

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 1 JULY 2024 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor David Bunn; Councillors Amanda Baxter, Steve Craggs, Alex Harrison, Neil Hegarty, David Morris and Nick Rayner.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer), District Councillors David Hingley & Rob Pattenden, seven members of the public and Julian Veal Managing Director from Heritage Quarry Group.

34/24 Apologies – Parish Councillor Russell Avens submitted his apologies because he was running a marathon.

Parish Councillor Joanna Barton submitted her apologies because she was unwell.

Parish Councillor Mike Fenner submitted his apologies because he had another appointment.

Resolved that the apologies from Councillor Russell Avens, Joanna Barton and Mike Fenner be approved and the absences authorised.

35/24 Declarations of Interest

Minute Number 40/24 (v) - Basic Life Support and Defibrillator Training – Councillor Alex Harrison declared an interest because he would be conducting the training.

36/24 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2024 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2024 be approved.

37/24 Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

38/24 Heritage Quarries – The Chairman invited Julian Veal, Managing Director of the Heritage Quarry Group to introduce himself to the Parish Council.

Mr Veal introduced himself and reported that he had previously met with Councillor Rob Pattenden to discuss the issues the HS2 traffic was causing on the A361 through Bloxham. Mr Veal set out how the business operated and that their business supplied materials to HS2 and other projects, but they did not have any lorries of their own and did not liaise with haulage companies about their routes. They did not have any influence over the routes which vehicles took and HS2 vehicles had their own prescribed routes.

However, Mr Veal wanted his business to be a good neighbour and would support the Parish Council if they had issues with poor driving and any inconveniences in the village, due to the lorries using the A361. He suggested that the registration numbers of any nuisance vehicles be recorded and if this information was forwarded to him, he could investigate what action could be taken, such as banning the offending vehicles from the site for a temporary period. Residents reported issues of speeding, mounting and driving on footpaths and parking outside of the shops, which exasperated the particularly bad congestion at this over-stretched, bottle neck in the village. There had also been an examples of drivers not showing respect for a funeral which was being undertaken at St Mary's Church and blocking the village with their vehicles, due to the hearse being parked outside the Church.

The quarries operated from 7am to 4pm, Monday to Friday and they did not open on a weekend. There were approximately 50 lorries who visited their site each day, which equated to 100 movements through Bloxham. However, this figure could fluctuate on a regular basis.

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Residents reported that due to the site opening at 7am, lorries started coming through Bloxham at 630am, sometimes earlier and these movements were especially noisy because the lorries were empty.

Mr Veal advised that the lorries did sometimes queue outside the site, but this was discouraged. Drivers also had specific delivery time slots which were stipulated by HS2 and they would move in packs. Residents confirmed they often witnessed lorries moving in packs of at least three and sometimes six vehicles.

The Chairman reported that the Community Speed Watch volunteers had been monitoring the traffic in the mornings and had received offensive hand gestures from the drivers. Again, Mr Veal asked that these examples be reported to him directly.

Residents advised that lorries were often parked on grass verges and it was not always practical to take photos and details of the lorries, especially when the cab identifiers were not always displayed.

Residents accepted that the vehicles had no other option but to use the A361, but the drivers and HS2 needed to be more courteous and improve the way they drove through the village.

The Chairman reported that Simon Davis from EKFB had now left his role and his replacement would be invited to attend the Parish Council meeting on 5 August 2024.

Mr Veal also advised that HS2 had seasonal schedules and the majority of orders were fulfilled from March to December. HS2 was their biggest customer, but not all the lorries using the A361 were HS2 vehicles. HS2 had a build programme, but there was no finish date and as the project progressed, his quarries might not have the material which was required to continue the build, therefore vehicle movements would decrease significantly.

Mr Veal also reported that the Heritage Quarry Group was willing to support community projects in the area. He would also investigate opening the quarry 15 minutes later, as well as asking drivers to ensure they had their HS2 identifier displayed clearly on their vehicles.

