

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.05PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor David Bunn; Councillors Russell Avens, Joanna Barton, Mike Fenner, Alex Harrison, Neil Hegarty, David Morris and Nick Rayner.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer), District Councillors David Hingley and Rob Pattenden and 12 members of the public.

66/24 Apologies – Parish Councillor Amanda Baxter submitted her apologies because she was on holiday.

Parish Councillor Steve Craggs submitted his apologies because he was on holiday.

County Councillor Kieron Mallon also submitted his apologies.

Resolved that the apologies from Councillors Amanda Baxter and Steve Craggs be approved and the absences authorised.

67/24 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

68/24 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2024 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2024 be approved.

69/24 Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

70/24 Chairman's Announcements

- Bench on Stone Hill – Paul Lester submitted his quote to the Prish Council but the maintenance work was still to be completed.
- New Manhole Covers – The new manhole covers were still making a noise and the Chairman was following this up with the County Council. It appeared that the new covers had not been sealed, which was causing the noise issues.
- White and Yellow Lining – Discussions were being held with the County Council to split the costs of the formal consultation with Adderbury Parish Council because they also had white and yellow lining to complete in Adderbury.
- Cala Homes – Cala Homes had carried out a mail drop in Ells Lane regarding a proposal for 30 new homes in Ells Lane. The developer had not made any contact with the Parish Council.
- Dewey Sports Centre – The Chairman had contacted Cherwell District Council because he had felt that the planning application had not been sufficiently advertised in the village. Cherwell District Council had subsequently agreed to advertise the application more widely and the deadline for comments had been extended to 20 September 2024.
- VAS – The VAS' on Milton Road, Tadmarton Road and Barford Road were due to be replaced with new 20mph VAS'. It was hoped that the new signs would also capture data which could be analysed by the Parish Council. There was also a suggestion that the VAS located on the A361 outside the David Tyrrell Recreation Ground should be moved further out, in direction of Chipping Norton and away from the start of the 20mph zone. **Action TG**

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- Dog Behaviour – There had been reports of dogs being off their leads in different areas of the village, but their owners were not in control of them. The Dog Warden at Cherwell District Council had been contacted and all incidents should be reported to him, with evidence, if possible.
- Housing Needs Assessment – The assessment was being progressed using Locality Funding as part of the review of the Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan and a meeting was being held with Cherwell District Council the following week.
- Planters on A361 – The Biodiversity Group would maintain the planters at the entrances to the village and the grant which had been returned to the Parish Council would be repaid to the Group. **Action TG**
- 'Welcome to Bloxham' signs on the A361 – GallifordTry had been asked to reinstall the signs which had been removed during the works to the Bloxham Grove Road/A361/Ells Lane junction.
- Clearance of Sor Brook – Councillor Neil Hegarty had reported prior to the meeting, that a lot of vegetation had built up in Sor Brook and needed clearing before it caused any flooding issues. The Clerk was asked to contact the Environment Agency. **Action TG**
- Footpath on Waters Lane – Work was still to be completed on the Public Right of Way and the Chairman would check the work once it had been undertaken. **Action DB**
- Defibrillator – Bloxham Bowls Club had agreed to install a new defibrillator which would be publicly available and the Parish Council agreed to cover the costs for the cabinet and installation. **Action AH**

71/24 Open Forum – A resident addressed the Parish Council with regard to the footpath in Water Lane and he requested that signage and hand posts be install at either end of this PRoW. The Chairman and Clerk agreed to follow this up with the County Council. **Action DB/TG**

A resident highlighted that Bloxham School staff were continuing to park on Courtington Lane and The Pound even though there was now a new car park which staff could park in. The Chairman had spoken to the Bursar and he had advised that staff and parents would be reminded not to park at these locations.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Thames Valley Police would continue to issue Penalty Charge Notices to drivers, if vehicles were illegally parked on The Pound and Courtington Lane and any other location in the village.

