

**Minutes  
Berrick Salome Parish Council**

The Meeting of the Berrick Salome Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Berrick Salome, on Thursday 12th Mar 2020. Present:

Ian Glyn [IG] (Chair)  
Ellie Cross [EC] (Councillor)  
Craig Tribe [CT] (Treasurer)  
Mike Craven-Todd (MCT) (Councillor)  
David Turner [DT] (District Councillor)  
Chris Cussens [CC] (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence  
David Bridgland [DB] (Councillor)
2. Declarations of interest regarding items on the Agenda  
None
3. To approve and sign Minutes of the PC meeting of Jan 9th, 2020  
Approved

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

[Ref Para 9] Bark chippings for the playground will be delivered on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

5. County and District Councillors' Reports. Click on links to open.

- 5.1. OCC: [Monthly Report](#)
- 5.2. SODC: [Monthly Report](#)

IG reported that a meeting had been held with John Howell MP (JH) regarding the unauthorised development in Roke. JH stated that he had no statutory power relating to this issue but did agree to write to SODC to support the PC's objection and confirm the government's position on unauthorised development.

With regard to the Local Plan, IG sought clarification from DT as to whether one can put up a plan and then object to it, effectively stalling it? DT advised that the official SODC position is to support the plan but that individual councillors may speak against parts of it.

IG asked on what basis did the previous Council sign off the budget, which was clearly heading for a problem. DT stated that they were relying on reserves, which they were entitled to.

CT asked whether SODC had received any support from our MP or the new MP for Wantage relating to the undemocratic intervention by the Secretary of State on the Local Plan, removing statutory power from one council and giving to another by invitation. DT said that he was unaware of any such support although JH supported the council's position on the Green Belt. DT also stated that the Secretary of State had agreed to meet the leader of the Council, Sue Cooper, but this has not happened.

CT asked how much SODC received from their insurance following the burning down of their offices. DT said £5m plus cover for the expenses of operating from different offices, the latter having now finished. DT said that the final budget for the new building had not been decided but that it was important that it was sustainable and income generating.

6. Treasurer's Report (See Appendix 1 for details)

All payments and the transfer were approved. CT thanked DT for contributing from his fund towards the Village Hall car parking area.

7. Planning (See Appendix 2 for details)

- i. The following planning application has been completed.
  - a. [P19/S4530/FUL](#) - Land adjacent to Stonehaven – new dwelling; SODC granted permission
- ii. To note the responses of the Parish Council to the following application.
  - a. [P19/S2721/FUL](#) - Land north of Chapel Lane – PC objected Sep 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Addition information (rebuttal statement) was provided by applicant Feb 21<sup>st</sup> to which PC objected
  - c. SODC decision pending

iii. Enforcement Investigations

[SE16/41](#) – Lower Berrick Farm – compliance visit being arranged

[SE18/453](#) – Land west of Fairfield – under investigation

[SE20/16](#) – Well Cottage, Roke – under investigation

8. Coronavirus

After discussion, it was concluded that it would not be possible or wise for the Parish Council to undertake responsibility for coordinating activity centrally. The PC saw it as a crucial and important aspect of normal village life that such support would be available as a matter of course from friends and neighbours of those affected and the PC felt confident that that would be the case. The PC saw its responsibility as being to pass on official advice as it emerges.

It was proposed to offer up the Parish Clerk's email address to anyone who felt they needed help and support in extremis and that the PC would endeavour, on an informal basis, to locate parishioners or others who might be able to offer the necessary support in response to such requests. For those without email, it was proposed to hand deliver a note providing telephone contact details.

9. Tree Planting

Parishioner Richard Bisson advocated a programme of tree planting for the Parish. His presentation can be read in Appendix 3.

The PC were supportive of the proposal and agreed to investigate opportunities, for which MCT agreed to work with RB.

ACTION  
MCT

10. Benson Community Green Space Trust (Appendix 4)

CT Explained the origins and purpose of the Benson Community Green Space Trust. All Parishioners are invited to attend a public meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>; details can be viewed in the poster which is displayed on the Parish Notice Boards and in Appendix 5. CT believed it would be good if the Parish had a volunteer to become a trustee. Richard Bisson agreed to consider this and would provide his details to CT.

11. Village Hall Improvements

Everything is ready to go but arrangements for funding of the work are not finalised. Work in this regard is ongoing.

12. Traffic Group

Work is ongoing. A plan is being proposed and drawn up for discussion with OCC Highways before it is presented to the Parish for comment.

13. Ditches and Watercourses

DB, the councillor responsible for this area, had provided apologies for absence. He provided the report in Appendix 6.

14. To consider any other matters the Chairman deems urgent – for information only

None

15. Date of next meeting

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

\*Signed ..... Chairman

\*Date.....

