

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor David Bunn; Councillors Russell Avens, Stuart Begg, Steve Craggs and Mike Fenner.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), District Councillors Adam Nell and Rob Pattenden and five members of the public.

77/23 Apologies – Parish Councillors Joanna Barton and David Morris submitted their apologies because they were on holiday.

Apologies were also received from District Councillor David Hingley.

Resolved that the apologies from Parish Councillors Joanna Barton and David Morris be authorised and the absences be approved.

78/23 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

79/23 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2023 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

80/23 Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

81/23 Chairman's Announcements

- Deeley Homes Planning Application Appeal Reference APP/C3105/W/23/3327581 (23/00097/REF) - Deeley Homes was appealing the decision by Cherwell District Council to refuse their planning application for 30 dwellings on Ells Lane. The deadline for further comments was 6 November 2023 and these should be submitted to submit.appeal@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
- Works to the roof at the David Tyrrell Recreation Ground Pavilion – Due to the delay with the receipt of the roof sheets, the Recreation Ground Trustees had requested that the work be undertaken in the spring of 2024. This was because the ground at the Rec would be soft during the winter and they did not want it to be damaged by large vehicles driving on it. The Clerk had contacted the contractor about this approach and was waiting to hear back from them.
- Swings at the David Tyrrell Recreation Ground - The new swings had now been installed, but there was a query with the invoice and the Clerk had contacted Wicksteed to request a revised invoice.
- Christmas lights & Christmas tree – The tree had been ordered from John Wyatt and he would supply a 5m tree and also erect it by the War Memorial. It would be mounted in the ground and not in a planter, as it was last year.
- Remembrance Day Parade 12 November 2023 – Following feedback from the 2022 event about the length of the sermon and it had been agreed that it would be shorter this year. However, following this request to the Vicar, he had suggested that this year, it should be a civic service organised by the Royal British Legion and the Parish Council and he would not have any involvement. This was currently being discussed by the Royal British Legion.
- Bus Shelter on A361, opposite Warriner School – Thames Water had not reinstated the concrete section back into the shelter therefore it was still not accessible to wheelchair users and mobility scooter users. Thames Water had advised they would address this ASAP and the Clerk would continue to follow this up until the work had been completed.

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- Soot on The Ridgeway – Environmental Health at Cherwell District Council still maintained its position that it would not test the material to establish whether or not it was hazardous, therefore the Chairman would continue to follow this up with the officers and District Councillor Rob Pattenden agreed to assist. **Action RP/DB**
- Patient Participation Group (PPG) – A PPG meeting was being held the following day at 630pm at Hook Norton Surgery and the Chairman would be attending the meeting, along with Councillor Mike Fenner.

82/23 Open Forum – A resident addressed the Parish Council with his concerns relating to the 20mph speed restrictions in the village. He highlighted the impact on residents of the village and that the matter of the speed restrictions had been in the national media due to the blanket approach in Wales.

The Chairman explained the process and agreed that the County Council's consultation had been vague. The Parish Council had circulated a survey to residents and had been disappointed with the number of replies which had been received. The Chairman advised that data collated from the SID showed that typically, 60% of drivers coming from Chipping Norton were speeding as they entered the village. The Parish Council's decision to support 20mph speed restrictions in parts of the village was available on the Parish Council web site.

A resident advised that the dog waste bins were not being emptied regularly. The Clerk would follow this up with Cherwell District Council if they were not emptied the following day. He also reported that four drains on Banbury Road were blocked, along with others around the village. The Chairman encouraged the resident to report these to the County Council using the Fix My Street web site. If they had not been cleared within 28 days, the resident was requested to send details of the report to the Chairman and he would follow this up with the County Council.

The Chairman report that the grass on the corner of Barley Close and Brickle Lane needed to be reinstated. The Clerk was asked to contact Bloxham School to ask them to reinstate the grass verge as the damage was caused by their pupils walking across it. Previous signs asking people not to walk on the grass had been removed. **Action TG**

Councillor Steve Craggs reported that seven choir robes in St Mary's Church had been slashed, between Thursday evening and Sunday morning. Councillor Craggs would supply the crime number to the Clerk and this would be followed up with Thames Valley Police. **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)

83/23 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 reported on the Local Plan 2040 and that the draft Plan had been approved by the Executive. The six-week consultation process was also underway and details on the Plan were available on the Cherwell District Council (CDC) web site. Councillor Pattenden encouraged the Parish Council and residents to respond to the consultation and highlighted the proposal for 25,000 new houses to be built across the Cherwell area between now and 2040 and 500 of these new properties would be in the rural areas, particularly in larger villages, such as Bloxham.

There were two CDC workshops for Parish Councils being held in October 2023 and if Councillors wished to attend, they should advise the Clerk. **Action ALL**

District Councillor Adam Nell reported that Cherwell District Council was currently engaged in the budget planning process and decision making would be different his year because there was a minority Executive, and all parties needed to work together. The Executive would approve the budget in February 2024 and there would be a public consultation towards the end of November 2023.

There were ongoing discussions about moving CDC staff from Bodicote House to the old Debenhams site in Castle Quay, which was owned by CDC. But the discussions were at an early stage.

