

## THE PARISH OF BERRICK SALOME

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2014 at the Berrick Salome Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Craig Tribe, Susan Radice and Pam Marsh.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2013 were summarised by John Radice. The minutes were signed by Derek Shaw.

### 3. The Annual Report of Parish Council

This was presented by the chairman, Derek Shaw:

Quite a busy year during which the Parish Council held 8 meetings.

#### Council members:

Derek Shaw: Chairman  
Ian Glyn: Vice-chairman  
Craig Tribe: Treasurer  
Anne Kilduff  
Douglas Taylor

OCC Councillor: Following the resignation of Caroline Newton for family reasons Steve Harrod was elected as our representative on Oxford County Council.

Planning Applications: As usual planning applications took up a significant part of our time. This year there were a total of 14 application involving 10 properties. 12 were approved by both the Parish Council and SODC. One, for a garage at Barosan in Green Lane was supported by the Parish Council but refused by SODC and an application for a 3 bedroom house between Shepherds Cottage and Balnagowan was withdrawn by the applicant

Village Hall and playing field: The village field and the playground have been maintained during the year, the grass at the rear has been renovated. The oak trees planted two years ago to define the edge of the overflow car park are establishing themselves well. The village Hall committee organised the reroofing of the hall. More details will be presented at the AGM later this evening.

Sewers and flooding: As everyone will know this winter was the wettest for many years!!! Fortunately, due to the work of villagers keeping the streams bounding their properties clear (exercising their riparian responsibilities) and the work of the Land Drainage Group (discussed in more detail under item 11 in the Parish Council AGM) the villages suffered some inconvenience but no major damage. As usual there was the problem of road flooding in various locations. In particular the junction of the Roke and Braze Lanes was badly flooded with surface water and sewer overflow for many weeks. The surface water flooding will also be discussed under item 11. The following information has just been supplied.

*"Further to our conversation last week, the clean and camera survey has now been completed.*

*Our engineer has confirmed the sewer is fine and there's no further work that's required. It was noted in recent visits the wet well at the pumping station required a clean as the rag within the sewer had built up over the last couple of months at the base of the wet well. This will be completed next week which will allow the pumping station to work more efficiently.*

*I know you'd hoped our investigation would result in further work. However, this hasn't been the case because the flooding at the T junction manhole was caused by the increased flow due to the wet winter and the increase in groundwater levels, therefore there's no additional work we'll be completing."*

Road Gritting: Whereas this was a very wet winter it was a very mild winter, salt down on two occasions at the Roke / Rokemarsh junction when ice forecast. This was in contrast to last year when we needed to grit the whole of Roke on at least seven occasions.

Provision of broadband in the villages: Anne Kilduff and Kathy Maxwell have continued to coordinate activities to ensure the best possible broadband connections for the villages. Recently they had the good news from Oxfordshire County Council that Roke and Rokemarsh will receive faster broadband by the end of July. We can expect speeds of up to 24mbps but may vary in individual premises depending on the distance from the upgraded cabinet. Wallingford is the exchange for Roke and Rokemarsh (01494 numbers) and the cabinet serving this area is situated in Benson. BT is considering bringing fibre to the premises, on demand, in the future but for now we will be getting fibre to the cabinet and the existing copper wiring will deliver the higher speeds to our homes. Once the cabinets go live parishioners will need to contact their provider, it is not an automatic connection and can take up to two weeks from the time the cabinets go live to orders being accepted.

Unfortunately Berrick Salome and Prior were not included in the first phase of the rollout programme because they are on the Stadhampton exchange. However the good news for Berrick is that the Government recently announced additional funding for what is known as the 'super extension broadband' programme. They have been in touch with our District Councillor, Felix Bloomfield, and Craig Bower, Head of Communications at Oxfordshire County Council for more information and to ensure that Berrick is considered for this new funding. The funding has to be 'matched' by the District Council and discussions are taking place on how best to do achieve this. Oxfordshire County Council is also looking at alternative technologies such as wireless, satellite and advanced copper to extend the coverage. In the last couple of weeks the OpenReach interactive map has shown Stadhampton as an exchange for future work, a promising development. It is therefore recommended that all parishioners of Berrick Salome and Prior register their interest on the OpenReach website so that BT knows there is sufficient demand.

The Village Christmas tree: - Again this year a Christmas Tree was erected by the Millennium Stone. For personal reason Jim Vincent could not provide us with electrical power and battery powered light were used instead. Their performance was not as good as the mains powered lights. We plan to review the situation from this Christmas.

Parishes Against Gravel Extraction (PAGE): - The Parish Council contributed to PAGE again this year. Their positive report on the current status concerning gravel extraction in the area will be dealt with in item 6

Relations with RAF Benson: - The interactions between RAF Benson and the Parish Council have continued in a positive way.

