

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford, OX10 6LZ
Tel: 01491 825038 E-mail: clerk@benssonpc.org.uk

Minutes of the Benson Parish Council meeting held on **Thursday 22nd November 2018 at 7:30pm** in the Benson Parish Hall Committee Room.

Present:	Cllr B Pattison	Chair	Cllr R Jordan
	Cllr F Lovesey		Cllr S McCann
	Cllr T McTeague		Cllr P Murray
	Cllr D Olley		Cllr J Sharman
	Cllr T Stevenson		Cllr M Winton

Proper Officer: E Lemaire

Members of the Public: 6 members of the public were present including the reporter from the Henley Standard

1. Apologies: Cllrs P Baylis and C Robinson

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To receive reports from the following:

a. Cllr M Gray – OCC Member

Cllr M Gray submitted the following:

A meeting is being held on Wednesday 28th November with the OCC Property Team to discuss the Benson C of E School expansion proposal. The consultation period has now ended, and the responses are being considered – nothing further to report at this time.

Benson Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group intends holding 4 sessions per week as from January 2019; 3 sessions in the Youth Hall for parents with children up to the age of 5 and one session in the Parish Hall lounge for parents and babies supported by the Health Visitors.

b. Cllr F Bloomfield – SODC Member

Report attached.

c. Cllr S Cooper – SODC Member

Cllr S Cooper reported:

SODC submitted a well worded response refusing recommendation for the Benson C of E School expansion proposal and now awaits response from OCC. Sport England specified that no building should take place on the school field until a new field is provided. Legal agreement has been signed for provision of a new school field on BEN1 Phase2.

SODC will ratify the Local Plan 2011-2033 at the meeting of the Full Council on 20th December 2018.

The proposed Expressway will include the building of one million houses along the route. Cllr S Cooper feels this is not justified and will support the Oxford-Cambridge rail link over the Expressway.

Cllr T Stevenson thanked Cllr S Cooper on behalf of the Benson Nature Group for the grant awarded to the group. A grant was also awarded to Benson United Football Club to fund the update of its website. A grant is being considered for the Millstream Day Centre to fund architectural advice on extending the centre.

4. Public session

To allow members of the public to ask questions and address the Chair.

Peter Clarke addressed the Chair to provide further information on the Coggin's Benson village models. John Coggins was the village police constable in the 1920s and he later expressed his love for the village by building models of the village, predominantly a photo shot of the High Street from the Crown to the garage, also models of the area now the Waterfront Café in its final days as a coal yard and Coggins' house, Jasmine Cottage on the Old London Road.

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

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Members of the History Group feel the models would be a tremendous asset to the village and suggestions were given to exhibit them on shelves in the committee room or in the entrance foyer. The largest model measures 75" long x 18" wide.

Marty Lock addressed the Chair on behalf of First Benson Scout Group.

The Scout Group seek Parish Council consent to temporarily extend the Scout Hut with a view to building a new Scout Hut in the long term. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts groups have all grown and the current hall is no longer big enough.

The Scout Hut is a well-used but now dilapidated facility. The temporary extension would be in the form of a pre-fabricated garage wired into the side of the existing building using the current fire escape as access to the extension.

Dave Rushton addressed the Chair on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Infrastructure Team. The Neighbourhood Plan Infrastructure Team have been collecting data supporting the need for a pedestrian crossing on the A4074 – reports attached and been in discussion with OCC for 18 months. All aspects of the area as it is at present will be taken into consideration, including the parking on the verge and along St. Helen's Avenue, pedestrian access to the Waterfront Café and alterations to the Benson Marina bus stop pull in area. Cllr S McCann requested that cycle routes and safe walking routes to Wallingford School be given consideration.

5. Minutes of the last meeting

To approve and sign minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 25th October 2018
Members who were present at the meeting unanimously resolved to approve the minutes with no amendments. Cllr B Pattison signed the minutes as a true record.

The agenda was reordered and items 14, 15a, 15b and 17 discussed.

