Applications in the year. Of those, 17 were within the Parish boundaries, with the other two being in Benson. On those two, our views were sought because of their effect on the Parish (and Rokemarsh particularly). Let me come back to those later.

Of the 17, we felt content to recommend approval on 16. And of those SODC subsequently granted 13. We disagreed on Shepherds Cottage (which subsequently got permission at Appeal), Rose Cottage (which has failed at Appeal) and West Cottage where SODC considered a staircase to have more historic value than we saw in it.

From that record, you will see that your Parish Council has tended to agree with SODC's approach to Planning this year. Our presumption remains that house owners should do what they wish with their homes so long as there is no detriment to others.

Planning -Benson Applications

The two Applications in Benson that directly affect us are Ben 3/4 and a recent Application to develop 19 houses on the field beside The Orchard in Rokemarsh. The Orchard sits within Berrick Salome Parish but the field (while it is owned by the Owners of the Orchard) falls within Benson Parish. The owners of the Orchard admit that their Application is driven by the prospect of Ben 3/4 being granted permission and the effect that that would have on their property. It is not supported by the Benson Neighbourhood Plan and flies in the face of statements made therein and in the Ben 3/4 Application: -

Statements that a physical barrier will be maintained between Rokemarsh and Ben 3/4. Who knows what SODC will think of the Application? but we shall oppose it with all the vigour that we can muster.

The position with regard to Ben 3/4 is clearer but not very palatable for us. It is supported in the Benson Neighbourhood Plan ["BNP"] and, consequently, looks likely to be recommended for Approval by the officers in the SODC planning department. In fact, it almost went to Committee in January with such a recommendation. I am pleased to say we managed (with others I suspect) to stop that happening by using the argument that it would be absolutely wrong for an Application of that scale and nature, and one which relied so much on the support for it implicit in the Neighbourhood Plan, to be considered before the Plan itself had survived the scrutiny of the Examiner and achieved its legality through referendum. The BNP has now been recommended by the Examiner and is due to go to referendum in June. Other things being equal I feel that Ben 3/4 is moving towards getting Planning Permission. And I say that principally because it is a basic platform of the BNP. And it is a basic platform of the BNP because it delivers for Benson the Relief Road that they crave.

The Examiner of the Plan recommended to SODC that residents in Rokemarsh should have a voice in the Referendum on the BNP. I'm hoping that SODC will honour this recommendation and, assuming that it does, hoping that parishioners living in Rokemarsh will vote as they think appropriate. Because of what I've said above, I'm sure you'll appreciate the direct link between the BNP being approved at Referendum and Ben 3/4 succeeding at a subsequent Planning Committee.

As a Parish Council charged with representing the interests of our Parishioners, we have a very difficult decision to take in this regard. On the one hand we have to respect the good people of Benson for producing an excellent Neighbourhood Plan which, apparently, delivers for them what they want. I say "apparently" because the Plan has yet to go to referendum.

But, on the other hand, Ben 3/4 has very seriously negative effects on us in Berrick Salome. The dilemma we face is that we are advised by Counsel, instructed by us, that there is a potential avenue for us to challenge the legality of the BNP through a Judicial Review. Such a challenge will only succeed if there is an error of law in the Neighbourhood Plan and Counsel tells us that there is such an error. Counsel also points us to several inconsistencies between the Benson NP and the Examiner's comments on it.

But such a challenge will be expensive and, while there are ways of limiting the cost burden, is beyond our existing budget without some significant fund raising. So, it is not a course of action that we can contemplate lightly. And even if we could, I think we need to think carefully about whether it is the right thing to do. We have to balance the apparent will of the people of Benson with the disastrous effect that Ben3/4 will have on our Parish. And, overriding all this, there is likely to be a very short window of time (arising very shortly) for us to decide what to do.

I do not feel that this is the right time or place to discuss this matter further, but I would be very happy to explain more in another forum if anyone wants to form or express a firm view on the matter and I'm sure your Parish council will cover the issue later this evening when it holds its Parish Council meeting.

Let me move on now to the other elephant in the Room.

Chalgrove

The proposed development of 3,000 homes at Chalgrove airfield fundamentally underpins SODC's emerging 2033 Plan. That plan was important to us because it delivered the required 5-year housing supply and that put planning control back in to the hands of SODC. As I have already mentioned, that aspect of the Plan's importance has been watered down with last week's announcement.