Benson Library: - The future of Benson Library is still in a state of flux. As we understand it OCC will provide all necessary materials, plus 50% of the staffing, leaving the other 50% to be made up by volunteers.

The Village Website: - ([www.berrickandroke.org.uk](http://www.berrickandroke.org.uk)) Please look at the site and contact the [webmaster@berrickandroke.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@berrickandroke.org.uk) if you have any suggestions for improvement or wish to put any material on the site.

#### **4. To receive the observations of the County Councillor**

Stephen Harrod reported on behalf of OCC:

The Budget is rising by just 1.99%. In a tight financial situation, Highways are the area likely to suffer, but the Council would do the best it could. It is estimated that £167M is needed to address a backlog of maintenance; and at least £23M just to keep things getting no worse.

By the end of 2015 95% of the SODC area should have fast broadband. SODC are giving a grant of £1M towards the remaining 5%

**5. Statement of the Parish Council's accounts for the year ending 31 March 2014 and observations**

Craig Tribe tabled the accounts as follows:

---

**SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31/03/2014**

<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
<b>£6,000.00</b>	Precept	<b>£6,000.00</b>
	Grants	<b>£25.53</b>
<b>£8,000.00</b>	Donations	
<b>£0.20</b>	Interest	<b>£1.90</b>
	VAT recovered	<b>£2,441.03</b>
<b>£14,000.20</b>	<b>TOTAL Receipts</b>	<b>£8,468.46</b>
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
	Staff costs	
	Loan interest / repayments	
<b>£600.00</b>	Capital purchases	<b>£467.31</b>
<b>£295.60</b>	Christmas tree + decorations	<b>£33.33</b>
<b>£109.80</b>	Dog bin collections	<b>£236.50</b>
	Donations – Village Hall	<b>£500.00</b>
	Donations s.137	<b>£650.00</b>
<b>£174.00</b>	External audit	<b>£70.00</b>
<b>-£10.80</b>	Fees	<b>-£18.00</b>
<b>£1,125.00</b>	Grass cutting	<b>£1,095.00</b>
<b>£546.29</b>	Insurance	<b>£534.54</b>
<b>£50.00</b>	Internal examiner's fee	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>£1,969.00</b>	Playground expenses	<b>£65.00</b>
<b>£10.00</b>	Printing	
<b>£9,730.00</b>	Repairs + Maintenance	<b>£175.46</b>
<b>£266.14</b>	Subscriptions	
<b>£525.00</b>	Tree removal	<b>£220.00</b>
<b>£199.02</b>	Website costs	<b>£165.73</b>
	VAT paid	<b>£231.55</b>
<b>£15,589.65</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£4,476.42</b>

Craig Tribe reported in summary as follows:

Receipts for the year totalled £8,468 and consisted primarily of the council precept of £6,000 and input VAT recovered of £2,441. The input VAT was recovered back to June 2010 which was the earliest we could claim back to. It is now being recovered on a regular basis. In 2012-13 receipts were £14,000. This consisted of the precept of £6,000 and donations of £8,000 towards the cost of re-surfacing the village hall car park.

Total payments for the year were £4,476 compared with £15,590 previously. The main reason for the reduction in expenditure is that last year included £9,730 relating to the car park re-surfacing. Also £1,894 was spent on playground maintenance which has not been necessary this year. The council made three donations in the year to local bodies. £500 was paid to the Village Hall, which represented their proportion of the input VAT that was recovered on the car park re-surfacing expenditure. Also £500 was donated to PAGE and £150 to FOBL (Friends of Benson Library).

The net surplus of income over expenditure for the year was £3,992. When this is added to the reserves brought forward for 2012/13 the Parish Council had reserves at the year-end of £8,815. The council has allocated some of these reserves towards particular expenditure, being legal fees in relation to the investigation of the title of village land, playground maintenance, general village improvements (e.g. verges as will be discussed later in the meeting) and land drainage works to alleviate the risk of flooding. A reserves summary is shown at the foot of the accounts.

For 2014/15 the Parish Council has held the precept at £6,000 for the fourth year in succession.

## **6. To receive a report by PAGE on gravel extraction**

The following report was presented:

The campaign has been going to 10 years now, and PAGE represents Benson, Berinsfield, Berrick Salome & Roke, Dorchester, Drayton, Stadhampton and Warborough.

As at last autumn, the Atkins Report had set out how much gravel should be extracted by 2020: this was challenged by PAGE and others. PAGE proposed a 10 year rolling basis and much reduced quantities; to which OCC agreed – but then OCC withdrew their Report after the government criticised it for a lack of consultation.

