

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford. OX10 6LZ

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Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Benson Parish Council held on Thursday 12th July 2018 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall Committee Room

Present:	Cllr B Pattison	Chair	(CBP)	Cllr T McTeague	(CTM)
	Cllr P Baylis		(CPB)	Cllr P Murray	(CPM)
	Cllr R Jordan		(CRJ)	Cllr M Winton	(CMW)
	Cllr F Lovesey		(CFL)		

Proper officer: Dianne Brooks (CLK)

MINUTES

1. **Apologies:** Cllr S McCann, Cllr D Olley, Cllr T Stevenson, Cllr C Robinson, Cllr R Workman

2. **Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest

Item 6 on the Agenda, Clerk Recruitment was brought forward

Recommendation, from Finance to Full Council, that Benson Parish Council employ Elizabeth Lemaire as Clerk on a 6-month temporary contract starting as soon as possible. The Chair confirmed that Elizabeth would have the opportunity to apply for the permanent role and that other office staff were agreeable to the arrangement. **Members of the Council resolved to accept the recommendation; this was unanimous.** Elizabeth then joined the meeting.

3. **Public Session** - four members of the public were present

Mr Harry Waters, Commercial Director for Agrivert, addressed members.

Mr Waters explained that Agrivert had been running the composting site for 13 years but had outgrown the site in terms of tonnage and were currently contravening their planning permission for 25,000 tonnes. As a result, the company had applied for an increase to 40,000 tonnes. Agrivert are planning to invest heavily in the site, around £1 million. It is the right location for the site with good access to local farmland and Mr Waters felt 40,000 tonnes to be socially and economically acceptable. Investment will help to reduce the odour and keep it aerobic. There would be no increase in the number of domes and no increase in traffic movement is anticipated. Mr Waters confirmed that a site visit could be organised if helpful.

4. **To consider planning application: BPC90/18/P18/S1640/FUL** (Full Application): Other Amendment: No. 1 - dated 21st June 2018 Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of Planning Permission P17/S1263/FUL to increase the number of children from 50 to 75 on a permanent basis. (Previous temporary permission: Variation of conditions 3, 4, & 5 of Planning Permission P03/W0270 to increase limit on number of children on site and opening times.) Address: Lowfield 10 Churchfield Lane Benson OX10 6SH **Members resolved unanimously to offer No Objection to the increase from 50 to 75 children.**

5. **To discuss the formation of a new committee to take forward and integrate the objectives from the Neighbourhood Plan into the structure of the Parish Council; to include the potential impact on the existing committee structure.**

Cllr Murray explained that, following the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum, it was now up to SODC to make (adopt) the Plan. An issue has arisen regarding the Habitats Regulation Assessment, but Jon Fowler had received re-assurance from John Howell, MP that once the Plan had been through referendum it has legal weight and is made by the district council.

CPM explained that the Plan covers a lot of detail, is enshrined in the Local Plan and will affect all planning decisions in the future. The new developments will impact on the work of existing committees; e.g. more money through CIL for Finance, more green spaces for Recreation and Lands and new facilities for Halls.

Should the Plan be broken up with the relevant aspects considered by each committee or should a new group be formed which will drive delivery of the Plan?

A new Working Group or Steering Group, rather than a committee, was proposed with the Group consisting of a small number of councillors, a few members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group plus co-option of others with appropriate skills when needed.

It was suggested the Group should have around 6 members, including perhaps 2 councillors only. The chair would be chosen from the members. The Group would need to report to Full Council and probably meet monthly in the first instance; working overall within possibly a 5-year plan. The Working Group may consist of 'stream' leaders who use their own expertise or outsource some of the activity. Existing committees would need to take responsibility for some aspects and the terms of reference for the committees may need to change and adapt over time. The Chair felt it important to keep the number of committees tight and for membership and number of meetings to be reduced where necessary.

It will be important for all councillors to familiarise themselves with the detail in the Plan.

Action 1: clerk to circulate full plan plus appendices to all.

Action 2: members to make suggestions and put forward ideas through the clerk, with a view to tabling some form of recommendation at the next Parish Council meeting on 26th July.

6. **Clerk Recruitment** (already discussed).

7. **There were no items to note**



Dianne Brooks, Clerk

13.07.18