\* Approved at Video PC meeting of May 14<sup>th</sup> 2020

## Appendix 1: Responsible Financial Officer's Report

### To Parish Council meeting Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

1. Bank balances as at 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020 totalled £22,351. This included a £1,000 grant from OCC for obtaining plans for the parish traffic calming scheme and £1,970 from David Turner's SODC fund to go towards the improvement of the village hall car parking area. There were two unrepresented cheque totalling £95. The total reserves of the Parish were therefore £22,256.
2. At 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020 the accounts showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £6,029.
3. **Schedule of payments**

Confirmation of the Council requested for the following cheque payments:

Date	Chq. no.	Payee	Amount (£)	Purpose
26/01/2020	100777	Parishes Against Gravel Extraction	500.00	Donation
12/03/2020	100778	OALC	140.42	Annual subscription 2020-2021
12/03/2020	100779	WEL Medical Ltd	203.94	Replacement battery for village hall defibrillator

Confirmation of the Council requested for the following online payments:

Date	Payee	Amount (£)	Purpose
10/02/2020	SODC	55.26	Dog bin emptying 1 July – 30 September 2019
10/02/2020	SODC	55.26	Dog bin emptying 1 October – 31 December 2019
21/02/2020	Broomfield Tree Services	440.00	Allotment footpath hedge and tree surgery

Confirmation of the Council requested for the following direct debit payments:

Date	Originator	Amount (£)	Purpose
09/01/2020	1&1 Ionos	116.23	Annual fee, domain name and extra storage
09/02/2020	1&1 Ionos	3.59	Extra mail storage
09/03/2020	1&1 Ionos	7.19	Extra mail storage

There have been the following bank transfers since the last meeting.

Date	Transfer from	Transfer to	Amount £
28/02/2020	Community account	Business Premium account	2,732.06

- 4 VAT repayment of £172.40 received 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## Appendix 2: Planning Application Summary

Click on link in Planning ID Column for SODC document

Cllr Abbreviations: CT – Craig Tribe; DB – David Bridgland; EC – Ellie Cross; IG – Ian Glyn; MCT – Mike Craven-Todd

Date Abbreviations: PC – PC notification; EC – End of consultation; TD – Target Decision

Planning ID	Cllr	Location	Description	Dates	Status
<a href="#">P19/S2721/FUL</a>	EC	Land north of Chapel Lane	Change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for one gypsy family  Additional info provided	PC: 02 Sep EC: 10 Oct TD: 22 Oct  PC: 21 Feb EC: 09 Mar	PC objected Sep 27 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="#">P19/S4530/FUL</a>	MCT	Land adjacent to Stonehaven	Erection of detached dwelling with access, parking and garden	PC: 12 Dec EC: 16 Jan TD: 06 Feb	PC: no objections Jan 10 <sup>th</sup> SODC: granted 29 Jan

## Enforcement Investigations

Date Abbreviations: ND - Notice Date; ED - Effective date; CD - Compliance Date; TD – Target Date

Ref	Cllr	Location	Description	Dates	Status
<a href="#">SE16/41</a>	IG	Lower Berrick Farm	Without planning permission, the material change of use of the Land from (1) agriculture and (2) equestrian use to use for mixed purposes	ND: 26.6.19 ED: 9.8.19 CD: 9.11.19	Enforcement Notice Served
<a href="#">SE18/453</a>	EC	Land west of Fairfield, Roke	Without planning permission, the material change of use of land from woodland to equestrian use including the erection of 2m fence.	TD: 10.9.18	Application submitted Site visited 7 times
<a href="#">SE20/16</a>	EC	Well Cottage, Roke	Without planning permission, the erection of an outbuilding within the curtilage of a listed building.	TD: 26.2.20	Investigation Site visited once

## Appendix 3: Tree Planting for the Parish

### Presentation to the Parish Council by Richard Bisson

My interest in trees probably stems from having spent an awful lot of my boyhood climbing trees.

The importance of trees is well documented and with future climate predictions, we are constantly being advised that planting lots more trees is one important solution.

Tree cover in Oxfordshire currently stands at 9%, UK 13% but the Europe average is 35%.

A move to double tree cover in Oxfordshire will be debated by Oxfordshire County Council on the 31st March. So, an opportunity to write to our councillor!

Disease is also an issue; most will be familiar with the devastation caused by Dutch elm disease and more recently ash dieback.

I believe Radio 4 extra will be discussing ash dieback tomorrow afternoon on "nature's great invaders". The Earth Trust at Long Wittenham is doing sterling work with regard to disease resistance.

There are lots of organisations promoting tree planting, the Woodland Trust being one of the main ones. I have brought along a handful of their publicity material. Please take some.

