

MINUTES OF THE BLOXHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BLOXHAM ON WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2024 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Chairman Councillor David Bunn; Councillors Joanna Barton, Steve Craggs, Mike Fenner Alex Harrison Nick Rayner.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer), County Councillor Kieron Mallon, District Councillors David Hingley, Adam Nell and Rob Pattenden, Marie Jones and Natalie Dayer (Warden and Assistant Warden at The Slade Nature Reserve) and eight members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Parish Councillor Neil Hegarty and Jenny & David Yates.

1/24 Minutes - The minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2/24 Matters Arising - There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2023.

3/24 Chairman's Report & Financial Information – The Chairman reported on the Parish Council's activities over the last 12 months and how its funds had been spent.

Thanks were passed to Alan Griffin for his maintenance of the St Mary's Church clock for the last 50 year and it was noted that Tim Hart would now be completing the maintenance.

The report included information on village assets and infrastructure, anti-social behaviour, graffiti and vandalism, speculative developments, traffic calming, Community Speedwatch, a new burial ground, communications, the village litter pick, Parish Council meetings, financial information and the work the Parish Council would be undertaking for the next 12 months.

Councillor Steve Craggs gave an update on the review of the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan and how the review was progressing.

Councillor Alex Harrison, who was also a Community First Responder, provided a report on the defibrillators in the village and the proposed new units the Parish Council would like to install.

Theresa Goss, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, reported on the Parish Council accounts for 2023/2024.

Marie Jones and Natalie Dayer gave an update on their work at The Slade and the report would be available on the Parish Council web site.

The Chairman thanked Steve Craggs, Alex Harrison, Theresa Goss, Marie Jones and Natalie Dayer for their reports.

The Chairman's report and the Parish Council accounts for 2023/2024 would be available on the Parish Council web site. www.bloxhamparishcouncil.co.uk

4/24 Reports from County and District Councillors – County Councillor Kieron Mallon reported on his support for footpath repairs in the village, along with the clearance of the gullies and the hedge cutting on Cumberford.

Councillor Mallon also advised that during the last 12 months he'd had a number of health issues which had affected his ability to complete work in his constituency and with the Parish Council, but he was now catching up with all outstanding matters.

Councillor Mallon reported on the change of administration at the County Council and the impact of that on the County. He also reported on home to school transport, the poor results following a County Council SEND inspection, Oxford United's move from the Kasam Stadium, the County Council's staff move from County Hall to Speedwell House, work place parking, replacement street lights, funding for buses, the 20mph speed restrictions roll out, the £8m budget deficit which had been covered by a Government bailout, the Council Tax

increase of 4.99%, recycling centres were no longer open late and the changes to the County Council boundaries in readiness for the elections in 2025.

District Councillor Adam Nell reported that he was a candidate for re-election on 2 May 2024 and it had been a pleasure and privilege to serve Bloxham over the last four years. Councillor Adam Nell updated the meeting on the work of the District Council including their move from Bodicote House to Castle Quay, Banbury town centre regeneration and Banbury 2050, the Local Plan, support for refugees, food banks and other statutory services.

District Councillor Rob Pattenden reported on the meeting he had attended with the owners of the quarries at Enstone, Rollright and Great Tew following complaints from Bloxham residents about the HS2 traffic coming through the village. The HS2 traffic was only serving the Enstone quarry, however the owners had requested that any evidence of poor driving by any of the hauliers should be reported to them to address with the companies concerned. The quarry owners did not have control over the routes which were taken by the hauliers, but they did want to be good neighbours and would be willing to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss the matters further.

The Chairman advised that for 2024/2025, the Parish Councils priorities were: to complete the works to the roof at the Recreation Ground pavilion, EV charging points, speculative developments, install three new defibrillators, submit comments on 2040 Local Plan and monitor the impact of the 20mph speed restrictions and air quality in the village.

5/24 Questions from Residents – A resident asked about the HS2 traffic and whether more could be done to insist on alternative routes, which avoided Bloxham and addressed the issue of the vehicles not adhering to the 20mph speed limits. District Councillor Rob Pattenden would contact the owners of the quarries again and discuss whether an arrangement could be put in place, similar to that in Little Compton, whereby the HS2 traffic must not travel through their village and also invite the quarry owners to the next Parish Council meeting.

Action RP/DB/TG

A resident reminded the Parish Council about the discussion, prior to the 2020 Covid lockdown, where it was agreed with the County Council that the 50mph/30mph speed signs on the Banbury Road, close to junction with Ells Lane and Bloxham Grove Road, would be moved further back, in the direction of Banbury. The Chairman agreed to include this in the list of traffic calming issues.

The resident also asked whether a location map of the defibrillators in the village could be published in the Broad Sheet. The Chairman and Councillor Alex Harrison advised that the locations of the defibrillators could be found using an app called 'Defib finder' which was kept up to date. It was not advisable to print paper copies of locations because if a unit was not in use, the map would be out of date and could have unintended consequences of a resident trying to locate a defibrillator which had been decommissioned.

A resident raised the issue of tractors with trailers driving too fast through the village and the straw which came off the trailers and blocked the drains. The resident was advised that where possible, they should take note of the number plate on the vehicle and/or trailer. The Chairman advised that he had been asking the County Council to unblock the drains and also suggested that the farmers should contribute to the cost.

A resident reported that he was concerned about the comments made by the Planning Inspector at the planning appeal hearing for Ells Lane, with regard to the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan. The Inspector had advised that the Plan was not valid because it was more than three years old and it was not clear where the boundary line was located. The resident was also disappointed with the Cherwell District Council planning officers and how they had presented the case to the Inspector and answered questions from the developer's barristers.

County Councillor Kieron Mallon reminded the meeting that developers had much more money than the District Council and could afford to employ a number of barristers to represent them, and this level of resources was not available to the District Council.

A resident reported that the A361 was in a poor condition and was breaking up badly. The resident was advised to report issues to Fix My Street.

A resident advised that he was monitoring potential flooding areas in the village and would be pursuing avenues to address the issue.

6/23 Thanks and Close of Meeting – The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(The meeting closed at 9.10pm)

Chairman