

# BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 5 AUGUST 2024 AT 7.00PM

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Theresa Goss (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer), County Councillor Kieron Mallon, District Councillor Gordon Blakeway, four members of the public and David Griffiths-Allen from EKFB.

**49/24 Apologies** – Parish Councillor Amanda Baxter submitted her apologies because she was on holiday.

Parish Councillor David Morris submitted his apologies because he was at work.

District Councillors David Hingley and Rob Pattenden also submitted his apologies.

**Resolved** that the apologies from Councillors Amanda Baxter and David Morris be approved and the absences authorised.

**50/24 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.

**51/24 Minutes** – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2024 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2024 be approved.

**52/24 Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.

**53/24 HS2 Vehicles** – The Chairman invited David Griffiths-Allen from EKFB to address the Parish Council and he advised that he was aware of the Parish Council's concerns relating to the HS2 traffic using the A361 village.

The information he had obtained prior to the meeting, concluded that there were less than forty HS2 vehicle movements per day through Bloxham and there had been instances when some vehicles were displaying an HS2 sign in their window, but they were not working on HS2 business. This was due to drivers not removing their sign when working on other projects.

The Chairman advised that Julian Veal from the Heritage Quarry Group had stated that there were approximately 50 HS2 vehicles visiting the Enstone and Rollright quarries each day, which equated to 100 movements. However, Mr Griffiths-Allen advised that some vehicles which drove through Bloxham, did not always make their return journey through Bloxham and would head in the direction of the M40, junction 9

There were approved routes for HS2 vehicles to follow and these were movements using a strategic road network to the HS2 sites from the quarries. The HS2 obligations started at the M40 corridor and EKFB could influence traffic from the west of the M40 towards the Greatworth site, but HS2 had no power to determine routes or impose formal restrictions as far out as Bloxham.

Given the impact the HS2 traffic was having on Bloxham, the Chairman asked how the Parish Council and other community groups could access grant funding from HS2 and whether there was a degree of flexibility around their 5km rule, whereby applications would only be considered if a project was within a 5km radius of an HS2 site.

Mr Griffiths-Allen advised that there was a pothole fund which the County Council could access as well as a small Road Safety Fund. There were also other funds available, which were managed via Groundworks. In addition, EKFB did have discretion to make donations to other groups, such as local football clubs.

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It was highlighted that due to Bloxham being over 5km away from the nearest HS2 site, grant applications had been refused, even though it was heavily impacted by the HS2 traffic. There was an example of Chacombe Village Hall being awarded a grant of £10,000 because it was within 5km of the site, but the village was in no way affected by the construction work.

Mr Griffiths-Allen reported that the HS2 project was one of the most heavily scrutinised construction projects in the Country and the project was being undertaken to a high quality. There were a number of training schemes for drivers, as well as an app which monitored routes and slots for collections. The project tried to discourage queuing on the highway to access sites and there was a vetting process for all companies working on the project. Drivers also had to be members of professional bodies. There were regular meetings with contractors to feedback on complaints relating to traffic and transport and there were also Mobile Traffic Safety Officers monitoring the approved routes.

The Chairman highlighted that HS2 lorries using the A361 through the village, regularly broke the speed limit and did not adhere to the 20mph speed restrictions. Mr Griffiths-Allen requested that records be kept of these incidents and they be reported to him. This could result in drivers being suspended from the project or completely excluded.

The Chairman emphasised that the Parish Council did not want to affect the livelihoods of the drivers, however they must be respectful towards the village.

Mr Griffiths-Allen advised that there was a Social Value and Legacy Manager who dealt with grant funding and he would pass the contact details to the Clerk. However, due to the rule that community grants were only awarded to those bodies located within a 5km radius of the HS2 site, a formal application route might not be appropriate due to the distance of Bloxham from the construction site. However, there might be smaller sums available to assist organisations based in Bloxham.

It was again highlighted by a resident that the 5km rule was arbitrary and requested that this be reviewed by HS2/EKFB.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) Mr Griffiths-Allen to highlight to HS2 drivers, the speed limits through Bloxham; and
- 3) Mr Griffiths to contact colleagues at EKFB/HS2 to discuss amending the policy of grant funding being awarded to communities within a 5km radius of the HS2 sites and the details of these colleagues be passed to the Parish Council.

David Griffiths-Allen was thanked for attending the meeting and left at this point.