Extraction at Caversham and Gill Mill have been approved, so theoretically no further extraction should be needed. However, the new OCC Report is radically different, with new and much more extension 'areas of search'. Responses to this had to be in by 7/4/14; but after strong criticism, including from SODC, the public consultation has been put back to 2015. OCC seem to be uncertain, after spending a lot of money on misguided proposals. Problems in the new Report include:

1. A complete lack of site identification, hence a risk of widespread planning blight
2. It is against the National Policy Framework
3. No quantification or evidence
4. No rationale for areas. Some approved ones are now excluded

PAGE raises money from the public and additionally receives a grant from the Parish Council of £7 – 8K a year.

## **7. To receive the report of the Berrick Salome Quarry Charity**

Abigail Clayton, Trustee and Treasurer, reported as follows:

The Quarry Charity's bank balance at the end of April 2013 stood at £9,573.77

Our income over the year has been £2000.00 derived from rent received from the Wilkinson's Wood Yard site on the B4009. A miniscule interest of £5.30 was also achieved.

During the year no formal approaches for funding were received.

This leaves a current balance at £11,579.07

A provisional application has been verbally lodged with us seeking support towards the refurbishment of the St Helens Church Bells. We await detailed costings but as a committee we are looking to support this project as a priority.

In January 2014 David Pelling stood down as Chair of the charity after over 15 years of service. We would like to thank David for all of his hard work over this time and hope that this will be minuted as such.

We plan to appoint the next chair shortly but in the interim Tim Clayton had kindly offered to hold the fort temporarily.

The current Trustees of the Charity are: Tim Clayton, Marian Shaw, Abigail Clayton (Treasurer), Neville Gill, Guy Slocombe and Derek Shaw (as Chair of the Parish Council for the time being). Julie Bird has volunteered to join the committee. Julie is welcomed by all the existing trustees and therefore you are asked to re-elect the existing trustees for a further year and approve Julie to trusteeship.

We are also keen to hear from any other interested parties who would like to be involved with the charity committee – if you have an interest in joining please feel free to approach any of the current committee members or contact me directly.

## 8. Election of Committee of Management of the Berrick Salome Quarry Charity

The committee comprising Guy Slocombe, Tim Clayton, Marian Shaw, Neville Gill, Julie Bird, Abigail Clayton (treasurer) and the Chairman of the Parish Council was re-elected en bloc, proposed by David Pelling and seconded by Chris Kilduff.

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

Chris Cussens 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, started a process of renegotiating the rent; from this, we hope to receive an improved income annually.

Seven grants to the total value of £1450.53 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. Pelling (retired June 2013)

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

## Financial Statement for the year ended 31st August 2013

### Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts	y.e. 31.08.13	y.e. 31.08.12
Interest on 195 M&G Charibond shares	12.64	12.64
Rents from Chalgrove charity y.e. 31 December	309.01	309.01
Interest on COIF charities Deposit A/c	96.62	109.58
	418.27	431.23
	418.27	431.23

<b>Payments</b>	<b>y.e. 31.08.13</b>	<b>y.e. 31.08.12</b>
Grant for educational expenses	<b>272.95</b>	<b>377.36</b>
Grants for special needs, recreational & educational opportunities	<b>1,177.58</b>	<b>1,300.00</b>
Grants towards flooding relief		
	<b>£1,450.53</b>	<b>£1,677.36</b>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	<b>-1,032.26</b>	<b>-1,246.13</b>
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31/8/12 (31/8/11)	<b>13,240.69</b>	<b>14,486.82</b>
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31/8/13 (31/8/12)	<b>£12,208.43</b>	<b>£13,240.69</b>

## **10. Appointments of Representatives to other organisations**

Ann Ross explained the activities at the Millstream Day Centre, Benson.

The Manager is Dave Perry.

30 people attend lunches three times a week – the maximum number of sessions present funds permit.

A Book Sale takes place on Saturdays.

A conservatory extension is planned, to increase floor space.

There is a need for volunteer drivers on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

## **11. Any other business**

### *11.1 Church bells*

Wendy Simon, Tower Captain, reported.

There are 6 historic bells, 5 of them early C17. They were last refurbished in 1908, when an iron frame was installed.

David Pelling gave details of the Appeal:

The target is £37,000. All present and past residents are being contacted. The completion date is planned for April 2015.

### *11.2 Roadside verge repairs*

Ian Glyn reported:

The context is a declining service from OCC, whose Highways should be responsible for verges.

Verges are being damaged by parking and traffic encroachment.

The proposal was to reinstate seeded topsoil, and insert reflective timber posts in lieu of the plastic ones and in other key areas. Villagers can purchase these for £12 each. OCC have approved these ideas.

There being no other business, the Meeting concluded at 9.30 pm.