Should the parish council decide to plant some trees on their land, the Woodland Trust would be happy to provide all the help and advice necessary. There are free packs available on a first come first served basis in March and November, the only condition being access to the general public...something to be encouraged.

Apart from this scheme, the Woodland Trust offers lots of other options for organisations and individuals to buy trees as described in their leaflet.

We are surrounded by farmland and lots of paddocks which offer opportunities to plant trees for hedging, shelter and shade for animals plus coppices in field corners and margins, all of which will also attract more biodiversity.

There is even a tree selection designed to help with drainage in waterlogged areas, something we are seeing more of.

Apart from all the above reasons to plant more trees, they are beautiful and I'm sure I'm not alone in looking forward to enjoying them throughout the seasons.

The answer to the Chinese saying when is the best time to plant a tree is...20 years ago! Hopefully it is never too late.'

## Appendix 4

### Benson Community Green Space Trust

The Benson Community Green Space Trust (BCGST) is a charity set up December 2019 in effect to replace the charity known as Benson Community Association (BCA). There is a public meeting to confirm this to be held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Millstream Centre, Benson, see appendix 5.

Both these charities have the objective to further or benefit the inhabitants of the parishes of Benson and Berrick Salome and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

In other words, it covers Berrick Salome parish as well as Benson, however the existence of the BCA was not well known, if at all, within this parish.

Although originally established in May 1972 to provide a community centre the main activity of BCA in recent years has been the purchase and management of Warwick Spinney. Warwick Spinney is a meadow with scattered trees and shrubs on the edge of Benson village near McDonalds and the BP petrol station. It is looked after by the Benson Nature Group (BNG) on behalf of the charity.

In the future it is hoped that any resident of Berrick Salome would feel free to benefit from access to the spinney in the same way that any Benson resident will. It is the intention of BCGST and BNG that the new organisation will make this charity land much more accessible to all, will give it much greater publicity and will manage the land proactively. It will of course be a matter for the new trustees to decide but it is likely that Warwick Spinney will be much better known and utilised much more than before. The new charity does continue to retain the power to award grants it considers appropriate.

# **Public meeting**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7:30PM  
in Millstream Centre**

## **Benson Community Association**

**Benson Community Association is proposing to wind up and pass its assets, including Warwick Spinney, to a new charity called Benson Community Green Space Trust, a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). The new CIO has now been registered by the Charity Commission with charity number 1186960. To complete the winding up process the trustees of the existing charity will need to transfer the charity's assets to the CIO.**

**The decision to transfer the assets needs to be confirmed by those voting members of Benson Community Association and the inhabitants of the Parishes of Benson and Berrick Salome and the neighbourhood who are aged 18 or over.**

**The resolution to be proposed at the meeting on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 is below and will be valid if passed by a simple majority of those present and voting.**

**This notice is dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020**

### **Resolution of the members of Benson Community Association and inhabitants of the Parishes of Benson and Berrick Salome**

The voting members of Benson Community Association and the inhabitants of the Parishes of Benson and Berrick Salome and the neighbourhood aged 18 years and over confirm the decision of the Council of Benson Community Association, registered charity number 264336 ("the Association"), to wind up the Association and to transfer the property known as Warwick Spinney and any other assets held in trust which remain after the satisfaction of all outstanding liabilities to a new charitable incorporated organisation in the name of Benson Community Green Space Trust registered charity number 1186960 which has objects similar to those of the Association.

## **Appendix 6: Report on Ditches and Watercourses by Cllr D Bridgland**

Thames Water have visited the village several times over the past few weeks to inspect the overflowing manhole covers at the Roke/Rokemarsh T-junction. They say the problem is water ingress upstream and that the Rokemarsh sewage pumping station is "working as it should be". We have challenged this and asked for data to show how often the pumps have been operating over the last 3 months, and how much water they have pumped when operating. We have asked them to confirm the maximum number of households the pumping station is designed to serve. If that number is around the 100 houses it currently serves, then it is operating at or near capacity and the pumping station needs to be upgraded. If that number is 120+ households, then water ingress is the problem and Thames Water need to put a plan in place to resolve this.

Our liaison officer, Denise Kinsella, is currently collecting this information and will provide it in the coming week or so.

We have also asked her for a Thames Water complaint reference number that villagers can provide if they want to contact CC Water (Consumer Council for Water). She suggested that anyone who wants to make a complaint should do this formally via the Thames Water site to get this reference number, and this will put CC Water into contact with her.

She will also ask Thames Water operatives to check how ground water is being handled at the unapproved Roke property when they next visit, to check it is not going into the sewer system and adding to our flooding problems.

She apologised for the current flooding situation and is clearly trying to help. She said right now that Thames Water are focussing on priority issues, such as homes flooding or not able to flush loos. But they will allocate time and resources to our problem when water levels fall, and they are able to do so.