6. Benson Parish Council planning committee

a. To consider the following planning applications:

i. **BPC122/18 P18/S3357/HH Application Type:** Other

Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Address: 40 High Street Benson Wallingford OX10 6RP

Members resolved with 9 in favour and 1 objection to approve the application

ii. **BPC123/18 P18/S3358/LB Application Type:** Other

Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Address: 40 High Street Benson Wallingford OX10 6RP

Members resolved with 9 in favour and 1 objection to approve the application

iii. **BPC124/18 P18/S2262/RM Application Type:** Major **Amendment:** No. 1 - dated 18th October 2018

Proposal: A reserved matters application for the erection of 241 dwellings (including 40% affordable) with associated internal access, public open space, landscaping, sports provision, nature park and woodland, provision of community facilities including relocated school playing fields, youth hut, skate park and play space in association with outline application

P16/S1139/O. (As amended by revised drawings listed on drawing issue sheet 17212 dated 12 October 2018 and transport note and as clarified by landscape drawings on ACD Environmental drawing issue sheet dated 17 October 2018)

Address: Land to the north of Littleworth Road Benson

Members resolved with 9 in favour and 1 objection to approve the application subject to the following key elements as discussed by CALA Homes and the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group:

Benson PC welcomes the commitments made by Cala, in both its revised plans and in

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

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the two letters of reassurance it has provided, to ensure that the BEN1 Phase 2 development delivers significant benefits to the village. The Parish Council therefore supports this application. Our support is based on our clear understanding from our discussions with Cala that they will deliver all the key elements contained in those documents, most importantly:

1. Delivery of its section of the Relief Road, as specified in the revised plans submitted to SODC on 14th November 2018, - and in a timely fashion, as outlined in Cala's letter of 14th November 2018 from Richard Morris (Senior Land Manager) to Philip Murray and Bill Pattison.
2. Agreement with the Benson PC of a suitable design for the 1.5 storey Community Hall - and delivery of the specified building at a total 'capped' cost to Benson PC of £50,000, as committed in Cala's letter of 9th November 2018 from Andrew Aldridge (Land Director) to Philip Murray and Bill Pattison. Note also that Cala and Benson PC have agreed a target date of 28th February 2019 for submission of an agreed design for the Hall to SODC.
3. Delivery of a Skate Park - location and details to be agreed with Benson PC prior to submission of details to SODC - as committed in letter of 14th November 2018 from Richard Morris (Senior Land Manager) to Philip Murray and Bill Pattison.
4. Crossing points on the Relief Road, to be agreed with OCC, which provide appropriate, direct and convenient pedestrian access to village shops and amenities.

Cllr Winton does not agree that this application meets the criteria to be a reserved matters application. He objected to the proposed response from the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group being considered on the grounds that it had only been circulated by the NPDG along with communications from CALA shortly before the meeting and asked that the decision on the response be deferred to a future meeting. The drafting of the response was delegated to the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group subject to no Councillors having major objection to the response at the meeting held on 23rd August 2018. Members felt that the NPDG had achieved a good response from CALA in their negotiations and to further delay a response might jeopardise the outcome.

- iv. **BPC125/18 P18/S3432/HH Application Type:** Other
Proposal: Proposed single/two storey rear extension
Address: 15 Watlington Road Benson OX10 6LT
Members resolved with 8 in favour and 2 abstentions to approve the application
- v. **BPC126/18 P18/S3563/HH Application Type:** Other
Proposal: Demolition of existing rear conservatory, outbuildings and raised deck. Erection of a two storey side and rear extensions, replacement raised deck
Address: Churchfield Cottage 15 Oxford Road Benson OX10 6LX
Members unanimously resolved to approve the application
- vi. **BPC127/18 P18/S3039/FUL Application Type:** Minor
Proposal: Detached 3 bedroom dwelling
Address: 1 Newton Way Benson OX10 6NS
Members unanimously resolved to object to this application on the following grounds:
 1. Over-development
 2. Inadequate Parking
 3. Inadequate and unclear plans
 4. Failure to comply with Benson's adopted Neighbourhood Plan design principles - specifically Policy NP7 (Design) and associated Design Statement (Appendix B of the Plan), Principles L1 to L5 inclusive. These read:

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford, OX10 6LZ
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Design Principles: Infill housing in modern Benson

L1: New infill development shall respect the amenity of neighbouring properties.

