

# BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 8 APRIL 2024 AT 7.00PM

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Theresa Goss (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer), District Councillor Rob Pattenden and eight members of the public.

**166/23 Apologies** – Parish Councillor Mike Fenner submitted his apologies because he was on holiday. Parish Councillor David Morris submitted his apologies because he was at work.

District Councillor David Hingley also submitted his apologies.

**Resolved** that the apologies from Councillors Mike Fenner and David Morris be authorised and the absences be approved.

### 167/23 Declarations of Interest

Minute Number 173/23 (v), Village Matters, Brown Waste Bins and Planters in The Avenue – Councillor Alex Harrison declared an interest because he paid the cost for emptying the brown bin, which was currently used to collect the cuttings in The Avenue.

**Resolved** that the interest be noted.

**168/23 Minutes** – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2024 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2024 be approved.

### 169/23 Matters Arising

Minute Number 162/23(iii), Finance, Cherry Tree Centre – Councillor Alex Harrison would liaise with the Cherry Tree Centre regarding the decision of the Parish Council relating to their grant funding for 2024/2025. **Action TG**

### 170/23 Chairman's Announcements

- Ray Everitt - A past Chairman and Parish Councillor had sadly passed away on 28 March 2024 in Godswell Park. The Parish Council passed its condolences to his family.
- Parking – Parking issues continued on Courtington Lane and the Thames Valley Police Rural Neighbourhood Team would continue to monitor and take action, as and when required.
- Yellow and White Lining - White lining in various locations around the village was included in the County Council's schedule for the financial year 2024/2025. With regard to the yellow lining on Courtington Lane, further details were awaited from Oxfordshire County Council regarding the funding for the formal consultation.
- Jubilee Hall – There had been discussions between the Management Committee and Bloxham School regarding the changes to the Dewey Hall road access, from Jubilee car park. A ceiling mounted projector had been installed in the main hall and quotes had been obtained for the redecoration of the main hall.

The Committee was also in discussion with GigaClear regarding a community hub WiFi in the Hall and a notice would be included in the Broadsheet, asking that children do not play ball games in the carpark and highlighting the risks of them climbing into the substation.

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- Speed Limit Outside Warriner School - Residents had been in contact regarding the speed limit remaining at 30mph outside Warriner School and it not being reduced to 20mph. The Parish Council's submission to the County Council as part of the 20mph Speed Restrictions Project, had proposed 20mph flashing amber lights be installed for use at drop-off and collection times on the A361, however this option had been declined by the County Council. The Parish Council had contacted the County Council regarding this topic and was awaiting a response.
- Multiple Speed Limit Changes in Bloxham - A resident recently contacted the County Councillor with the Portfolio for Highways about speed limit changes in Bloxham and had been informed that their officers were in discussion with the Parish Council. This was not the case, despite every effort being made by the Parish Council to engage with the County Council officers.
- 20mph Signage - It had been noted that when entering the village on Tadmerton Road and Milton Road, there were 20mph signposts, but 30mph roundels were painted on the road. These were a further examples of poor project governance and execution by the County Council's 20mph Project Team.
- Noisy Manhole Covers in High Street - A report had been submitted to Fix My Street, but it had not been actioned by the County Council because the manhole covers were the responsibility of Thames Water. The Parish Council had contacted Thames Water Customer Services and arranged for a site visit, which took place 4 April 2024. Following the site visit, the engineer had raised an urgent work order to rectify the matter.
- Dog Fouling – There had been an increase in dog fouling in Jubilee Park and the David Tyrrell Recreation Ground, as well as on the Public Rights of Way and footpaths. This matter would be discussed further at the next Parish Council meeting.

**171/23 Open Forum** – A resident reported that the Planning Inspectorate would be reviewing the decision by Cherwell District Council to refuse planning permission for 60 houses in Quarry Close because the developer Gladman, had submitted an Appeal. The resident suggested that residents needed to be made aware of the Appeal and be encouraged to attend the hearing on 22 & 23 May 2024 at 10am at Bloxham Mill. The Chairman confirmed that this information would be circulated in the village, on the usual web sites, Facebook pages and in the Broadsheet.

A resident raised his concerns about air quality not being measured outside the shops on the High Street and that he had been advised by District Councillor David Hingley that the Parish Council did not wish to undertake air quality monitoring in this location. The Chairman advised that this was incorrect and the Parish Council had requested air quality to be monitored at the shops on High Street. Councillor Hingley was aware of this and there had perhaps been a breakdown in communication on this matter.

The resident also asked about traffic calming in the village and why there had not been any progress with the issue. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been working on the 20mph speed restrictions project as well as the white and yellow lining in the village. County Councillor Kieron Mallon would be talking to the Primary School about a crossing around the area of the School. The Chairman had also attended a site meeting with a County Councillor Highways Officer to discuss various traffic calming issues.

