

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 6 MARCH 2023 AT 7.00PM

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), District Councillor Adam Nell and eight members of the public.

166/22 Apologies – Parish Councillor Joanna Barton submitted her apologies because she was at work.

Apologies were also received from County Councillor Kieron Mallon and District Councillors David Hingley and Mike Bishop.

Resolved that the apologies from Parish Councillor Joanna Barton be authorised and the absence approved.

167/22 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

168/22 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2023 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

169/22 Matters Arising

Minute Number 155/22 – Open Forum – The Chairman had spoken to Oxfordshire County Council regarding the four drains on Tadmarton Road which needed to be unblocked and these were due to be addressed shortly. The two drains outside Bloxham Museum were also blocked and these needed to be cleared because should there be heavy rainfall, the Museum would flood.

Minute Number 159/22 (i) Air Quality – An email had been sent to the Parish Council from District Councillor David Hingley regarding air quality and it had subsequently been forwarded to Brian Smith for his comments. There were a number of issues which Mr Smith would like to discuss further, therefore he would respond directly to Councillor Hingley, copying in the Clerk.

170/22 Chairman's Announcements

- Smith Family Memorial – Tom Smith was still liaising with Design Conservation at Cherwell District Council about the design and location of the memorial.
- Stonehill Park Close – There had been a meeting with Bloxham School and the two triangular areas on Stonehill would be reinstated back into grass. There would also be some onsite parking and the School had been asked to consult with Cherwell District Council planning officers before the work started.
- Bloxham Puzzlers – A new club would be starting in Bloxham called "The Bloxham Puzzlers" on Thursday 8 March 2023, 11am -1pm in St Mary's Parish Rooms.
- Amazon Insurance Claim – The Parish Council had submitted an insurance claim to Amazon for the damage which had been caused by their delivery vans at The Gogs and this was currently being processed.
- EV Charging Points at Jubilee Car Park – The feasibility study had not yet been started, but it was hoped this would commence shortly.
- Bloxham Service Station – Motor Fuel Group had offered to support a charitable cause in the village and Councillors were asked to report back to the Clerk with their suggestions. One suggestion already received was for the Cherry Tree Centre. **Action ALL**
- Cumberford Wall – The work to repair the collapsed wall had begun.
- Cherwell District Council Planning Committee – Planning officers would be recommending refusal of the planning application submitted by Deeley Homes for 30 houses in Ell's Lane. The Chairman agreed to attend the Planning Committee meeting on 9 March 2023 and present the Parish Council's objection.

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- Remembrance Day Service – There had been a meeting with the Royal British Legion and there had been a review of the plans to ensure this year's event ran more smoothly.
- 20mph Speed Restrictions – The Parish Council needed to clarify with the County Council if it wished to progress the project because since the application had been submitted, there had been negative reports relating to the initiative. There would be a formal consultation process in due course and residents were encouraged to respond.

171/22 Open Forum – A resident addressed the Parish Council with regard to hedges over hanging the footpaths in a number of streets in the village. The Chairman advised that these needed to be reported to the County Council's Fix My Street web site.

The resident also suggested that at The Gogs, there was an area which he felt could be made into a nice parkland area and perhaps Bloxham Biodiversity could tidy the area.

Another resident addressed the Parish Council regarding a streetlight which was shining into her property in Hawke Lane and was disturbing her sleep. This had already been raised with Oxfordshire County Council and they were aware of the issue. The resident would send the details to the Clerk and this would be forwarded to County Councillor Kieron Mallon. **Action TG**

A resident suggested that the Parish Council should advise all residents that they needed to report blocked drains to the County Council. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council already made residents aware of this.

The resident also asked when the public consultation would be starting regarding the proposed traffic calming measures. The Chairman could not yet confirm when this would happen because information from the County Council was still outstanding. When the Parish Council had received feedback on the traffic calming measures, it could start its consultation process.

(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)

172/22 Reports from County and District Councillors – Prior to the meeting, County Councillor Kieron Mallon and District Councillor David Hingley had circulated their reports to the Parish Council.

District Councillor Adam Nell reported that the budget for 2023/2024 had been agreed. Council Tax was being increased by Cherwell District Council, which equated to £5 per property, based on band D property. The County Council's increase would be £383.00 based on a band D property.

The Chairman reported that the 'Spare Seat Scheme' on school buses had been withdrawn by the County Council and the impact on the village would be increased traffic and parking issues. This decision had been challenged, but the County Council would not be reversing it.

There were local elections on 5 May 2023 and in three weeks, Purdah would start, so the Council year would be winding up.

The refugees at Whatley Hall had been moved by the Home Office, but further refugees could be moved into the hotel.

Councillor Nell also highlighted that it was Food Safety Week and it was International Women's Day and Anti-Smoking Day on 8 March 2023.

Councillor Nell was thanked for his report.

Resolved that the reports be noted.

173/22 Cherry Tree Centre – Lucy McKenna, Business Manager at Bloxham Primary School, addressed the Parish Council with regard to the funding at the Cherry Tree Centre. Ms McKenna advised that the Primary School did not have the required funds to cover the amounts needed to ensure the Centre could function in 2023/2024.

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Ms McKenna read out an impact statement from a new mum who advised on the benefits of the service at the Cherry Tree Centre, providing support and signposting for new parents. The School Improvement Officer had also provided an assessment on the benefits of the Centre and the interaction very much helped the development of the children. There were currently three groups running, two toddler groups and one baby group.

It was reported that £9000 was required to run the Centre for a year, which included costs for cleaning, water, energy, food and to employ someone to run the groups. The Feoffees had made a donation, but the shortfall was circa £1400. Parish Councillors were invited to visit the Centre to see how it operated. The Clerk agreed to chase up County Council Kerion Mallon to establish whether there was any funding available at the County Council.

