

# **MINUTES OF THE BLOXHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT WARRINER SCHOOL, BLOXHAM ON THURSDAY 19 APRIL 2018 AT 7.30PM**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Councillor Jenny Yates: Councillors Steve Craggs, Mary Groves, Mike Hawtin, Leonard Leigh, Stephen Phipps, Gloria Lester-Stevens and Sue Slater,

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Bloxham Parish Council Theresa Goss, District Councillors Christine Heath, Mike Bishop and Andrew McHugh, County Councillor Kieron Mallon and 65 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Parish Councillor Nick Rayner, Paddy Hopkins, Ros and Jon Carlton, Therese and Keith Janes, Ari Grimes, Gill and David Battle and Carmen Guard.

**1/18 MINUTES** - The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2/18 MATTERS ARISING** - There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2017.

## **3/18 PRESENTATIONS FROM:**

- Matthew Dewsbury from Skanska UK/Oxfordshire County Council gave a presentation about volunteering events which he could arrange for village organisations. Skanska UK/Oxfordshire County Council Officers were given a day off from work so that they could then perform voluntary work such as litter picking, maintenance of open spaces etc. The scheme received a positive response from the meeting and further details would be emailed to the Clerk.
- Representatives from the project groups at the Ellen Hinde Hall, the Ex-Serviceman's Hall and Jubilee Park, which were being funded by Section 106 monies each gave a presentation about the work being undertaken at each site.
- Robert Aplin for the Ex-Serviceman's Hall; Noted that Table Tennis groups made the greatest use of the hall and equipment (Tennis Tables) had to be stored in the hall at present. Their current plan was to create additional storage behind the existing building in order to free-up space within the Hall.
- Glyn Williams for the Jubilee Hall; The Jubilee Hall project to provide new additional changing rooms was currently out to tender. A question was asked regarding the funding for the projects and why money had not been allocated instead for one large hall. The response was that consideration had been given to this point, but on balance the approach that had been taken was considered to be the best fit for the village
- Heather Westbury: Ellen Hinde Hall. They were making better use of the space, installing better heating and damp proofing. The improvements would benefit families and the Boys Brigade they were now receiving more bookings for party's
- Matthew Ingall, Head Teacher at Bloxham Primary School gave a report on the work at the Cherry Tree Centre and thanked the Parish Council for its support, including the guaranteed funding for three years, from the New Homes Bonus.

**4/18 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – The Chairman circulated a report to the APM on the Parish Council's activities over the last 12 months. The full report was available on the Parish Council web site.

The main highlights of the Chairman's report were:

- Old Bridge Road was fully open
- Provision of a footpath on Barford Road; we were waiting the final drawings from OCC
- Parking continuing to work with TVP to prevent dangerous parking in the village
- Air Quality Reviewing the data from the 2017 Air Quality Report by CDC and requesting increased monitoring
- Ditches and Drains Volunteers support together with CDC in keeping them clear
- Implementation of Section 106 funds
- The substantial progress made at the Slade Nature Reserve, by Marie Jones and her team of volunteers.
- Land in Queen Street to continue the process set in place as part of a Millennial Project to expose the footings of the cottages in this area.
- Funding for 2017/2018 and 2018/2019
- A new Councillor would be joining in May, but that there were still two vacancies.

The Chairman also thanked the past and present Councillors and Theresa Goss as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for their work during the last 12 months.

A resident proposed a vote of thanks to Marie Jones for her work at the Slade Nature Reserve.

**5/18 FINANCIAL REPORT/BUDGET AND FUNDING** – During the Chairman's report, the Chairman presented to the Annual Parish Meeting, the financial report for 2017/2018. The figures had been subject to internal audit and gave an accurate picture of the activities of the year. There were no items of clarification. The accounts for year ended 31 March 2018 were available on the Parish Council web site.

**6/18 PLANNING MATTERS** – Parish Councillor Sue Slater addressed the meeting with regard to planning matters in the village.

Councillor Slater explained that the Planning & Strategy Committee had commented on a number of planning applications and all comments were formed on the basis of the policies within the Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan and Cherwell District Council's Local Plan. The Planning Committee had used these Policies to inform and support the objection to the Planning Prospects application for 150 homes on Tadmarton Road. CDC Planning Officers were also including Bloxham's NDP in their Planning Reports.

The Planning & Strategy Committee, on behalf of the Parish Council, also responds to National and Local Planning Consultation. The Review of the Local Plan Part one, to assess Oxforde's unmet need, was due for Examination later this year, this document included numerous green field sites surrounding Bloxham that had been put forward for housing development.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Slater for her presentation.