The resident also asked about flooding and whether the Parish Council was taking any initiatives forward to review the flooding dangers to residents and capacity of the culverts in the High Street. He had registered these issues on the County Council's 'Fix My Street' web site but had not yet received a reply. The Chairman asked the resident to forward the reference number to him and he would and follow this up with the County Council.

A resident asked the Parish Council about additional defibrillators in the village. The Chairman advised that this project was on-going and the first one to be installed, using grant funding, which would be located at the GP surgery as their current defibrillator was not available 24/7. This should be installed in the coming weeks. Councillor Alex Harrison was also investigating other suitable locations for defibrillators around the Milton Road end of the village and Motor Fuel Group had been approached about possibly locating a unit at the petrol station.

Two residents addressed the Parish Council, speaking on behalf of other organisations in the village, however, it was unclear which village organisations these were. They promoted the Big Green Week and Biodiversity Bloxham and circulated to the Parish Council, a list of environmental issues which they felt needed to be addressed.

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The Chairman thanked residents for addressing the Parish Council.

*(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)*

**172/23 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 raised the issue of commercial dog walking and the Chairman confirmed this was still an issue in the village. As an example, there was one person walking six or seven dogs, off their leads, all at the same time and it was very difficult for all of the dog mess to be picked up, even if the person was able to spot it.

Councillor Pattenden was aware HS2 lorries were still coming through the village and he would raise the issue with the Rollright and Enstone quarries.

Also, a hedge had been removed in Wykham Lane which should not have been removed during nesting season and this was being followed up by Cherwell District Council.

Councillor Pattenden also confirmed that along with Councillor David Hingley, they would be happy to support the Parish Council at the Gladman appeal hearing with respect to the 60 houses in Quarry Close on 22 & 23 May 2024.

Councillor Pattenden was thanked for his report.

### 173/23 Environment/Village Matters

- i) Emergency Plan – The Clerk reported that the County Council no longer supplied sandbags to residents and their advice was that residents should purchase their own sandbags, as a method of self-help.

**Resolved** that further consideration be given to the provision on sandbags and this be discussed again at a future meeting, when more information is available.

- ii) Annual Parish Meeting 2024 – The Parish Council discussed the arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting being held on Wednesday 24 April 2024. The Chairman advised that there would be a report from Marie Jones, Warden at The Slade and information would be provided on the Quarry Close appeal, the new defibrillators and the Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

- iii) St Mary's Church Spire Lighting – Councillor Steve Craggs reported that Dave Andrews had advised the PCC that the lights needed to be replaced with LED's. The PCC believed that the lights belonged to the Parish Council as they were paid for from a Millennium grant, which was received by the Parish Council. Dave Andrews would be supplying a quote for the works and this would be considered at a future meeting.

**Resolved** that the matter be deferred until further information has been received. **Action SC**

- v) Land on the Ridgeway – The Parish Council discussed the parcel of land which was for sale on The Ridgeway, which was deemed suitable for a Cemetery. However, the costs for the purchase of the land, plus planning fees would be circa £500,000, which were funds the Parish Council did not have.

**Resolved** that this matter not be progressed any further.

- v) Brown Waste Bins and Planters in The Avenue – The Parish Council discussed the grass cutting which was completed by residents in The Avenue, the removal of the waste and the purchase of seeds for the planters.

**Resolved** that the Parish Council approval be given in principle to the purchase of an additional brown bin for removing grass cuttings and the purchase of seeds and subject to further information being supplied, the

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Clerk be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Chairman, to purchase the brown bin and seeds.

### **Action AH/TG**

- vi) Dog Fouling – Councillor David Morris had requested this be an item on the agenda, however, in his absence, it be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

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

- vii) Replacement Dog Waste Bin – Councillor Alex Harrison requested that the dog waste bin at the County Park be replaced with a bigger unit because the current bin was always overflowing. Following a discussion, it became apparent that the dog waste bin was owned by the Management Company for the Woodlands estate and they would need to undertake the replacement.