### **54/24 Chairman's Announcements**

- Councillor Russell Avens – Councillor Avens was welcomed back and congratulated on achieving his 1000 mile run across the Country.
- Memorial Bench on The Green – The work on the bench had been completed by Paul Lester and there had been lots of good feedback. It was agreed that a litter bin should be located in this area, as it was hoped the bench would now be used more and there was a chance littering could increase. **Action TG**

It was also agreed that an audit should be undertaken of the litter bins and dog waste bins in the village.  
**Action TG**

- Meeting with the County Council's Highways Engagement Team – The repairs to the Courtington Lane pavement were in the County Council's programme to be repaired. The manhole cover on the A361 had

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been replaced, but it still continued to make a noise and this had been reported to the County Council. In addition, the formal consultation for the double yellow lines project was £3840.

- William Davis Homes – The planning application for 150 houses on a site opposite the David Tyrrell Recreation Ground would be submitted in the next few weeks. Also representatives from Cala Homes had been in Crabtree Close completing surveys on their land.
- Section 106 Agreements – The healthcare contributions in the S106 agreement relating to Ells Lane had been removed at the Planning Appeal as the developer had successfully argued they should not be included. Therefore Milcombe, Hook Norton and Bloxham Parish Councils needed to work together to ensure this did not happen again in relation to future applications. The GP surgery could not be expended on its current site, but funds could be used to improve the service and contributions should not be removed from Section 106 agreements.
- Bloxham School, Planning Application – A planning application had been submitted to Cherwell District Council in relation to works at Dewey Hall and Councillors should forward their comments to the Clerk in the usual way. **Action TG**
- Housing Needs Assessment – An application for funding from Locality would be progressed so that the Assessment could go ahead, which would feed into the review of the Neighbourhood Plan. **Action TG**

**55/24 Open Forum** – A resident addressed the Parish Council with regard to the Bloxham Biodiversity Group. The Group would be discussing at its meeting later that week, whether or not it would be taking the responsibility for the maintenance of the three village planters on the A361.

A resident also asked whether data from the VAS would be published on the Parish Council web site. The Chairman advised that the VAS was currently not working and was being sent back to the manufacturer. However, the data which had been collected already, would be published on the Parish Council's web site. **Action DB**

*(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)*

**56/24 Reports from County and District Councillors** – District Councillor Gordon Blakeway reported that the Deputy Prime Minister had announced that the Government's target was to build 1.5m houses in the next five years. Therefore, Cherwell District Council was waiting for more information to establish what the impact would be on the District. A recent appeal in Hanwell had been upheld in favour of the developer, following the refusal of planning permission by Cherwell District Council and this decision could affect other applications in the area.

Councillor Blakeway offered his support to the Parish Council for the Inquiry and was asked to clarify whether Cherwell District Council had now met its five-year land supply. However, it was reported that this matter would probably be resolved as part of the Quarry Close Planning Inquiry because there were differing opinions about whether or not the target had been met in Cherwell.

The Local Plan review was continuing and there were no plans to change the timetable about the progression of the Plan. However, the housing allocation numbers were likely to increase due to the Government's new target.

Prior to the meeting, County Councillor Kieron Mallon had circulated his report to the Parish Council. Councillor Mallon highlighted a number of items in his report including the approval of an application at a planning appeal for a development in the area of Crouch Hill and Tyrrell Road which had been upheld by an Inspector, following the refusal by Cherwell District Council's Planning Committee.

Also, there would be boundary changes in place for the 2025 County Council elections and the new County Council Ward for Bloxham would be made up of Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote.

The Councillors were thanked for their reports.

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## 57/24 Environment/Village Matters

- i) 20mph Speed Restrictions – The Chairman reported that a meeting with Anthony Kirkwood had been held on Monday 8 July 2024 at 2pm at Jubilee Hall and the Clerk, plus Councillors Nick Rayner and Alex Harrison had also attended.

The Chairman advised that there would be phased approach, firstly with the County Council addressing the issues the Parish Council highlighted as part of the original consultation and then the second phase, which included additional items the Parish Council would like to be introduced.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) a request be made to Thames Valley Police to carry out a speed checks on the A361, South Newington Road; and
- 3) the issue of speeding be raised with the village PCSO's and they be asked to monitor the A361, South Newington Road early on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

**Action TG**

- ii) Fencing at Jubilee Park and Dewey Hall – The Parish Council considered a quote for the fence between Jubilee Park and Dewey Hall. It had been previously agreed that the cost would be halved between Bloxham School and the Parish Council.

**Resolved** that the Parish Council contributes £3200 towards the cost of the fencing, however because the Parish Council believes the fencing should be higher, if the fence is damaged due to children retrieving their footballs, the Parish Council will not contribute to the repair costs. **Action TG**

- (iii) Village Planters – The Parish Council had discussed the maintenance of the village planters on A361 earlier in the meeting when a representative from Bloxham Biodiversity had stated that the Group would be discussing the matter at its next meeting.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

- (iv) Bench on Stone Hill – The Parish Council discussed replacing or refurbishing the bench at the top of Stone Hill.