L2: Extensions to existing buildings within areas of consistent architectural design should have particular regard to the appearance of the extended building as part of the street scene, and should seek to avoid harm to the character of the neighbourhood.

L3: Infill development should respect the existing pattern and density of settlement within the immediate neighbourhood, and maintain a spaciousness of layout consistent with the character of Benson as a village.

L4: Infill development should respect and complement the appearance of the existing neighbourhood in terms of scale, height, mass, materials and simplicity/complexity of design.

L5: Infill development that seeks to appear traditional in design should have particular regard to the distinctive character of historic Benson in terms of scale, height, and mass, and should seek to complement the local use of materials and design detail. Use of brick, tiles and slates that are harmonious in colour with local types, and of render, will be particularly appropriate. Other more specialist local materials should only be used with care and respect for their local quality and context.

vii. **BPC128/18 P18/S3706/FUL Application Type: Minor**

Proposal: Refurbishment of existing dwelling at 51 Littleworth Road and erection of one new 3 - bedroom dwelling in the infill plot between nos 51 and 55 Littleworth Road. Demolition of existing outbuilding and single storey extension at 51 Littleworth Road and provision of replacement single storey extension

Address: 51 Littleworth Road Benson OX10 6LY

Members unanimously resolved to approve the application subject to amendment of the plans to reduce the height of the new fencing proposed between the historic path and the retained house to no more than 1.2 metres. The 1.8 metre-high fencing currently proposed would be contrary to policies NP6 and NP7 (Design Statement Principles K8 and H3) of the Benson Neighbourhood Plan, and would not conserve the character of the Conservation Area

b. To note the following planning decisions:

i. **BPC110/18 P18/S2615/HH Planning permission GRANTED 23rd October 2018**

Application proposal, including any amendments: Single storey rear extension with glazed rooflights and replacement roof and new cladding to existing side projection

Site Location: 1 Old Barn Close Benson OX10 6LN

ii. **BPC111/18 P18/S2539/HH Planning permission GRANTED 24th October 2018**

Application proposal, including any amendments: To create two new velux windows in the roof - one north facing and one south facing

Site Location: 7 Fifield Barns Benson OX10 6EZ

iii. **BPC112/18 P18/S2540/LB Listed building consent GRANTED 24th October 2018**

Application proposal, including any amendments: To create two new velux windows in the roof - one north facing and one south facing.

Site Location: 7 Fifield Barns Benson OX10 6EZ

iv. **BPC116/18 P18/S3306/LB Planning permission GRANTED 13th November 2018**

Application proposal, including any amendments: Removal of internal partition walls and changes to the fenestration of an existing single-storey rear extension. (Works already carried out)

Site Location: 15 Brook Street Benson OX10 6LQ

7. Benson Parish Council Finance Committee

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford, OX10 6LZ
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a. Minutes of the last meeting

To approve and sign minutes of the meetings held on 1st and 13th November 2018
The meetings did not take place as were not quorate.

- b. To receive a report from the Chair of the Finance Committee
Nothing to report

8. Benson Parish Council Halls Committee

a. Minutes of the last meeting

To approve and sign minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 18th October 2018 and Tuesday 13th November 2018

Signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th October 2018 was deferred to the next meeting as there were not enough members present at that meeting in attendance. The meeting on Tuesday 13th November 2018 did not take place as was not quorate.

- b. To receive a report from the Chair of the Halls Committee
Nothing to report.

9. Benson Parish Council Recreations and Lands Committee

a. Minutes of the last meeting

To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th November 2018

Members who were present at the meeting unanimously resolved to approve the minutes with no amendments. The Chair was not in attendance to sign the minutes.