Action TG

Lucy McKenna was thanked for attending the meeting.

174/22 Environment/Village Matters

- i) Burial Ground – The Clerk reported that the quote from CDS Consultants Ltd had been accepted and they would now be investigating suitable land in the village.

The Chairman queried with Councillor Steve Craggs, why there was a gap in the burials in the current church yard. Councillor Craggs reported that it was historical land where carts used to turn, carrying the bodies of those who died during the plague.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- (ii) 'No Mow in May' 2023 – The Parish Council discussed taking part in the 'No Mow in May' initiative again in 2023.

Resolved that the Parish Council to take part in 'No Mow May' 2023. **Action TG**

- (iii) Bench on The Green – The Parish Council received an update from Councillor Richard Boyce on the maintenance/repairs to the bench. Stephen Walsh had been contacted and he wished for the original bench to be refurbished, not replaced.

Resolved that Councillor Richard Boyce to continue to investigate the refurbishment of the bench. **Action RB**

- iv) Spring Clean 2023 – The Parish Council discussed taking part in Cherwell District Council's Spring Clean and litter pick in the village.

Resolved that Nick Westbury at the Boy's Brigade be contacted about organising the litter pick. **Action TG**

175/22 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:

23/00126/F Land SW Of Sub Station, Ells Lane, Bloxham
Extension to an existing agricultural building - Building 2

23/00124/F Land SW Of Sub Station, Ells Lane, Bloxham
Extension to an existing agricultural building - Building 1

R3.0004/23 Oxfordshire County Council, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

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Construction of a school hall extension with internal reconfigurations and associated hard and soft landscaping at Bloxham Church Of England Primary School, Tadmarton Road, Bloxham, Oxfordshire, OX15 4HP

23/00178/F Hill Cottage, Workhouse Lane, Bloxham
Erection of detached carport/garage

23/00090/F 32 Greenhills Park, Bloxham
Minor modification to the scheme approved under planning permission ref. 22/02981/F to provide an additional 1.35m single storey projection to the front of the garage to enable one of the cars to be kept inside the garage.

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:

23/00065/OUT OS Parcel 0006 Adjoining North Side Of, Ells Lane, Bloxham
Outline planning permission for up to 30 dwellings including access off Ells Lane and demolition of the existing stabling on site - All Matters Reserved except for access

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

23/00220/F 21 Brookside Way, Bloxham
Two storey front extension enlarging lounge to ground floor and bedrooms to first floor, with internal alterations. Creation of new covered integral porch. New flat roofed double garage.

23/00405/TCA Grey Roofs, Kings Road, Bloxham
Tree works

23/00297/F Hobbit, Banbury Road, Bloxham
Proposed standalone cabin in the front drive for use as a home office

- 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) Local Plan 2040 – The Chairman reported that the consultation had been delayed by Cherwell District Council and it was not clear when it would now start.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) 23/00065/OUT – OS Parcel 0006 Adjoining North Side of Ells Lane, Bloxham – The Parish Council discussed an offer from Delley Homes to have further discussions about this planning application.

Resolved that no further meetings be held with Deeley Homes regarding this planning application. **Action TG**

176/22 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.

- ii) Drop-In and Chat – Prior to the meeting, a report on the Drop-In and Chat had been circulated to the Parish Council and was available on the web site.

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Resolved that the report be noted.

177/22 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 uncashed payments be noted and the following accounts for payments be approved:

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|--|---------|
| Enix Ltd Bank - Email Hosting | £5.99 |
| Theresa Goss – Salary for March 2023 | |
| HMRC – Payment for March 2023 | |
| Oxfordshire County Council – Clerks Pension for March 2023 | |
| Jubilee Park Management Committee – Room Hire | £20.00 |
| Cotefield Treecare Ltd – Work at War Memorial | £327.00 |
| Angel Electrical Ltd | £355.20 |

- ii) Bank Reconciliation – The Parish Council considered the bank reconciliation for the Unity Trust Bank accounts as at 6 March 2023.

Resolved that the bank reconciliation as at 6 March 2023 be noted.

- iii) Budget Monitoring – The Parish Council considered the budget monitoring report from April 2022 to March 2023.

Resolved that the budget monitoring report from April 2022 to March 2023. be noted.

- iv) Coronation of HM King Charles III – The Parish Council discussed providing grants to support village events marking the Coronation of HM King Charles III on 6 May 2023.

A resident addressed the meeting and suggested that the Parish Council could organise a Volunteer Day.

Resolved that:

- 1) it be noted that the application for grant funding for Coronation events submitted to Cherwell District Council has been refused because the criteria does not cover individual street parties;
- 2) the Parish Council commits £1000 in grant funding, broken down into payments of £100 for the first ten organisers of street parties to contact the Parish Council;
- 3) the 10 x grants, up to a maximum of £100 each, be paid on production of receipts;
- 4) the grant cannot be used to buy food and drink;
- 5) the Clerk to check that the Section 137 funding limit is not exceeded with the allocation of the £1000 grant; and
- 6) further investigations be made into arranging a village 'Volunteer Day' to encourage residents to get involved with village organisations.

178/22 Correspondence – The Clerk was asked to send the information regarding Cherwell District Council's Spring Clean to Bloxham Biodiversity. **Action TG**

179/22 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 3 April 2023

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- Wednesday 26 April 2023 (Annual Parish Meeting)
- Tuesday 9 May 2023
- Monday 6 June 2023
- Monday 3 July 2023
- Monday 7 August 2023

180/22 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information

- Traffic Calming Working Group
- Queen Street Land
- Air Quality Review
- Investing Parish Council Funds
- Bloxham Biodiversity

(The meeting ended at 8.50pm)

Chairman – 3 April 2023