A resident highlighted that yellow lining used to be located on the corner of the A361 and Strawberry Terrace, however it was not reinstated after the resurfacing work carried out some time ago. As a result, drivers were parking very close to the corner of the junction, which was dangerous for drivers. It was agreed that the County Council would be asked to reinstate the lining. **Action TG**

A resident reported that there had been a dog attack near to the Primary School. The Chairman reported that the Dog Warden and Thames Valley Police were aware and all incidents should be reported to the Dog Warden.

Councillor Nick Rayner asked when the weeds in gutters would be treated by the Parish Council's contractor. The Clerk advised that the treatment would be applied in September but would contact Complete Weed Control for confirmation. There was also a request that the treatment be completed earlier next year. **Action TG**

A resident reported that HS2 lorries were still exceeding the speed limit through the village and the Chairman advised that the high speeds of a few HS2 vehicles had been recorded as part of the Community Speed Watch Scheme. Incidents relating to speeding could also be reported to David Griffiths-Allen at EKFG if the details of the vehicle were recorded.

A resident asked whether there had been any progress following the email from the Clerk to Tim Seton, Estates Manager at Bloxham School, regarding the community use of Bloxham School swimming pool. The Clerk confirmed that a response had not yet been received and would contact Tim Seton again. **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)

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72/24 Reports from County and District Councillors – Prior to the meeting, County Councillor Kieron Mallon had circulated his report to the Parish Council

District Councillor Rob Pattenden reminded the meeting that any HS2 vehicles which were breaking the speed limit should also be reported to Heritage Quarries and that photographic evidence was helpful too.

Councillor Pattenden, who was also the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities, reported that he was a Trustee for The Mill Arts Centre. The County Council owned the building and there had been an agreement with Cherwell District Council to complete the maintenance work to the flooring as a joint approach, to enable the building to be opened to the public again. It was hoped the building would open on 1 October 2024.

Councillor Pattenden was also the Armed Forces Champion for Cherwell District Council and historically a Remembrance Service was held in the Council Chamber on the 11th November each year.

District Councillor David Hingley reported that the new Administration was reviewing the Council's finances and there would be a consultation on the budget later in the year.

With regard to the Local Plan, officers were considering how to respond to Government's new housing target of building 1.5m homes in the next five years and how that target would affect housing numbers in the Plan. The aim was still to undertake the Regulation 19 consultation before the end of the year.

Cherwell District Council would also be responding to the Government's consultation on the NPPF and if the Parish Council or residents had any comments, they were encouraged to send them to Councillor Hingley.

Councillor Hingley would also contact planning officers to establish more details about the new planning application submitted by Gladmans in relation to Quarry Close, Bloxham, which was also the subject of the Public Inquiry, starting on 8 October 2024.

The Councillors were thanked for their reports.

73/24 Environment/Village Matters

- i) 20mph Speed Restrictions – The Chairman reported that the VAS' in the village which currently flashed with 30mph, would be replaced with 20mph VAS'. The Chairman also confirmed that the County Council was working on implementing the original suggestions made by the Parish Council, before a review of the scheme was undertaken.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- ii) 'No Mow May' 2025 – The Parish Council discussed 'No Mow May' for 2025 and extending it into June 2025, in addition to May 2025.

Resolved that 'No Mow May' not be extended into June 2025 and Biodiversity Bloxham be asked whether they would like to establish further wildflower/biodiversity areas, which they did previously **Action TG**

74/24 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:

24/02000/F Rosebank Cottage, Chapel Street, Bloxham,
Demolish flat roof extension and erect single storey rear garden room extension

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: None

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

24/02169/TCA Pavilion, Bloxham School, Banbury Road, Bloxham
Tree works

24/02072/TPO 1 Callow Drive, Bloxham, Banbury,
T1 Oak - Cut back crown to clear fabric of buildings by 2m. Works required to maintain clearance of trees crown from buildings - subject to TPO 20/2011

- 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) – In the absence of Councillors Steve Craggs there was no update on the BNDP. A meeting was due to be held with Cherwell District Council in the next few weeks for advice on progressing the Plan.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- 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. The Inquiry was due to start on 8 October 2024 and would last four days.