- b. To receive a report from the Chair of the Recreations and Lands Committee
- c. To make a decision on the Bertie West Field/23 Horseshoes Lane boundary
Members decided to suggest to the owners of 23 Horseshoes Lane that they pay the legal costs of registering the boundary in the position of their new fence. **Action:** Clerk to write to the owners of 23 Horseshoes Lane.
- d. To make a decision on the location of the Well's Crossing plinth
Parish office to decide.
- e. To make a decision on installing a dropped kerb and marking one parking space with hatchings to provide accessible pedestrian access to the Parish Hall from the Watlington Road crossing
Members expressed concerns about losing a car parking space. **Action:** Clerk to circulate pictures of the path and end car parking space. **Deferred to next meeting.**
- f. Recommendations to Full Council
- i. **Recommendation to Full Council to pay up to £2,004 + VAT to relocate the Anthill climber in Green Close, location to be decided, subject to the Wicksteed warranty not being affected.**
Wicksteed have confirmed that so long as the installation instructions are followed, the warranty will not be affected.
Members would like further details on the location the equipment would be moved to before making a decision. **Deferred to next meeting.**
- ii. **Recommendation to Full Council to spend up to £20 + VAT per meter for up to 120 meters on the Parish Hall car park hedge laying subject to verification by Cllr Stevenson of the most suitable contractor**
Members resolved with 9 in favour and 1 abstention to accept the recommendation.

10. Benson Parish Council Technology Committee

a. Minutes of the last meeting

To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd October 2018

Deferred to next meeting as not enough members present at the meeting were in attendance.

- b. To receive a report from the Chair of the Technology Committee
Cllr S McCann reported that the committee is looking to arrange a date for all Councillors to attend a meeting to discuss the way in which the Council operates and how it can work better

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

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moving forward.

11. To receive reports from Benson Parish Council Working Groups and Outside Bodies

a. Parish Hall Extension Working Group

The group are looking into the tenders received and breaking them down into sections of the building.

b. Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group

The group has been very active but nothing to report at present.

c. WWI Event Working Group

The WW1 event held in the Parish Hall on 3rd November 2018 was very well attended with visitors staying up to 4 hours. The Royal British Legion took £600 from the raffle.

The War Memorial display has received many complimentary comments **Action:** Clerk to write to Richard Irvine to thank and congratulate him for his work on the War Memorial flower display and to Matthew Beesley for his work on cleaning and repainting the lettering on the war memorial

12. To appoint two Councillors as substitute members of the Finance Committee whose role will be to replace the ordinary members at a meeting of a committee if the ordinary members of the committee confirm to the Proper Officer 3 working days before the meeting that they are unable to attend

Defer to next Finance meeting to consider a further permanent member on the Finance Committee.

13. Benson Community Association dissolution and Warwick Spinney ownership

Benson Nature Group is putting together an application for TOE2 funding for biodiversity enhancement work at Warwick Spinney and requires permission from the landowners to go ahead with the grant application. The Benson Community Association as current landowners have given consent and Benson Parish Council as future owners of the land also gives its consent.

14. Presentation by the 1st Benson Scouts Group

The Scout group needs Parish Council permission as the Scout Hut sits on Parish Council land. (See also item 4 public session.)

The demolition of the current shed and replacement with a prefabricated extension will be an improvement and enhance the area. The proposed temporary extension does not require planning permission and the expected cost is c.£2,000. The equipment that was stored in the current shed is now stored in the Canoe Hut at Rivermead. The Scout group have consulted with neighbours either side of the hut and have their approval so long as light to the houses isn't blocked.

15. To discuss and agree any proposals or approvals

a. To consider the request from the 1st Benson Scout Group for approval of the group's future accommodation plans:

1. Short term temporary expansion on existing site
2. Long term rebuilding of existing site

Cllr S McCann expressed his support subject to building regulations being satisfied.

Members resolved unanimously in favour to support the temporary expansion on the current site.