The Plan was ready to go off to Inspection a couple of months ago but SODC have suffered a series of knocks in this regard and they are being forced to reconsider the Plan generally and Chalgrove particularly. While this is good news for us in the context of our concerns about Chalgrove, the delay involved in rewriting the Plan is worrying.

We cannot assume that Chalgrove is dead, but the resistance to moving shown by Martin Baker certainly makes it a less immediate threat. The one positive aspect of Chalgrove to report is that it seems to be accepted currency that, if it is to proceed, then Hollantide Lane needs to be upgraded to take any traffic away from Berrick Salome.

Expressway

If Chalgrove is the elephant, then how shall I describe the Expressway? Let's call it a dinosaur, for if it were to follow the more southerly of the southern routes proposed it would clearly be devastating for us all. We can only wait and see what Highways England say in the summer when they choose a preferred corridor. Suffice to say at this point that the tacit support that may have been in the back of Mr Cotton's mind when he first responded publicly to the news of it coming through SODC may not be so forthcoming absent Chalgrove (and Mr Cotton). I would expect SODC to campaign more vigorously in favour of a route going north of Oxford in future.

OCC, however, are now on record as saying there must be no question of the Expressway piggy backing on the A34 round Oxford as that road is now at capacity.

We are campaigning as one with others to persuade the current decision makers that a northern route is infinitely more sensible. But the one thing that is absolutely certain is that, if that initial campaign fails, then so will the unity amongst southern Parishes as we all retrench to fight our corners.

I cannot see the immediate threat to Berrick as being too serious, as I cannot believe that Highways England would countenance the route that so devastates our Parish, but the sooner the issue goes away the better – for obvious reasons. So, we wait till the summer for the decision of Highways England.

Let me now move on to more domestic issues.

Thames Water

Until very recently we have been mercifully free of flooding issues relating to the drains. This is fortunate as Thames Water have moved us off the priority list for fixing the issue. Their reason for so doing is that the household survey which they conducted in 2016/2017 did not produce evidence of significant difficulties in our households and the issues that were referred to were undated and, therefore, dismissed by Thames Water.

I find that reason (the lack of date) absolutely inexcusable and a complete cop out on their part but it is disappointing to note that, so few parishioners replied to the survey. We will now rely on the Thames Water work implicit in Ben 3/4 (if that project proceeds) delivering for us an exit pipe of sufficient girth to evacuate our sewage. The minute that Application is decided, David Bridgland will be on the case.

Water Courses

It is a few years since we excavated and cleared our ditches and ensured that all property owners were carrying out their obligations in this regard. I think we should make that a project for this year and will be looking for a champion to drive that through.

Broadband

I believe that the Gigaclear project has been very successful and that there is general contentment and satisfaction on that score and I propose to write to Gigaclear accordingly to congratulate and thank them – unless you tell me that my regard for their work is misplaced.

Bridleways

Similarly, I would like to commend the work that Caroline Tribe and her team have done to make our bridleways happier, more accessible places. We will continue that work. Thank you, Caroline.

Playground

The Playground equipment is reaching its sell by date, but we continue to keep it safe and as sound as possible. Thanks to the Crump family, Ray Perfect, John King, Craig Tribe and Roger Smith for their efforts this year on that task. I think the equipment has got a few more years life in it yet, but only because we are taking creative remedial action to keep it going.

Village Hall

Stage 2 of the Village Hall refurbishment was successfully completed in the year and I believe that the relationship with the Bridge club remains in our best interest. I'm conscious of the concerns of some residents re the Bridge Club usage of our Hall but "you don't get ought for nought" and I firmly believe that the relationship is in our best interests. John Bird will talk later about the Hall and plans for the future, which might well involve a change to the constitution of it during the coming year.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Planning team has continued to work hard on the project. If you think that it seems to be taking a long time to come to fruition – then you'd be right.

Delays have occurred in getting the necessary grants in place and the whole process is becoming more complicated – the further we look in to the ramifications of the Plan the more certain we become of its worth but the more apparent it becomes that, to do it properly, is a serious project. We will take on professional help where needed, funded by grants. We would hope to have the Plan ready for inspection by the end of the year.

Traffic Calming

Similarly, the work to discourage the volumes and speed of traffic using our lanes is awaiting clarity re Benson and Chalgrove. We can't go about getting funds for any work until we know what the issue is that we face and where the funds will come from.