**Resolved** that delegated authority be given the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to approve a quote from Paul Lester for the refurbishment of the Bench. **Action TG/DB**

## 58/24 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:

24/01599/TCA Beauchamp House, Chapel Street, Bloxham  
Tree works

24/01662/F Grass verge to the North of junction of Tadmerton Road and Courtington Lane, Bloxham  
Erection of a memorial stone and plaque 550mm wide x 250mm deep and 900mm high

24/01588/TPO Ash Tree House, Tadmerton 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

24/01751/F Kingsbury Cottage, Kings Road, Bloxham

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Alteration to existing loft space to include 3 new rooflights and boarding additional loft space for storage

- 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
- 24/01792/TCA Tythe Barn, Goose Walk, Bloxham,  
Tree works
- 24/01796/F 22 Brookside Way, Bloxham  
Demolition and replacement of single storey rear extension
- 24/01802/SO Land South Of 3 To 5 Hartshill Close Bloxham  
EIA screening opinion request relates to the residential development of up to 165 dwellings, alongside public open space, a play area, sustainable drainage, and other supporting infrastructure

**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

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

- 24/01906/F Dewey Sports Centre, Barley Close, Bloxham  
Front and rear extensions and alterations to the Dewey sports centre, installation of 12no sports lighting columns, 5no netball/tennis courts, 1no artificial cricket wicket, 1no replacement long jump pit, 1no 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.
- 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) – Parish Councillor Steve Craggs reported that he had been in contact with Christina Cherry at Cherwell District Council for advice on progressing the BNDP. The Clerk had also been in contact with Locality with regard to grant funding for a Housing Needs Assessment and an application would be submitted shortly.
- 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;
- 2) a meeting be arranged with representatives from the PPG Group, GP Surgery, Dentist and Warriner School to discuss how to approach to the Planning Inquiry; and

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- 3) the Planning Inspectorate be contacted again for details on the procedure for public speaking at the Planning Inquiry.

**Action TG**

### 59/24 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 on the issues raised at the last Drop-In and Chat session. These included trees over hanging their boundary at 4 Old Bridge Road and also Humber House. Actions on both of these matters had already been undertaken by the Chairman and the Clerk.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

- iii) EV Charging Points – Councillor Russell Avens reported on the background to the project and how EV charging points could be funded. The County Council had recognised the need for charging points and were running an EV Microhub programme. However, funding as part of that programme had been delayed and would not be available until early 2025.

Therefore, Councillor Avens suggested that the Parish Council could with go ahead independently and install the charging points or it could wait until the County Council's funding was available. However, this did come with the risk that funding might be further delayed, past early 2025.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) the Parish Council to proceed with the Ev charging points project and not wait for the County Council's funding programme to become available; and **Action RA**
- 3) contact be made with Deddington Parish Council for details about their EV charging points located at the Windmill Centre. **Action TG/RA**

### 60/24 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 5 August 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 5 August 2024 and the Unity Trust bank statements for July 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.

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- iv) Section 106 Funds for Outdoor Gym Equipment – The Parish Council considered an update from Cherwell District Council on the unspent Section 106 funds which the authority was holding following developments in Bloxham.

**Resolved** that contact be made with Tom Darlington at Cherwell District Council to discuss reallocating unspent Section 106 funds. **Action TG**

- v) Cherwell Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – The Parish Council discussed the Draft CIL Charging Schedule Consultation.

**Resolved** that introduction of CIL be supported. **Action TG**

- vi) Bollards at Jubilee Park – The Parish Council discussed the use of Section 106 funds for bollards in the Jubilee Park car park.

**Resolved** that S106 funds held at Cherwell District Council be used to fund the new bollards at Jubilee Park car park. **Action TG/DB**

**61/24 Correspondence** – There was no further correspondence.

**62/24 Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Resolved** that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the minute numbered 63/24 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

**63/24 Quotes for Tree Work** – The Parish Council considered quotes for tree work at Painters Close and Tadmerton Road.

**Resolved** that the two quotes from Cotefield Treecare be approved. **Action TG**

**64/24 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 2 September 2024
- Monday 7 October 2024 - Nick
- Monday 4 November 2024
- Monday 2 December 2024

**65/24 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information**

- Traffic Calming Working Group
- 'No Mow May' 2025 extending into June 2025
- Model Financial Regulations
- Effectiveness of the Internal Audit

(The meeting ended at 9.15pm)

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Chairman – 2 September 2024