The Scout Group will pursue plans for a permanent solution and report back to the Council when a project is decided.

b. To consider the report and proposal from the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group

Infrastructure Team to formally raise the matter of an upgrade to the crossing on the A4074 with OCC

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford, OX10 6LZ
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The whole area is considered dangerous; visibility is poor, emergency vehicle access to Preston Crowmarsh is hindered by parking on the road, pedestrians can wait up to 3 minutes at peak times to cross the road, pedestrians walk along the road to access the Waterfront Café.

Members resolved unanimously in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan Infrastructure Team to formally raise the matter of an upgrade to the crossing on the A4074 with OCC.

16. To consider the name Williams as put forward by the developer of the 11 new properties off Blacklands Road or suggestions of an alternative name

Members resolved with 9 in favour and 1 abstention to approve the name “William’s Orchard” for the new development.

17. To make a decision on the request from the Bensington Society History Group to store/display models of Benson village at Benson Parish Hall

Concerns were raised about responsibility for the models, their safekeeping, preservation and storage. Boxes are being built for the storage of the models, but if they were to be on display, they would need to be encased in glass. Shelves in the committee room would be in the way of exercise classes and shelving in the foyer would be in the path of a fire escape route.

Deferred to next agenda. Cllr J Sharman to arrange visit with Peter Clarke to view the models.

18. Correspondence

a. To review correspondence and post received

Post/Emails Received	Circulated	Action
1. Garsington residents’ local magazine article to raise awareness of the Oxfordshire Economic Growth Plan and link to petition https://www.change.org/p/oxfordshire-growth-board-rethink-oxfordshire-s-economic-growth-plan	29Oct18	Noted
2. Oxfordshire Flood Alleviation Scheme newsletter November 2018	06Nov18	Noted
3. Sustainable Wallingford request for help to create Incredible Edible plots at Benson Library 24 th November 12.30-dusk	05Nov18	Noted
4. High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Richard Venables DL requesting applications for nominations (by 11Jan19) for the High Sheriff Awards 2018/19	06Nov18	Forwarded to the Benson Bulletin
5. River Thames Waterways annual report 2017/18	06Nov18	Noted
6. CALA Homes reporting that SODC street name signs being installed w/c 12 th November 2018 (signs have now been installed)	07Nov18	Noted
7. Ridgeway newsletter Winter 2018	07Nov18	Noted
8. NALC Newsletter	08Nov18	Noted
9. SODC update on volunteering grant scheme – Benson United Football Club set to receive £538 to create two new football teams	12Nov18	Noted
10. OPFA Autumn Newsletter	12Nov18	Noted
11. SODC free swimming for residents with diabetes	12Nov18	Noted
12. SODC Community Infrastructure link to updated Benson S106 report and information on how to apply for funding	13Nov18	Noted

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

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http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/delivering-infrastructure/section-106/se-0		
13. Resident complaint of dog fouling along Littleworth Road and request for signage and bins	13Nov18	Lands
14. SODC Waste Team Littleworth Road one litter bin being installed in the next few weeks (will consider further bin in next financial year)	14Nov18	Noted
15. OCC response to Road Safety audit	14Nov18	Meeting arranged for 8.30am 28Nov18 Cllr Winton to attend
16. NALC Newsletter	14Nov18	Noted
17. OCC next Town and Parish Liaison events 28 th November 6pm Exeter Hall Kidlington and 17 th January 2019 2pm Sonning Common Village Hall	14Nov18	Noted
18. Littleworth Road resident request for Benson Parish Council support in escalating Littleworth Road safety matters	15Nov18	Discuss at meeting on 28 th November
19. Millstream Day Centre request to book Bob's corner for annual cake sale Saturday 11 th May 2019	15Nov18	Parish Office to respond
20. SODC notification of free Christmas parking days Wallingford Thursdays from 6 th December	15Nov18	Noted
21. Berrick Salome Neighbourhood Plan statutory consultation period until 11 th January 2019	19Nov18	Cllr P Murray to respond on behalf of NPDG
22. NALC Chief Executive's bulletin	19Nov18	Cllrs to read article on Websites. Tech Agenda
23. SODC Waste and Recycling invitation to tour of Ardley energy recovery facility 4 th December 11am	19Nov18	Cllr B Pattison and Clerk to attend

- b. To review Parish Office notes
Nothing further to note.