We are quietly working away in the background on this issue pending that clarity. Full discussion will be had before any proposal is actioned but, meanwhile the growth of tree rounds on the verges seems to me to be having the desired effect of slowing traffic down.

2019 Election

We face elections for Councillors in May next year. I hope that my fellow Councillors will want to continue and will put themselves forward for re-election as they're doing a tremendous job. Many thanks to Steve, Craig, David and Ellie.

But, in any event, it would be good to have fresh input, so I hope that we can generate interest from others to stand. The government's push towards localism makes the activities of your Parish Council ever more relevant and important. I hope that you can see that the activities described in this report (even in this tiny Parish) are very salient and relevant to our wellbeing.

As for me: I've been a Councillor for too many years and I think you all need a new face at this table, so I propose not to stand in the hope that there will be a queue of candidates to take my place.

Meanwhile there is one person who deserves very special recognition. Chris Cussens (our clerk) has been doing an unbelievably good job for two years keeping us all informed and in order. He has taken "clerking" to a completely new level. Fortunately, he's indicated that he is prepared to continue in that role – which is very good news indeed. Many, many thanks – Chris – from all of us.

So that's it for this year. Let's hope we get some of the outstanding issues resolved soon.

4. To receive the observations of the County and District Councillors

Steve Harrod reported on behalf of OCC:

Infrastructure Funding Bid

The Oxfordshire Growth Board (comprising the 6 councils: Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council, together with the county's Local Enterprise Partnership) has provided unanimous support for an application to the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) as part of a package of investment to deliver transport infrastructure. The funding bid for up to £500 million was submitted on 28 September by OCC as the county's transport authority. Money is sought to bring forward infrastructure investment to pump-prime three major development schemes:

1. Didcot Garden Town – £171m is bid for transport improvements including a Didcot Science Bridge and A4130 dual carriageway, a new river crossing at Culham and Clifton Hampden Bypass. This would support the delivery of over 22,000 homes in Didcot, Culham, Harwell and Berinsfield. Additionally up to £70m of cycle and other sustainable transport improvements are proposed for inclusion in the bid plan.
2. West Oxfordshire Garden Village – £135.4m is bid for further upgrades to the A40, building on existing schemes and based on the approved A40 Long Term Strategy including development of the Rapid Transit network and additional highway capacity on A40 transport corridor. This would support the delivery of over 10,000 homes in Witney & Carterton, and around Eynsham.

3. North of Oxford – £152m is bid for the development of Rapid Transit lines on upgraded A44 and A4260 corridors, a new Park & Ride, and strategic cycle infrastructure plus. Support is also sought for additional education requirements (as yet un-costed). This would support the delivery of 5,570 homes in Woodstock, Begbroke/Yarnton and the Northern Gateway.

Growth Deal

The Oxfordshire Growth Board has also reached an outline Housing and Growth Agreement (Growth Deal) with Government. This will see an additional £215m of investment over the next five years to build infrastructure, support the delivery of new homes and boost economic productivity across the county. This breaks down as: £30m pa for five years for infrastructure; £60m for affordable homes across the county; and £5m to develop a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP). The Board wants the five-year deal to be the first stage in a sustained partnership with Government to secure the ongoing investment needed to deliver properly planned growth and economic development over the coming years. This will support councils to achieve the ambition of 100,000 new homes across the county over the period 2011-2031, as identified through the 2014 countywide Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Local Plans. During the period of development all planning authorities will have their five-year land supply requirement reduced to a three-year land supply with that condition in place for the first three years of the new JSSP. The Growth Deal has gone through the six councils' democratic processes and been agreed.

Social Care Costs & Council Tax

The rising cost of social care continues to be a problem for most councils and OCC is particularly hard hit. In partial recognition, Government has allowed councils to set an additional 3% Council Tax rise for 2017/18 and 2018/19 in respect of Adult Social Care plus 1% for 2018/19 and 2019/20 in respect of Children's Services to offset these costs. The net result of this is that OCC Council Tax will rise by 5.99% in 2018/19, 2.99% in 2019/20, then 1.99% in 20/21.

Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) update

When I first joined OCC, the HWRCs were under threat and it was planned to have just three centres for the whole of Oxfordshire. I campaigned hard against this and in July 2017 OCC signed a new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) contract that secured all seven existing sites in the medium term, with no change to the sites opening hours or days.