**7/18 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT** - Councillor Craggs gave a brief overview of the work undertaken by the Councillors on the Environment Committee.

A new Tree Survey had been completed, this included a Management Plan. The current policy of the Parish Council was that if a tree owned by the Parish Council had to be removed then it would be replaced. Residents noted that all Parish Council Trees would carry a small silver identity tag.

A survey of the village benches had been undertaken and a maintenance plan considering possible replacements using seats made from recycled material, would be put in place.

The Environment Committee was waiting for final confirmation from the OCC contractor regarding the placement of Christmas lights powered by nearby lamp posts.

Advice was also given to residents for any problems with pavements, highways and street lights to report these to "Fix My Street" preferably with a photo.

**8/18 PARISH COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR 2018/2019** - The Chairman reported on the Parish Council priorities for 2018/2019. These were:

- ensure that the Air Quality in the village was monitored with continued liaison with Cherwell District Council to ensure positive preventative actions were undertaken.
- use the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plans to ensure that any development within the built limit of the village was in line with the Policies contained within them.
- support services for the young and elderly of the village.
- improve the environment and fabric of the village with the help of volunteers.
- continue to build on the recreational improvements for the residents of Bloxham.
- continue to seek a secure location for the library facility in Bloxham.
- continue to work with the County Council to provide a safe cycle route into Banbury.
- ensure that the County Council provide funds to improve the surface and safety of the A361 through the village.

It was also reported that Bloxham Fun Day was being held on Saturday 9 June 2018.

**9/18 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** – Prior to the meeting District Councillors Christine Heath, Mike Bishop and Andrew McHugh and County Councillor Kieron Mallon had circulated their reports.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their reports and their support over the last 12 months. The reports would be available on the Parish council web site.

**10/18 RESIDENTS QUESTIONS**

There were three tabled questions which residents had submitted to the Parish Council. These covered air quality, a planning matter and the recently approved licence at the ESSO garage, allowing alcohol to be sold for 24 hours a day.

Question regarding Air Quality in Bloxham was raised as a health issue for all residents especially children walking to and from school. It was noted that the greatest pollution was created at peak traffic times and when vehicles were accelerating in the village. District Councillors would take up these issues with CDC and would respond to the points made. A member of the audience noted that many electric vehicles were now available and more would be produced in coming years.

Question on planning issues; it was asked if the Parish Council had objected to the development by Miller Homes Milton Road and the new application for 150 dwellings on Tadmarton Road and if the development on Tadmarton Road had been approved. The response to the question was:- regarding Miller Homes Milton Road; that the Parish Council had objected to the initial application put forward by Framptons, provided evidence at the subsequent Appeal with the support of residents and had also objected to the second Application again by Frampton.

Regarding the new application for Tadmarton Road, this has had an extension granted so no decision as yet. The Parish Council has used the Policies contained within the Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan and CDC's Local Plan in its response.

Question concerned the granting of a 24hour licence for the serving of alcohol to, the Esso Garage on the A361 in the village.

The main concerns were; that the strong flood lights that would be illuminating the site would adversely impact on the amenity of nearby residents, along with the resultant noise from vehicles using the garage on a 24 hour basis.

It was observed by the County Councillor that there was clearly a mismatch between licensing and planning, but "with our combined weight we could push the doors open."

The issues regarding air quality and the licence at the ESSO garage would be followed up after the meeting with officers at Cherwell District Council, the District Councillors and the Parish Council.

Mr Wyatt requested permission to address the meeting regarding his new application for the Nursery in Ells Lane. In view of the circumstances the permission to address the meeting was granted.

Mr Wyatt stressed that there was public interest and support for his plans, and that he was prepared to offer a covenant on the land to ensure it was not subject to further housing development.

Residents comments included:-

- Had all residents present had seen copies of the Application to inform their views, as it had only been published that day?
- Highlighting that this Nursery should be supported as other amenities in the village such as The Ridgeway Nursery, Bloxham Squash Club, Temple Close Nursery had all been lost to housing developments.
- The Parish Council should meet with Mr Wyatt.

The Chairman noted, for residents information, that the previous application submitted by Mr Wyatt had been withdrawn following CDC Planning Officer Advice to his Agent. This document was available on the CDC Planning Portal under the previous application. The application that had been made available on the CDC Planning Portal that day, would be considered by the Parish Council's Planning & Strategy Committee and the comments submitted to Cherwell District Council would be based on the policies within national planning policy, the Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan and the Local Plan.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting.

(The meeting closed at 9.15pm)

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Chairman  
25 April 2019