Resolved that:

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) Simon Davis' replacement at EKFB be invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council; and
- 3) Councillors Amanda Baxter and Nick Rayner to join the Community Speed Watch Scheme. **Action NR/AM/DB**

The Chairman thanked Mr Veal for attending the meeting and he left at this point.

39/24 Chairman's Announcements

- Councillor Russell Avens – Councillor Russell Avens was currently running a marathon from Lands' End to John O'Groats and the Parish Council sent their best wishes to him.
- Meeting with the County Council's Highways Engagement Team – The Chairman had met with Kathryn Gash and had raised a number of issues, including the white lining, the yellow lining consultation and whether the County Council would cover some of the costs for these projects.
- Bloxham Funday – The Committee had organised a very good event and it had been a success. The current Committee had now stepped down and new volunteers were required if the event was to go ahead in 2025.
- Christmas Tree Festival – Councillors Amanda Baxter and Joanna Barton had volunteered to dress the Parish Council's tree. **Action TG**

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- Memorial Bench – Paul Lester was in the process of completing the maintenance work to the round memorial bench located by the War Memorial. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact the Welch family to establish whether they wished to retain the wooden plaque which had been displayed on the bench. **Action TG**
- Gladman's Planning Inquiry, Quarry Close, Bloxham – The Planning Inquiry would be more formal than an Appeal hearing. The Chairman had spoken to the Hanwell Parish Council because they had been through this process and they did not employ a Barrister, but instead had individual speakers who addressed the Inspector at various point throughout the proceedings. The Clerk would contact Nathanael Stock at Cherwell District Council regarding a meeting to discuss the Inquiry. **Action TG**
- Cherwell District Council's Parish Liaison Meeting – The Chairman had attended the meeting and it had been very good and covered a wide range of topics.
- Speed Indication Device (SID) – The SID was now located on Milton Road and the results from Barford Road would be published on the Parish Council's web site. **Action DB/TG**
- Noisy Manhole Covers – Following the Chairman's meeting with the Kathryn Gash from the County Council's Highways Engagement Team, this matter would now be investigated further. The Chairman was also a 'Fix My Street Super User' and could now identify drains which needed to be cleared or repaired.
- Formal Consultation on the Proposal by Oxfordshire County Council to Designate Certain Streets as Traffic-Sensitive – The Parish Council had no comments on this consultation document.

40/24 Open Forum – A resident addressed the Parish Council with regard to the issues with the drains and even though they had been reported to Fix My Street, they had not been cleared, including at the junction of Courtington Lane and Workhouse Lane. The Chairman asked the resident to forward the reference number to him and he would contact the County Council. **Action DB**

A resident addressed the Prish Council regarding the community use of the swimming pool at Bloxham School. The Clerk suggested that the Parish Council should facilitate a meeting between Tim Seton, Estates Manager and the resident. **Action TG**

Robert Aplin, Trustee of the David Tyrrell Recreation Ground, reported that the pavilion had been broken in to and Tom Smith had now placed a concrete bollard in front of the garage door as a temporary security measure.

Mr Aplin also reported that the work to the pavilion roof had not started yet, even though Seckington and Whitehead had advised work would commence w/c 10 June 2024. The Clerk would contact Seckington and Whitehead the following day for an update. **Action TG**

(For information, following guidance from the National Association of Local Councils, the Parish Council did not specifically name individual residents within its minutes, unless they were speaking in an official capacity)

41/24 Reports from County and District Councillors – Councillor David Hingley reported that the imminent General Election was having an impact on services at Cherwell District Council, because it could not operate fully in a pre-election period.

The new minority Administration was supportive of Oxfordshire Council's Charter to work with Parish Councils and the County Council.

There were a number of planning issues affecting villages in the north Cherwell area and the Local Plan 2040 was continuing to be reviewed. The planning application for 90 homes on Bloxham Road, Milcombe had been refused, however it was likely to go to an Appeal.

Councillors Hingley was also due to meet with the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commission and if the Parish Council had any issues, he would bring them up during his meeting.

