

# BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 3 JULY 2023 AT 7.00PM

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Councillor David Bunn; Councillors Russell Avens, Joanna Barton, Stuart Begg and Steve Craggs.

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

**37/23 Apologies** – Parish Councillor Mike Fenner submitted his apologies because he had another appointment.

Apologies were also received from County Councillor Kieron Mallon.

**Resolved** that the apologies from Parish Councillor Mike Fenner be authorised and the absence approved.

**38/23 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.

**39/23 Minutes** – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2023 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**40/23 Matters Arising**

Minute Number 25/23 – Open Forum - The Chairman reported that he had contacted the County Council to establish why road drains had been unblocked, but the channels between them had not been unblocked. A reply was awaited.

The white line road markings on the A361/Barford Road mini roundabout had been re-painted and they had been completed a few days after the request had been made to the County Council.

District Councillor Rob Pattenden was still investigating the planning rules around residents fencing off amenity land next to their properties, which effectively extended their gardens. He would provide an update at the next meeting.

**Action RP**

**41/23 Chairman's Announcements**

- The Ridgeway - Soot like material had been found on The Ridgeway, but it was unclear exactly what it was and where it came from. It had been reported to Environmental Health and a reply was awaited.
- Hedge on Cumberford – The County Council and Clerk to the Parish Council had been chasing the resident at The Cottage about cutting back the hedge, but no reply had been received. The County Council would now be issuing a formal notice for the work to be undertaken.
- Amenity Land – Advice had been received that planning permission was required if a resident wished to erect a hedge or a fence around amenity land next to their property, even if it was documented on their deeds. As reported earlier in the meeting, District Councillor Rob Pattenden would follow up on this matter.  
**Action RP**
- Parcel Drop Box Outside the Co-op – The Parcel Drop Box had been installed outside the Co-op whilst the manager had been off-site, and it had also been wired into the electrics at the shop. The Chairman had reported this to Cherwell District Council to establish whether planning permission was required in the Conservation Area.
- 23/01265/OUT- Leaflets had been delivered to the whole village and over 20 volunteers from the village had assisted the Parish Council with the delivery. An email would be sent to the volunteers thanking them for their support. **Action TG**
- The Gogs – Following the damage caused by the Amazon van, the contractors had advised that they could complete the work at the beginning of August, however Councillors felt it should be completed in September 2023. **Action DB**

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- Proposed Developments on Milton Road – The developer for this land, Taylor Wimpey, had asked again to meet with the Parish Council to discuss the proposed development. Prior to a meeting being arranged, Councillors asked for clarification and details on the proposal and where Taylor Wimpey was, in respect of the planning process. **Action TG**
- Defib Training – The training held on 10 June 2023 had been very well received and South Central Ambulance Service would be given a £200 donation.
- Bloxham and Hook Norton GP Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) – The Chairman gave a brief report on the meeting he had attended at the Hook Norton surgery on 6 June 2023.
- Milton Road VAS – The VAS had now been repaired by Westcotec.
- Speed Indicator Device (SID) – The SID had been located outside St Mary's Church and would be moved around the village at various times.
- Boundary fence between Jubilee Park and with Dewey Hall – A meeting had been held with Bloxham School and a quote would be forwarded to the Parish Council in due course. The costs would be shared with Bloxham School.

**42/23 Open Forum** – A resident addressed the Parish Council and asked why the Cherwell District Council representative was not at the Parish Council meeting to discuss air quality. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had been told that the officers could not provide any further information at the current time and they appeared reluctant to attend a Parish Council meeting to answer questions. District Councillor David Hingley agreed to progress this matter with the District Council Officers, on behalf of the Parish Council. **Action TG**

The resident also raised her concerns about the volume of traffic outside the shops on High Street and suggested possible traffic calming measures.

Councillor Joanna Barton asked whether a mirror could be installed at the mini-island on the A361 junction with Barford Road and whether other measures could be introduced to slow down drivers on the approach to the roundabout. The Chairman agreed to arrange a meeting of the Traffic Calming Working Group and this would be included in the discussions. **Action DB**

The Chairman had been asked by a resident why the Lollipop Lady had not been replaced on Courtington Lane. The Parish Council had been trying to arrange a meeting with the Primary School to discuss this matter and others, but the meeting would probably not now take place until the new School year. The Chairman had advised the Parent to contact the Primary School about the matter.

The Chairman advised that there would be an informal consultation held with the village, regarding the proposed double yellow lines on the corner of Courtington Lane and the A361 and on Stone Hill. It was felt that residents living in the immediate area should be written to, with a copy of the plan and in addition, a note be included in the Broadsheet inviting all village residents to attend a Drop-In and Chat session to express their views on the proposal. **Action DB/TG**

The Chairman reported that residents had complained about the untidiness outside the shops. The Clerk was asked to write to the Post Office and the Co-op about this matter. **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)*

**43/23 Reports from County and District Councillors** – District Councillor Rob Pattenden reported that the Local Plan was still delayed and the first draft would hopefully be available in the autumn. The consultation would also start around this point. The Plan would then be approved by Cherwell District Council, early next year. District Councillors had not yet had sight of the newly drafted document.

District Councillor David Hingley reported that he was now the Leader of the Liberal Democrats and he was also the Leader of the Opposition at Cherwell District Council.

The Chairman thanked Councillor David Hingley for his comments at the CDC Planning Committee, in objection to the planning applications at Formerly The Bungalow in Queen Street and Bloxham Road, Milcombe.