Resolved that:

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) a meeting be arranged with the interested parties before the start of the Inquiry. **Action TG**

- v) Planning Application 24/01906/F - Dewey Sports Centre, Barley Close, Bloxham – The Parish Council discussed an application for front and rear extensions and alterations to the Dewey sports Centre, installation of 12 x flood lighting sports columns, 5 x netball/tennis courts, 1 x artificial cricket wicket, 1 x replacement long jump pit, 1 x storage container, improvements to existing access and car parking, provision of additional car parking, associated drainage, renewable energy and sustainability measures, hard and soft landscaping and biodiversity enhancements.

Resolved that:

- 1) the Parish Council objects to planning application 24/01906/F; and
- 2) the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, be given delegated authority to draft an objection to be circulated to the Parish Council by email for approval and subsequently submitted to Cherwell District Council. **Action DB/TG**

- vi) Developments in Bloxham – The Parish Council discussed communications with the village regarding proposals for new housing developments.

Resolved that a future Drop-In and Chat session be specifically to address proposed developments in the village and consideration be given to effective ways to collect opinions from the community. **Action TG**

75/24 Parish Council Matters

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

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

- ii) Drop-In and Chat – Councillor Alex Harrison report that at the last Drop-In and Chat session, there had been a complaint about straw from farmers trailers falling into the road drains and blocking them up.

Resolved that the report be noted and the Chairman to contact Cherwell District Council about road sweeping in the village. **Action TG**

- iii) EV Charging Points – Councillor Russell Avens reported that he had contacted Deddington Parish Council for further advice and was awaiting their response.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) Subscriptions – The Parish Council discussed the proposed increase in the annual subscriptions to OALC.

Resolved that the proposed increase in the annual subscriptions be supported. **Action TG**

- v) Civility & Respect Pledge – The Parish Council discussed supporting the National Association of Local Council's Civility and Respect Pledge. However, Councillors felt that the Parish Council had sufficient policies and procedures in place to protect the Clerk and Councillors from negative behaviour such as bullying etc.

Resolved that the Civility and Respect Pledge not be supported by the Parish Council.

76/24 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 2 September 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 2 September 2024 and the Unity Trust bank statements for August 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 – The Parish Council discussed the use of Section 106 funds for outdoor gym equipment and the negative response from Cherwell District Council for a meeting. District Councillor David Hingley asked to be copied into the correspondence and he would follow this up on behalf of the Parish Council.

Resolved that the report be noted and a meeting for arranged with Cherwell District Council to discuss the allocation of Section 106 funds. **Action TG**

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- v) Effectiveness of the Internal Audit 2023/2024 – The Parish Council discussed the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit for 2023/2024.

Resolved that the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit for 2023/2024 be approved.

- vi) External Auditors Report – The Parish Council considered the External Auditor's Report for 2023/2024.

Resolved that the External Auditors Report for 2023/2024 be noted and approved.

- vii) Model Financial Regulations – The Parish Council considered the updated Financial Regulations for 2024/2025.

Resolved that the Financial Regulations for 2024/2025 be approved. **Action TG**

77/24 Correspondence – There was no further correspondence.

78/24 Meeting Dates – The Chairman reported that the next Parish Council meetings would be held at Jubilee Hall, Barley Close, Bloxham, commencing at 7.00pm.

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

- Monday 7 October 2024
- Monday 4 November 2024
- Monday 2 December 2024

79/24 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information

- Traffic Calming Working Group
- Parish Council Bank Accounts/Investments
- Gladmans Planning Application
- Measurements of Air Quality Outside the shops on High Street
- Planning for flooding in the village
- Vehicles crossing the footpaths outside of the shop on High Street

(The meeting ended at 8.55pm)

Chairman – 7 October 2024