1 million tonnes of rubbish transformed into energy at Ardley plant

OCC and its partner Viridor have marked the one millionth tonne of residual waste received at Ardley during December. The Ardley plant converts waste into electricity, rather than burying it in landfill. It produces enough energy to power 38,000 homes and can export up to 27MW per hour of electricity to the grid.

Ox-Cam Expressway

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) has published its report to Government on the Oxford-Cambridge arc. It advised on the need for long-term investment funding for new transport infrastructure to harness the region's economic potential, to benefit local people and boost UK plc in a post-Brexit landscape. Oxfordshire County Councillors are concerned about the proposals and have passed a motion calling for a Public Inquiry. This has been rejected by the Chairman of the NIC. The NIC has recommended that the most logical corridor for the expressway would be to closely align with the East-West rail project, broadly to the west and north of Oxford, although the NIC can only recommend. However, Highways England will announce their choice of 'corridor' later this summer, without any consultation other than a broad request for input from affected local authorities. A consultation will then be held to determine the specific route within this corridor, to which interested parties will have input.

Unitary Government

A proposal for Unitary Government for Oxfordshire was submitted to DCLG in the Spring of 2017 by OCC, SODC and The Vale. Cherwell, WODC and the City of Oxford did not take part. Since the General election, Government appetite for such proposals seems to have faded and there is no update on the situation, although Sajid Javid was seeming to be in favour, and his move to Home Office has probably delayed any decision.

Carillion: OCC agrees exit deal after company collapse

OCC has formally terminated its contract with Carillion LGS Limited effective from 1 February 2018, following the collapse of the parent company. This brought forward the already agreed end of the contract set for the end of June 2018. Carillion provided services on behalf of OCC including school meals and cleaning; maintenance of council buildings; property services, and building work such as school extensions. Carillion staff in OCC's maintained schools who contracted their services via OCC have been transferred to OCC, and services continue as normal. Services previously provided by Carillion to the county council will continue through a mix of bringing staff in-house (e.g. school meals, cleaning); continuing with suppliers (mainly catering), and working with existing sub-contractors (mainly construction and property services). Like every other Carillion customer, OCC is now working out the most cost-effective way to complete work left unfinished by Carillion. OCC will now take over direct responsibility for commissioning future construction work and service delivery. County council officers are reviewing the uncompleted works under the Carillion contract and talking to sub-contractors about the best way forward. OCC is establishing a process to assess, on a case-by-case basis, the impact on companies in the Carillion supply chain involved in providing county council services such as building maintenance.

David Turner reported on behalf of SODC:

General Comments

The Council is still operating from its temporary building in Milton Park following the fire in 2015. Given the current and ongoing disagreements over Unitary status between the County Council & the five District Councils in Oxfordshire, SODC has decided to go down the route of rebuilding its headquarters on the previous site in Crowmarsh. The situation is quite fluid, but nevertheless it will be very expensive to remain on its current temporary headquarters site in Milton Park and SODC needs to come to a conclusion on the issue.

Committees

For the past year (2116/17) I have been a member of the main Scrutiny Committee, the Planning Committee and the Constitution Review Committee. The Opposition Forum continues to have regular meetings with the Chief Executive when we discuss strategic issues which will be decided at the Cabinet meetings which I also attend to ask questions. During the last twelve months despite having only three members in the Opposition Forum we have provided the constructive opposition that any council needs. Following the resignation of the Council leader John Cotton the Council now has a new leader who is Jane Murphy. She has appointed a new cabinet which you will find with their portfolios on the SODC website. Jane has decided to reverse the previous decision of having a chairman of scrutiny from the ruling group and returned to the traditional situation of asking the opposition to chair scrutiny. In doing so she has asked me as leader of the opposition Group Forum to chair Scrutiny for the last year of the current council.

Housing & the Local Plan

The final, or so it was thought, consultations for the new Local Plan took place following a full Council meeting in September of last year with SODC proposing 3,000 homes as a new Strategic Site on Chalgrove Airfield. However, at a full council meeting on 27th March the Local Plan Option 1 (with only minor changes following the consultation) was rejected by 17 votes to 11 with 4 abstentions. The cabinet at a meeting on May 10th are now required to make one of two recommendations to a full council meeting on May 15th:

- Option 2: removing Chalgrove Airfield altogether and consulting on another strategic site or
- Option 3: continuing with Chalgrove airfield in the plan but seeking a reserve strategic site from previously discussed sites if Chalgrove Airfield becomes undeliverable.