19. Finance

- a. To sign off the reconciled bank statements for the current accounts as at 31st October 2018
Members unanimously resolved to approve the bank reconciliation for the Co-operative account as at 31st October 2018.
Action: RFO to itemise CIL money held separately and report dates funds received and to be spent by dates. **Action:** RFO to create liability to reflect CIL money to be repaid if not spent within the time limits.
- b. To sign cheques as detailed

Date of Invoice	Organisation/ Individual	Description	Cheque Number	Amount
22/11/2018	SODC	Permitted Development opinion for Scout Hut extension	300052	22.50
31/10/2018	Grundon	Waste wheelers October	300053	123.70

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

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22/11/2018	OCC	Pensions November	300054	1282.24
31/10/2018	Clarity Copiers	Photocopier October	300055	26.40
15/11/2018	Clearview	Window cleaning November	300056	140.00
15/11/2018	Purely Plants	Plants for War Memorial	300057	420.00
01/01/2018	SLCC	RFO membership	300058	156.00
08/10/2018	Castle Water	PH water to close account	300059	261.15
16/10/2018	SODC	Dog bin emptying	300060	170.26
22/11/2018	SSE	PH gas Q3	300061	191.26
07/11/2018	Azalea Landscapes	2018 grounds maintenance	300062	4545.00
17/10/2018	Oxford IT	Shortfall in November Standing Order	300076	7.56
22/11/2018	G Stock	Nov wage	300077	148.30
15/11/2018	Viking	A4 paper and refreshments	300063	131.39
02/11/2018	Play Inspection Company	Annual play equipment inspection	300064	234.00
07/11/2018	Millimott	Change lights in YH	300065	118.50
31/10/2018	Peter Eldridge	Reimburse stationery for WW1 event	300066	8.99
22/11/2018	Benson RBL	Silhouette for WW1 event	300067	150.00
22/10/2018	Dave Rushton	WW1 event printing and equipment	300068	73.76
22/11/2018	Millstream Day Centre	Grant	300069	1550.00
22/11/2018	Be Free Young Carers	Grant	300070	200.00
22/11/2018	Samaritans	Grant	300071	150.00
22/11/2018	Citizens Advice	Grant	300072	150.00
22/11/2018	British Legion	Grant	300073	150.00
31/10/2018	St Johns Ambulance	Manual Handling course for HM and Groundsman	300074	180.00
22/11/2018	Castle Water	Allotment water – disputed invoice	300075	366.38
08/10/2018	Andrew Gowing	Second water tank installation payment	300078	2520.89

To approve bank payments

Date of Invoice	Organisation/ Individual	Description	Cheque Number	Amount
22/11/2018	Coop Bank	Nov salaries	tfr	4209.36
22/11/2018	HMRC	Nov PAYE NI	tfr	560.85

To approve direct debits/standing orders

Date of Invoice	Organisation/ Individual	Description	Date of DD	Amount
08/11/2018	SODC	PH business rates whilst accounts changed over	01/11/2018	332.00
16/11/2018	Everflow	16/12-15/1/2019 YH Rivermead, allotments, PH	26/11/2018	233.59

To approve Barclaycard payments

Date of Invoice	Organisation/ Individual	Description	Date of DD	Amount
27/09/2018	Keep&Share	Hall availability software	05/11/2018	10.04
08/10/2018	Land Registry	LR search for Bertie West	05/11/2018	3.00

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22/10/2018	erecep	E Reception services	05/11/2018	9.00
04/10/2018	Amazon	Dog poo bags and mouse mat	05/11/2018	12.96

- c. To agree the amount to be granted to Benson Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group to cover hall hire costs

The finance committee considered the application based on hall usage to date, one session per week however the group have now booked 4 weekly sessions as from January 2019.

Defer BLABTG grant application for four sessions to next finance meeting

20. Questions to the Chairman

Geoff Stock handed in his letter of resignation from the position of Benson Youth Club Leader.