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At the Planning Inquiry for the application in Quarry Close Bloxham, Barristers be engaged by Cherwell District Council. Councillor Hingley would assist with the arrangements for a meeting with Nathanael Stock, if this was required.

Councillor Hingley was thanked for his report.

42/24 Environment/Village Matters

- i) 20mph Speed Restrictions – The Chairman reported that a meeting with Anthony Kirkwood was being held on Monday 8 July 2024 at 2pm at Jubilee Hall. The Chairman, Councillors Nick Rayner and Alex Harrison and the Clerk would be attending the meeting.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- ii) Fencing at Jubilee Park and Dewey Hall – The Parish Council was due to discuss the costs for the fencing between Jubilee Park and Dewey Hall, however a quote had not yet been received from Bloxham School.

Resolved that this item be deferred to a future meeting when the quote for the fencing has been received.
Action TG

- iii) Village Litter Pick – The Parish Council received a report from Councillor Neil Hegarty regarding the village litter pick. The litter pick highlighted that there were a number of regular litter pickers in the village and during the 'Big Green Week', the Boys Brigade had picked in The Gogs, Jubilee Park and the David Tyrrell recreation Ground.

Unfortunately, no volunteers from the village came forward during the Fun Day, but if residents wished to litter pick at other times during the year, they were very welcome to do so.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) Christmas Tree & Christmas Lights – The Parish Council discussed the arrangements for Christmas 2024.

Resolved that the quotes for Christmas lights from Field & Lawn and the Christmas tree from Wyatts Nursery, be accepted. **Action NR**

- v) Basic Life Support and Defibrillator Training – The Parish Council discussed funding training for residents of the village on basic life support and use of a defibrillator.

Resolved that two basic life support and defibrillator training sessions at £300 each, with 20 attendees, be approved. **Action AH**

43/24 Planning

- i) Planning Applications/Works to Trees – Prior to the meeting, the details of the planning applications/works to trees which had been considered by the Parish Council, since the last meeting, had been circulated.

Resolved that, it be noted and approved that, no objections had been made by the Parish Council in respect of the following planning applications/works to trees:

24/01199/TCA Hill Cottage, Workhouse Lane, Bloxham
T1 x Ash - Fell. Mature Ash which has been heavily reduced previously. showing signs of dieback.

24/01335/TCA St Marys Lodge, Church Street, Bloxham
Tree works

24/01263/F & Bloxham School, Banbury Road, Bloxham

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- 24/01264/LB Variation of Conditions 2 (plans) and 5 (drainage scheme) of 21/02994/F - new wording of conditions
- 24/01502/LB Joiners Arms, Old Bridge Road, Bloxham,
Extractor system with dormer surround – retrospective

Resolved that, it be noted and approved that, objections had been made by the Parish Council in respect of the following planning applications/works to trees:

- 24/01276/F Creek Cottage, Little Bridge Road, Bloxham,
Single storey side and double storey rear extension to a detached house

Resolved that, it be noted that the Parish Council is considering the following planning applications/works to trees:

- 24/01539/F 14 Chipperfield Park Road, Bloxham,
Variation of Condition 2 (plans) & 3 (external materials) of 23/02479/F - Clients wish to change the brick colour.
- 24/01599/TCA Beauchamp House, Chapel Street, Bloxham
Tree works
- 24/01588/TPO Ash Tree House, Tadmarton Road, Bloxham, B
T1 (Ash) - For TPO 4/2008 to be revoked in order to remove the Ash tree due to an infection of Ash Die Back - subject to TPO 4/2008
- 24/01662/F Grass verge to the North of junction of Tadmarton Road and Courtington Lane, Bloxham
Erection of a memorial stone and plaque 550mm wide x 250mm deep and 900mm high

- ii) Results of Planning Applications – The Parish Council noted decisions made by Cherwell District Council since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan (BNDP) – Prior to the meeting, Councillor Steve Craggs had circulated an update on the progress with the Plan and requested that an informal meeting of Councillors be arranged to discuss the possible allocation of housing sites in the village.