In this connection, DT read out a letter from Martin-Baker stating that a Compulsory Purchase Order would be contested because an airstrip on another site would be operationally impractical. All other possible sites are being reexamined, including Culham, Grenoble Road, Wick Farm and Berinsfield. It is possible that the Cabinet may even make an alternative proposal. The problem this presents is that the money the Government has promised the Oxfordshire Growth Board which is for the whole of Oxfordshire is predicated on all the five District Council Local Plans being complete by March 2019. This is becoming a very tight schedule to achieve. It is vital that we keep up our opposition to the proposed Chalgrove Airfield development as in addition to the dire effects on Chalgrove this would

cause severe traffic issues not only on the B480 but on many minor roads including Berrick Salome, Roke, Rokemarsh, Brightwell Baldwin, Upperton, & Newton on the A329.

A worrying feature of the last year was that the District Council did not have the required "Five Year Housing Land Supply" as stipulated by the Government. This failure of the District Council has resulted in many more homes getting planning permission in the larger villages and in addition producing housing schemes in the smaller villages. This has meant significantly more homes for Benson, Chalgrove, Watlington & Chinnor with all the associated traffic issues for our area. However, the good news albeit too late to stop several housing schemes is that the annual update of the housing land supply now shows that SODC has a 5.4 years housing land supply. The District Council has spent a lot of time in the last couple of weeks checking the data as we have fallen foul of planning inspector's calculations in the last year when we claimed we had a 4.1 years supply but planning inspectors argued that we only had between 2 & 3 years supply.

Budget

The budget for 2018/19 was set with a £5.00 (4.5%) increase in Council Tax for a band D property, but this did involve like last year another big dip into reserves to achieve a balanced budget over the Five Year Medium Term Financial Plan. Whilst the Council has substantial reserves you cannot do this for ever so more savings will need to be made. SODC no longer receives any revenue support grant from central government. The section 151 officer who is required to legally sign off a budget drew attention to longer term financial issues unless more savings are made. Both the ruling group and the opposition supported this decision, but with the proviso of setting a plan in the coming year to stop the ongoing call on reserves which cannot go on for ever.

Leisure

The Council's leisure centres continue to be well used following their refurbishment although it is still difficult for residents without their own transport to access them. Programmes for fitness and health for the over 60's have now been set up across the District. One of the closest ones to Berrick Salome is in Chalgrove where table tennis and walking football twice a week are already operating very successfully.

Waste Management & Recycling

SODC is still the top recycling Local Authority in the UK, something we should all be proud of.

SO Charitable Lottery's first draw

The first draw took place on Saturday 28 April online via the SO Charitable Lottery Website. The community lottery was launched last month by South Oxfordshire District Council to raise funds for local charities and voluntary groups. So far, 53 good causes have successfully applied to become beneficiaries of the lottery.

From each £1 ticket bought, 60p goes to good causes and the local community. The rest of the money goes to the prize fund and running costs – the council does not receive any of the proceeds.

Capital

Full details can be found on the website by using:

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/grants-and-community-loans/capital-grants>

Questions

Rob Marsh asked how the land supply issue might affect Ben 3/4. Ian Glyn said that it is in the BNP, it is then 'Plan-led' and thus presumed to be approved.

5. Statement of the Parish Council's accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017 and observations

Craig Tribe reported as follows:

On behalf of the Parish Council I present the receipts and payments accounts of the Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Receipts for the year totalled £20,420. This is similar to last year's amount of £20,117 but for different reasons. The precept was £6,514. The majority of the remaining income came from a grant of £5,009

from SODC for the village hall improvements and a grant of £5,000 from SODC towards the cost of the neighbourhood plan. Most of the latter amount remained unspent at the year end. In addition to these amounts £3,891 of VAT paid was recovered.

Total payments for the year were £26,735 compared with £3,787 previously. The main reason for the increase was the expenditure on the village hall improvements of £15,018. This was fully covered by the grant from SODC of £10,018 and the donation of £5,000 from the Quarry charity which was received in 2016-17. Other larger than normal payments were for the maintenance of the playground and general village maintenance. VAT paid on the total expenditure was £3,959.