Youth Leader position to be on next agenda

Cllr Claire Robinson handed in her resignation from the position of Benson Parish Councillor due to family and work commitments.

Councillor vacancy to be on next agenda

The Councillors expressed their thanks to both Geoff and Claire for their time and hard work for Benson Parish Council.

21. Items for Councillors to note

Cllr Stevenson queried whether the Scout Groups pay any rental for the use of the Scout Hut and highlighted that the Brownie Groups have high hall hire costs.

Cllr McCann has created a Survey Monkey questionnaire to gather information on what play equipment and facilities teenagers and adults would like to see in the village. The link will be published in the Benson Bulletin.

Cllr Olley has been approached by a resident of the Watlington Road who has difficulty exiting his driveway due to the poor visibility of traffic approaching from Crown Lane and the Watlington Road from Aldridge Triangle. Councillors advised that he approach OCC.

The bolts have come loose on the bike stand by the Millstream public toilets and the Groundsman has been instructed to tighten them.

Cllr Sharman reported that no action has been taken by OCC or its contractors to rectify the weeds coming through the resurfaced Blacklands Road pavements.

Cllr Jordan reported that at the finance meeting held earlier in the day, the Finance committee agreed that costs will no longer be supported by drawing on reserves and that the precept alongside other income generated by the Council should cover the expenses. The precept for 2019/20 is set to increase by 50p per week per household which is a 33% increase. Previously increases have been kept to a minimum and the precept supported by funding from reserves which can no longer be the case and reserves need to be built up. This year has only seen an increase of 25 houses, but this will increase over the next few years. **Finance Committee to set a course for precept increases.**

Cllr Murray reported that the webmail for the Councillor email addresses does not work on mobiles. Oxford IT are moving over to a new server which should resolve this issue and others.

Cllr Lovesey thanked the Council on behalf of the Benson Royal British Legion for supplying the Groundsman for helping with the Remembrance Parade.

22. To confirm the date of the next Council meeting and agree dates for 2019 meetings

Thursday 13th December 2018

23. Dates of next meetings

- Planning Committee** Thursday 13th December 2018 at Full Council
- Finance Committee** 15th January 2019
- Halls Committee** 8th January 2019
- Recreation and Lands Committee** 14th February 2018

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e. **Technology Committee** TBA

The meeting closed at 10pm

Elizabeth Lemaire
Parish Clerk
5th December 2018

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District Councillor Felix Bloomfield report November 2018

Here is a seasonal piece for residents' information regarding recycling Christmas Waste Recycling.

Best wishes,
Felix.

Cllr Felix Bloomfield

Christmas Waste

Cooking oil – don't pour it down the drain as it can congeal and cause a blockage, use our new cooking oil recycling service instead. Wait until the oil has cooled in the pan, then pour it into an old plastic bottle (no bigger than 1 litre). Pop the lid on and put it into your food waste bin and we'll collect it.

Wrapping paper- Try the Scrunch Test to see if you can recycle your wrapping paper: if you scrunch it and it bounces back, it can't be recycled

Christmas cards are easily recycled if they don't have glitter on them. If they do, tear off the glittery bit and put into the black bin, and recycle the rest.

Christmas Trees - If you are signed up to the garden waste service, you can put your real Christmas tree out next to your brown bin on your scheduled garden waste collection days in January. The maximum size of tree for collection is 6ft. If it is bigger than that then please cut it up into pieces no longer than 6ft before putting it out for collection. If you're not a garden waste customer, please see our website southoxon.gov.uk/christmastrees to find out where your nearest 'Christmas tree collection' point is.

Too much recycling for your bin on collection day? Simply put the extra loose in a cardboard box or clear plastic bag beside your green bin.

Not sure which item goes in which bin? Or when your collection day is? To find out simply enter the Binzone at southoxon.gov.uk/binzone
Or download it as an app on your phone - find it by searching 'Binzone' in your apps on your smartphone or tablet.

Bin collection days will change over the Christmas period so please check online, your calendar or Binzone to find out your amended day. <http://www.southoxon.gov>