District Councillor Adam Nell reported that the first meeting of the new Executive for this municipal year, had been held that evening at Cherwell District Council. Councillor Nell advised that car parking prices were increasing, but

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would be less than inflation. Cherwell District Council had also finalised its budget within £1000 of its prediction for 2022/2023.

CDC was also improving its digital services on its web site and home upgrade grants were available for those living in energy inefficient homes. The eligibility criteria was available on the CDC web site.

A Parliamentary Boundary Review had been undertaken and Bloxham would not be affected in any way and it remained part of the Banbury Constituency.

There was a discussion about the increase in parking charges and the use of mobile apps to pay for parking.

The District Councillors were thanked for their reports.

### **44/23 Environment/Village Matters**

- i) Proposed 20mph Speed Restrictions – The Chairman reported that the survey had been circulated in the village and the deadline was 14 July 2023.

With regard to the Community Speed Watch Scheme, the Chairman shared the data which had been recorded from the VAS on the A361 next to Bloxham Recreation Ground. It was noted that during the 24 hour period on 27 June 2023, nearly 5000 cars had been driven into the village from the direction of Chipping Norton and all of those vehicles were driving over the 30mph speed limit.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **45/23 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:

23/00124/F & Land SW Of Sub Station, Ells Lane, Bloxham

23/00126/F Extension to an existing agricultural building - Building 1 & Building

23/01416/TCA Unicorn House, Unicorn Street, Bloxham  
Tree works

23/01395/TPO Grey Roofs, Kings Road, Bloxham  
Yew (T1) - Fell tree to ground level, due to safety issues caused by the identification of Ketzschmaria Deusta on the main stem of the tree. We propose to plant a Taxus Baccata with the canopy spread of the old tree - subject to TPO 05/2023

**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:

23/01144/OUT Land South of Bloxham Road, Bloxham Road, Milcombe

Outline planning application, together with associated access off Bloxham Road (all other matters reserved), for up to 90 homes (use class C3) together with associated infrastructure and open space, landscaping, including provision of land for new village hall (use class F2(b)) and retail space (use class E).

23/01296/F & Little Bennetts, Rose Bank, Bloxham

23/01297/LB Alterations, addition of two new dormer windows, conversion of existing single-storey garage into a Games Room, alterations to the Summer House to accommodate a new Day Room

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- 23/01359/F      Grey Roofs, Kings Road, Bloxham  
Conversion of attic space to form habitable accommodation including insertion of stud walls and rooflights
- 23/01358/LB     Grey Roofs, Kings Road, Bloxham  
Conversion of attic space to form habitable accommodation including insertion of stud walls and rooflights

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

- 23/01557/TCA     3 Merrivales Lane, Bloxham,  
T1 x Acacia - Targeted 2 metre reduction of the mid-upper canopy, ensuring to retain the tree's natural shape and form but with the aim of reducing the sail area and weight-induced stress over compromised areas of the tree's canopy.
- 23/01689/TCA     Hornton Barn, Painters Close, Bloxham  
Tree works
- 23/01652/F      Lilyway, Banbury Road, Bloxham  
Single storey rear extension to form kitchen, diner & snug. First floor to be extended to enlarge bedroom and create dressing area and en-suite. Ground floor element differs from the previously approved application (Re-submission due to comments from Enforcement - 23/00017/ENF)

- 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) 23/01265/OUT, OS Parcel 0078 North West of Quarry Close, Quarry Close, Bloxham – Prior to the meeting, the Chairman had circulated to the Parish Council, a draft response to an 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:

- 1) the draft response be submitted to Cherwell District Council as the Parish Council's objection to planning application 23/01265/OUT;
- 2) the Chairman to address the Cherwell District Council Planning Committee in objection to the application in July 2023; and
- 3) a note be added to Facebook and the Parish Council web site advising residents that comments can be submitted using the CDC Planning Office email address, now that the planning portal is closed.

**Action TG**

### 46/23 Parish Council Matters

- i) Vacancies – The Clerk reported that there were no applications for co-option onto the Parish Council.

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

- ii) Drop-In and Chat – The Chairman reported that five Thames Valley Police Officers had attended the Drop-In and Chat along with seven residents on 10 June 2023. It was hoped to hold another session with the Officers later in the year.

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**Resolved** that the report be noted.

- iii) Rural Community Forum – The Chairman reported that he had attended the Rural Community Forum held on 28 June 2023 at Deddington Fire Station.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

- iv) Parish Liaison Meeting – The Chairman reported that he had attended the Parish Liaison meeting on 14 June 2023.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **47/23 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.

- ii) Bank Reconciliation – The Parish Council considered the bank reconciliation for the Unity Trust Bank accounts as at 3 July 2023.

**Resolved** that the bank reconciliation as at 3 July 2023 be noted.

- iii) Budget Monitoring – Prior to the meeting, the Parish Council received a budget monitoring report for 2023/2024.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **58/23 Correspondence** – There was no further correspondence.

### **59/23 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 60/23 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

### **60/23 Burial Ground** – The Clerk reported that that there was a further meeting with The CDS Group on 10 July 2023. However, the first four responses which had been received, were refusals by the landowners to sell their land for a burial ground.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **61/23 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 7 August 2023
- Monday 4 September 2023
- Monday 2 October 2023
- Monday 6 November 2023
- Monday 4 December 2023

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## **62/23 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information**

- Traffic Calming Working Group
- Investing Parish Council Funds
- Maintenance to Round Bench on The Green

(The meeting ended at 8.55pm)

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Chairman – 4 September 2023