There was a net deficit for the year was £6,315. This compares with a surplus of income over expenditure last year of £16,330. Remember that £10,009 of income received last year was spent in this period.

Total reserves carried forward to 2018-19 are £18,028. A reserves summary is shown at the foot of the accounts. Of the total amount all but £6,535 is allocated to specific projects. Since the year end £2,000 of this general reserve was allocated to the legal fees reserve.

For 2018-19 the Parish Council took the decision to increase the Band D precept by 10% or £4 per household. The total precept for 2018-19 is £7,166 compared with £6,514 for 2017-18. The council believe it is important to build and maintain healthy reserves to help us fight unwanted development and also to look at ways of improving the villages.

The expenditure level in 2017-18 means that our annual return is subject to external audit. As such the information I have provided is unaudited and may change.

6. To receive the report of the Berrick Salome Quarry Charity

Guy Slocombe, Trustee and Chairman, provided a report as follows:

Charity Overview

The Quarry Charity brings in a rental income of £2,000 per annum from the business on the B4009 on an old disused quarry. The Charity exists to administer these funds for projects or equipment which benefit the community of Berrick Salome Parish (Berrick Prior, Berrick Salome, Roke and Rokemarsh). Anyone can apply for funding on behalf of an organisation or village project. The Trustees, a small group of villagers, elected annually at the Village Meeting, administer these funds on behalf of the village. Anyone interested can ask to be nominated for election - just contact Guy Slocombe (01865 400931, 07979603079 gslocombe@btinternet.com) or Abigail Clayton (07738319200 abigail.clayton@getfeedback.net).

Current Funds

The Quarry Charity's bank balance May 2017 stood at £5,795.14. Our income over the year has been £2,000.00 derived from rent received from the Wilkinson's Wood Yard site on the B4009. Interest of £5.01 was also received.

No requests for funds were made over this time.

This leaves the current balance at £7,800.15

7. Election of Committee of Management of the Berrick Salome Quarry Charity

The committee comprising Guy Slocombe, Monica Hyde, Neville Gill, Julie Bird, Abigail Clayton (treasurer) and the Chairman of the Parish Council was re-elected en bloc, proposed by Jane Franklin and seconded by Nicole Glyn.

8. The accounts and report of the Berrick Salome Relief in Need Charity

Jane Franklin reported to the Meeting:

The Charity was set up to provide grants of money, provision of items or provision of facilities for persons in need living in the Parish of Berrick Salome.

Income is received from rent from a parcel of agricultural land and a fixed interest investment plus interest on accumulated income. Chalgrove Charities, who manage the agricultural land for us, have successfully renegotiated the rent, so we will now receive an improved income annually.

No grants have been made over the past year.

The Trustees of the Charity are

The Rev Canon Ian Cohen (ex-officio as The Rector for the time being of St. Helen's Berrick Salome)
Nominative trustees appointed by the Parish Council of Berrick Salome

Mrs. J. Franklin (Chairman)

Mr. C. Cussens (Treasurer)

Co-optive trustees appointed by special resolution of the Trustees with special knowledge of the Parish

Mrs. S. Clayton

Mrs S Derbyshire

Mr C Cussens of Mokes Corner, Berrick Salome Oxon OX10 6JR) acts as administrative officer.

Financial Statement for the year ended 31st August 2017

Receipts and Payments Account

	y.e. 31.08.17	y.e. 31.08.16
Receipts		
Interest on 195 M&G Charibond shares	8.96	9.88
Rents from Chalgrove charity y.e. 31 December	309.01	309.01
Interest on COIF charities Deposit A/c	39.80	54.11
	<u>357.77</u>	<u>373.00</u>
Payments		
Grant for educational expenses	0.00	200.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	357.77	173.00
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31/8/16 (31/8/15)	12,027.31	11,854.31
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31/8/17 (31/8/16)	<u>12,385.08</u>	<u>12,027.31</u>

9. To receive a report by PAGE on gravel extraction

The following report was presented by Rob Marsh:

The key points being: OCC Full Council approved Part 1 of new Minerals and Waste Strategy on 12th September, Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA), which is the annual sales planning number set at 1.015 million tonnes compared to the 2016 last 10 year sales average of 595kt (an excess of 70%) or 3 year of 686kt (48%). This provides operators with the opportunity to apply for planning applications way in excess of likely need. Additionally, 75% of new sites will be located in the south of the county compared to 25% in the west.