Councillor Nell also highlighted the support being provided to refugees, various policies which had been approved and the help which would be available for local low-income families during the winter.

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The District Councillors were thanked for their reports.

84/23 Environment/Village Matters

- i) Proposed White and Yellow Road Markings on Courtington Lane and Stone Hill – Prior to the meeting, the results of the informal consultation had been circulated to the Parish Council. There was a discussion regarding the submission of a request to the County Council to carry out a formal consultation process.

The Chairman advised that the results indicated that there was village support for the lining on Courtington Lane, but not for proceeding with any lining on Stone Hill.

Resolved that a request be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council for a formal consultation process to be undertaken regarding single and double yellow lining on Courtington Lane, as per the plan supplied by the County Council. **Action TG/DB**

- ii) Play Area Inspection – The Parish Council considered the annual play area inspection at the David Tyrrell Recreation Ground.

Resolved that the report be noted and it be noted that the only low risk item highlighted within the report was in respect of the swings and these had since been replaced.

- iii) Electric Vehicle Microhubs – Councillor Russell Avens provided an update following the submission of an expression of interest for EV charging points at Jubilee Park. The two options which were available were either being part of the County wide scheme which meant that the chargers would be same across the County or independently installing chargers supplied just to the Parish Council. These would then be managed by a private company. A local electrician who had carried out work at Jubilee Hall would be contacted to determine what voltages were available at the Hall.

Councillor Avens advised on the grants which were available and he would continue to investigate both options and report back at the future meeting.

Councillor Avens was thanked for his report.

Resolved that the report be noted and a progress report be submitted to the next meeting. **Action RA**

85/23 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: None

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:

23/02197/F Co-Op Food, Co-Op, High Street, Bloxham
Retrospective application for siting of InPost Parcel Locker

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

23/02069/F Tanglewood, Queen Street, Bloxham
Replacement porch, new car port and conversion of existing garage to habitable space

23/02507/TCA Checkers, Kings Road, Bloxham
T1 x Magnolia - Crown reduction reducing the south side of the tree by up to 2 metres, merging this into the remaining crown. Reducing the height by up to 1 metre.

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- 23/02481/TPO Station House, Exchange Lane, Bloxham
T1 and T2 (Hornbeam) - Crown raise over garden, removing cluster of lowest ascending branches given lift of 5m over garden. Crown thin 10% - subject to TPO 7/2000
- 23/02479/F 14 Chipperfield Park Road, Bloxham,
Single storey rear extension with associated landscaping works
- 23/02567/TCA 30 Bloxham Road, Banbury,
T1 x Salix Capri - Crown reduction by 2 metres to control tree's size, clear from nearby buildings and reduce failure risk of overextended limbs.

- 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) Cherwell District Council's Local Plan – Prior to the meeting, Councillor Steve Craggs had circulated to the Parish Council, a draft response to the Local Plan.

Resolved that a meeting be held on-line to discuss the Local Plan response and the appeal relating to application APP/C3105/W/23/3327581, Deeley Homes for 30 dwellings on Ells Lane. **Action TG**

- iv) Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan (BNDP) – The Parish Council discussed updating the BNDP and the potential membership of a Working Group.

Resolved that the following residents be invited to join a Working Group to review the Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan: John Groves, Stephen Phipps, Mike Morris, Jenny Yates and Sue Slater.
Action TG

- v) Community Benefits List – Prior to the meeting, the Parish Council's Community Benefits List had been circulated to the Parish Council.

Resolved that the Community Benefits List be circulated to Councillors for their amendments, and it be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for the appeal relating to application APP/C3105/W/23/3327581, Deeley Homes for 30 dwellings on Ells Lane. **Action TG**

86/23 Parish Council Matters

- i) Vacancies – The Clerk reported that there were no applications for co-opton onto the Parish Council, however a resident expressed an interest.

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

- ii) Drop-In and Chat – Councillor Steve Craggs had produced a report following the last session and this was available on the Parish Council web site.

Resolved that the report be noted.

87/23 Finance

- i) Accounts for Payment/Uncashed Payments and Income - The Clerk submitted to the Parish Council, the accounts for payment, uncashed payments and the income since that last meeting.

Resolved that the income since the last meeting and the accounts for payment be approved, as detailed in appendix 1 to the minutes.

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- ii) Bank Reconciliation – The Parish Council considered the bank reconciliation for the Unity Trust Bank accounts as at 2 October 2023.

Resolved that the bank reconciliation as at 2 October 2023 be noted.

- iii) Budget Monitoring & Ring Fence Funds – Prior to the meeting, the Parish Council had received reports on budget monitoring and ring-fenced funds 2023/2024.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) External Auditors Report – Prior to the meeting, the External Auditors Report for 2022/2023 had been circulated to the Parish Council.

Resolved that the External Auditors Report for 2022/2023 be noted and approved.

88/23 Correspondence – There was no further correspondence.

89/23 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 6 November 2023
- Monday 4 December 2023

90/23 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information

- Traffic Calming Working Group
- Investing Parish Council Funds
- Maintenance to Round Bench on The Green
- Meeting Venue
- Electric Vehicle Microhubs

(The meeting ended at 9.00pm)

Chairman – 6 November 2023