**Resolved** that the Management Company for the Woodlands estate be requested to replace the current dog waste bin inside the Country Park with a bigger unit. **Action TG**

### 174/23 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:

24/00527/F          Firs Hill, Tadmarton Road, Bloxham  
Construction of synthetic turf tennis court including fencing, on existing natural turf lawn

**Resolved** that, it be noted and approved that, observations 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:

TPO 9/2024	Lydstep, 1 Old Bridge Road, Bloxham, Banbury One Norway Spruce and Two Scot Pine
R3.0031	Bloxham Church of England Primary School, Tadmarton Road, Bloxham, Condition 10 (Ecological monitoring and management plan)
R3.0028/24	Bloxham Church of England Primary School, Tadmarton Road, Bloxham, Condition 3 (Archaeology)
R3.0029/24	Bloxham Church of England Primary School, Tadmarton Road, Bloxham, Condition 6 (Bird Boxes)
R3.0030/24	Bloxham Church Of England Primary School, Tadmarton Road, Bloxham Condition 8 (Tree Protection)
R3.0031/24	Bloxham Church of England Primary School, Tadmarton Road, Bloxham, Condition 10 (Ecological monitoring and management plan)
R3.0032/24	Bloxham Church of England Primary School, Tadmarton Road, Bloxham Condition 11 (Car Parking layout)
R3.0033/24	Bloxham Church of England Primary School, Tadmarton Road, Bloxham Condition 12 (Construction management plan)

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24/00766/CDISC Bloxham Church of England Primary School, Tadmarton Road, Bloxham,  
Details pursuant to Condition 8 (Tree Protection) of planning permission no. (R3.0004/23)  
23/00128/OCC - R3.0030/24

- 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) – Councillor Steve Craggs reported on the options which were available to the Parish Council to progress the review of the BNDP.

**Resolved** that the report be noted and the current Neighbourhood Plan be updated, rather than a new Plan being formulated to completely replace the existing Plan.

- iv) Gladman Developments Ltd - APP/C3105/W/23/3329533 – The Parish Council considered submitting an additional submission regarding the appeal against the refusal of planning permission at OS Parcel 0078, north West of Quarry Close, Quarry Close, Bloxham for outline planning application 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 following be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, in respect of Appeal APP/C3105/W/23/3329533:

With regard to the above application, the Parish Council would like to add the below to its original objection, which the Parish Council presumes has already been forwarded to the Inspector.

Since the above planning application was refused by Cherwell District Council, a planning application for 30 houses in Eells Lane, Bloxham has been approved on Appeal. At that Appeal, the Inspector acknowledged that the 5.4 years housing land supply in the Cherwell area has already been achieved, even before these additional 30 houses were approved. Therefore, Cherwell must now be well in excess of the 5.4 years.

In addition, should this Appeal be allowed for another 60 houses, there will be a massive detrimental impact on Bloxham which will severely impact the infrastructure, doctors surgery, dental practice, primary school, secondary school, shops and amenities and traffic and roads, as already outlined in the Parish Council's original objection.

There is also an application currently being considered in nearby Milcombe Parish (which borders with Bloxham Parish) for 90 houses, which is in addition to the 35 houses in Milcombe Parish which were approved at Appeal in December 2023.

All these developments will further exasperate the difficulties outlined in the Parish Council's original objection as those new residents will inevitably wish to use the services in Bloxham, which are either full or at breaking point.

It is also worth noting that in Bloxham, there are currently the following number of houses for sale:

18 homes x two/three bedroom ranging in price from £260,000 - £500,000

13 homes with prices over £500,000

With regard to the availability of rental properties in Bloxham, there are currently eight, with six of those being two bedroom.

These figures do not indicate there is a shortage of available homes in the village.

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If the Inspector is minded to approve the Appeal, then please could the Parish Council's Community Benefits list, submitted with its original objection, be taken into consideration.

### **175/23 Parish Council Matters**

- i) Vacancies – There was one application for co-option onto the Parish Council.

**Resolved** that Nick Rayner be co-opted onto the Parish Council and the three remaining vacancies continue to the advertised. **Action TG**

- ii) Drop-In and Chat – The Chairman reported on the issues which had been discussed at the last session held on 9 March 2024.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **176/23 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 uncashed payments & receipts and the bank reconciliation, as at 8 April 2024 for the bank accounts at Unity Trust Bank be noted; and
- 3) it be noted that Councillor Joanna Barton, as Councillor for monitoring the Parish Council's internal controls, will sign the uncashed payments list, the uncashed receipts list, the bank reconciliation as at 8 April 2024 and the Unity Trust bank statements for March 2024.

- ii) General and Ear-Marked Reserves 2024/2025 – Prior to the meeting, the general and ear-marked reserves as at 8 April 20224.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

**177/23 Correspondence** – There was no further correspondence.

**178/23 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 13 May 2024
- Monday 3 June 2024
- Monday 1 July 2024
- Monday 5 August 2024
- Monday 2 September 2024
- Monday 2 October 2024

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## 179/23 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information

- Traffic Calming Working Group
- EV Charging Points
- Dog Fouling in the Village
- Accounts 2023/204
- Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/2024

(The meeting ended at 9.05pm)

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Chairman – 13 May 2024