OCC launched Part 2 -Site Allocations earlier this year requesting site nominations from operators. There has been a big response with many previous nominations re-confirmed and a few new sites put forward.

All the PAGE sites of Benson, Dorchester, Shillingford and Warborough (SG 03 & 13, 5.4 mt) and Berinsfield, Drayton St Leonard, Newington and Stadhampton (SG09 & 59, 6.0mt) have been re-confirmed.

The key message is the threat of gravel extraction in the PAGE area is still very much alive! OCC's timetable is:

- 22 May Consultation Paper to Cabinet
- June-July Consultation on site options
- Jan-Feb 2019 Consultation on Preferred Options
- Sept-Nov 2019 Proposed submission plan for representations
- Dec 2019 Plan to Secretary of State
- March 2020 Independent examination hearings
- Nov 2020 Adoption of Part 2 -Site Allocations

This timetable assumes no slippage, experience over the last few years is that this is highly likely! So we have a fight on our hands for at least the next 3 years to protect our parishes from sand and gravel extraction. In the interim period any operator can apply for planning permission.

The PAGE Steering Group, with representatives from all 8 parishes, has agreed to continue to lead this campaign to protect our villages, with the support of professional consultants.

We greatly appreciate the financial support from Berrick Salome, Roke and Rokemarsh parish and trust that you have budgeted for continuing support in 2018/19.

In answer to a question from John Radice, RM confirmed that the work done previously by PAGE still holds good and means that our local sites are very unlikely to be selected. The large area between Stadhampton and Drayton St Leonard will, however, be difficult to contend.

10. To receive a report on the Village Hall

The following report was presented by John Bird:

Finance

The VHMC bank balance stands at approximately £8,000 in credit and the hall looks set to remain in funds for the remainder of the rent-free period with Wallingford Bridge Club to repay off the advance made to help with the Phase 2 renovation in 2017

Hall extension and car parking

A proposal by WBC to extend the hall towards the playground to provide a storeroom, teaching area and enable a second front door for multi-use, met with adverse reaction from some villagers at the last parish council meeting. An alternative suggestion made was that the hall might be extended into the car park, but for the time being the project has been shelved and the priority is now simply on reinforcing the overflow car park to overcome parking difficulties and safety concerns during the winter months. This idea was tabled at the last parish meeting and met with no objections, but an enquiry was needed with SODC to see what might be needed by way of permissions. JB emphasised the the project was to enable year-round use of the overflow car park, not to accommodate more cars

Management

Prior to the meeting, John Parkinson and Ian Glyn had reviewed the VHMC constitution and found it needs redrafting in several places to reflect the change in circumstances since it was written in 1980. This has raised a more general question, ie whether the current structure of the VHMC operating as a separate charity to manage the hall on land leased from Berrick Salome parish is the most appropriate way to run the hall today.

It is proposed that the VHMC asks the parish council to consider taking over management of the hall, perhaps with a small sub-committee to look after the day-to-day issues as the VHMC does today. If the parish council decides that direct management would be a more appropriate way of managing the hall then the VHMC can liaise with the charity commission to see what is necessary to dissolve itself as a separate registered charity. If, however, the parish council decides there are benefits to maintaining the current management structure (eg finance and VAT recovery) then the VHMC will need legal advice to get the constitution revised and brought up to date.

The VHMC was re-elected en bloc: proposed by Colin Hoad and seconded by Derek Shaw.

11. To receive a report on the allotments

The following report was presented by Alison Blakey:

There are now more allotment holders, because some share one. Each makes a voluntary donation of £10 towards the cost of mowing and strimming.

The large heap of rubbish has now had its compostible constituents removed, leaving material which will have to go to land-fill. Quotes are being sought for that.

12. Any other business

- 12.1 John Radice queried the positioning of new trees alongside the new house at the west end of Roke, which appeared to be in the Highways verge rather than in the property curtilage.
- 12.2 John Radice raised the matter of the telephone box. It had been suggested to him that a second-hand old-style box could be purchased as a feature for the village. If not, BT should be chased to complete the job of removing it entirely. IG said that so far BT was not responding to his representations.
- 12.3 John Radice deplored the low quality of road patching recently (as well as its tardiness). In contrast, the letter of thanks to Gigaclear should mention how expertly the road surfacing has been made good by them.

The Meeting concluded at 9.09 pm.