Resolved that the report be noted and an informal meeting of Councillors be arranged for w/c 15 July 2024 or w/c 22 July 2024. **Action TG/SC**

- iv) Planning Application 23/01265/OUT, OS Parcel 0078 North West of Quarry Close, Quarry Close, Bloxham – The Parish Council discussed the Planning Inquiry relating to the refusal of outline planning permission by Cherwell District Council for the erection of up to 60 dwellings with public open space, landscaping, sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point. All matters reserved except for means of access.

Resolved that the report be noted and efforts continue to be made to arrange a meeting with Nathanael Stock at Cherwell District Council. **Action TG**

- v) Ells Lane Planning Application – The Parish Council discussed the S106 agreement for this application and whether the S106 funds should be allocated for an onsite LAP or be used to enhance the play facilities at Jubilee Park and David Tyrrell Recreation Ground.

Resolved that the Parish Council supports the Section 106 funds being allocated to the play areas at Jubilee Park and the David Tyrrell Recreation Ground, and not be allocated to an onsite LAP. **Action TG**

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- vi) Discussions with Developers – The Parish Council discussed whether the Parish Council should accept requests from developers to discuss applications, prior to submission of a planning application

Resolved that the Parish Council agrees to meet with developers prior to the submission of a planning application, however the meetings will be purely for the Parish Council to listen to the proposals and no comments will be made by Councillors and discussions will not take place. **Action TG**

44/24 Parish Council Matters

- i) Vacancies – There were no applications for co-option onto the Parish Council.

Resolved that the two vacancies continue to the advertised. **Action TG**

- ii) Drop-In and Chat – The Chairman reported that no issues were highlighted at the last session of the Drop-In and Chat.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) EV Charing Points – The Parish Council did not receive an update on the proposal for EV charging points at Jubilee Park because Councilor Russell Avens was not present.

Resolved that the report be noted.

45/24 Finance

- i) Financial Matters – Prior to the meeting, a number of financial documents were circulated to the Parish Council.

Resolved that:

- 1) the accounts for payment be approved, as detailed in appendix 1 to the minutes;
- 2) the receipts since the last meeting, the uncashed payments & uncashed receipts and the bank reconciliation, as at 1 July 2024 for the bank accounts at Unity Trust Bank be noted;
- 3) it be noted that Councillor Joanna Barton, as Councillor for monitoring the Parish Council's internal controls, has signed the uncashed payments list, the uncashed receipts list, the bank reconciliation as at 1 July 2024 and the Unity Trust bank statements for June 2024;

- ii) Budget Monitoring 2023/2024 – Prior to the meeting, the Parish Council received budget monitoring report for 2023/2024.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) General and Ear-Marked Reserves – Prior to the meeting, the general and ear-marked reserves had been circulated to the Parish Council.

Resolved that the report be noted and the reserves be approved.

- iv) Section 106 Funds for Outdoor Gym Equipment – The Clerk advised that information from Cherwell District Council regarding Section 106 funds for outdoor gym equipment had not yet been received.

Resolved that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

46/24 Correspondence – There was no further correspondence.

47/24 Meeting Dates – The Chairman reported that the next Parish Council meetings would be held at Jubilee Hall, Barley Close, Bloxham, commencing at 7.00pm.

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Resolved that it be noted that, future meeting dates for Bloxham Parish Council are as stated below.

- Monday 5 August 2024
- Monday 2 September 2024
- Monday 2 October 2024

48/24 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information

- Traffic Calming Working Group
- EV Charging Points
- 'No Mow May' 2025 extending into June 2025
- Model Financial Regulations
- Section 106 Funds for Outdoor Gym Equipment
- Litter bin/dog waste bin on the green, outside the Joiners Arms
- Representative from EFFB (HS2) to attend the meeting

(The meeting ended at 8.55pm)

Chairman – 5 August 2024