

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ST MARY'S PARISH ROOMS, BLOXHAM ON TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2021 AT 8.30PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor Leonard Leigh; Councillors Joanna Barton, Daniel Goodwin and Stephen Phipps.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and County Councillor Kieron Mallon.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Agnes Balassa submitted her apologies because she had another appointment, the apologies were accepted and the absence approved.

Councillor David Bunn submitted his apologies because an urgent matter had arisen, the apologies were accepted and the absence approved.

Councillor Mike Fenner submitted his apologies because he had another appointment, the apologies were accepted and the absence approved.

District Councillors Mike Bishop, Andrew McHugh and Adam Nell.

156/21 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

157/21 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2021 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.
Action LL/TG

158/21 Matters Arising

Minute Number 144/21, Chairman's Announcements - The Chairman reported that he would be meeting with Dave Catling from the County Council to discuss traffic calming in the village.

Minute Number 146/21, Reports from County and District Councillors – The Chairman reported that he had written to the County and District Councillors requesting that they submit a written report if they were unable to attend the Parish Council meeting.

159/21 Chairman's Announcements

- Planning training on 21 October 2021 630pm to 8pm on Zoom from Community First Oxfordshire.
- Nick Rayner and Sophie Floate had stepped down from the Parish Council and they were thanked for their work on the Parish Council.

160/21 Open Forum – There were no residents present.

(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)

161/21 Reports from County and District Councillors – Prior to the meeting, District Councillor Andrew McHugh had submitted a report to the Parish Council.

County Councillor Kieron Mallon reported on a number of issues including that he was now a member of the Place Scrutiny Committee at the County Council and he was also a member of the Community Governance Committee at Cherwell District Council.

Councillor Mallon was thanked for his report.

162/21 Planning

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- i) Cherwell District Local Plan Consultation – Prior to the meeting, the Parish Council had held a Local Plan workshop to discuss the Parish Council's response to the consultation.

Resolved that:

- 1) the Parish Council welcomes the general direction of the key themes in the Local Plan and the approach being taken to secure sustainability;
- 2) the Parish Council reaffirms key comments made in its previous response to Cherwell District Council (CDC) on 25 September 2020, namely:
 - a. Bloxham's retail, health and dental facilities are at capacity
 - b. The traffic system is now well over capacity particularly at school drop-off and pick-up times
 - c. The revised Local Plan needs to take into account, those villages that are now at capacity and that cannot take anymore new housing developments
 - d. We believe Bloxham fits into this category;
- 3) while recognising the need for affordable housing, the Parish Council notes that Bloxham has grown by around 20% since 2015, whilst Cherwell District as a whole has seen an increase of around 10% in households in the same period. It therefore considers that, for any future potential development to be acceptable, opportunities to strengthen Bloxham must clearly outweigh risks to its character, sustainability and viability as a community and place;
- 4) the Parish Council will therefore resist developments within the Parish Boundary or nearby which:
 - a. Narrows the gap between Bloxham and other communities (coalescence)
 - b. Impacts negatively on Bloxham's current spatial 'feel' as set out in the Neighbourhood Development Plan
 - c. Expands the accepted built-up boundary of Bloxham
 - d. Is likely to have a detrimental impact on infrastructure especially schools, shopping facilities and transport routes
 - e. Is larger than developments since 2015 (95 houses)
 - f. Is on greenfield site
 - g. Seeks development in key 'Valued Landscapes'ⁱ (Sor Brook Valley, the Slade, Hobbs Hill, Coates' Spinney Valley)
- 5) In line with the above, the Parish Council:
 - a. endorses the approach taken in the draft Local Plan response
 - b. agrees that these should now be finalised and signed off by the Chairman prior to submission to Cherwell District Council
 - c. requests the Clerk to highlight this resolution on the Parish Council and village web sites.

Action TG/DG

163/21 Finance

- i) Accounts for Payment - The Clerk submitted to the Parish Council, the accounts for payment.

Resolved that the following accounts for payment be approved:

Wicksteed Leisure – Play area inspections at Bloxham Recreation Ground	£216.00
Green Scythe Limited – Grass cutting at Jubilee Park	£338.19
Came and Company – Insurance for Jubilee Hall Project	£448.80
Bloxham Biodiversity – Expenses for The Great Big Green Week	£80.00
Paul Lester – Maintenance of the village map	£140.00

- ii) Bank Account Signatories – The Parish Council discussed adding another Councillor as a signatory onto the Parish Council bank account.

Resolved that Joanna Barton be added as a signatory on the Parish Council bank accounts. **Action TG**

164/21 Parish Council Matters

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- i) Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill – The Parish Council discussed the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.

Resolved that the Parish Council broadly supports any initiative to stop degradation of the planet, however it can not support the text within the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill as it stands.

165/21 Correspondence – The Chairman reported on an email from Charlie Little, Bursar at Bloxham School with regard to the Parish Council's objection to the planning application for the new entrance and car park at the school. It was agreed that no action be taken.

A resident had contacted the Parish Council with regard to a fallen tree at The Gogs, however, the Chairman had been unable to locate it.

The Clerk had received a voicemail message from a resident with regard to the proposed works to trees at The Gogs. The message had been very rude and unpleasant and the Clerk would not be responding.

166/21 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 167/21 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

167/21 Jubilee Hall Project – The Chairman gave an update on the Jubilee Hall project.

Resolved that the report be noted.

(The public and press were invited back into the meeting at the conclusion of this item)

168/21 Meeting Dates – The Chairman reported that the next Parish Council meetings would be held in St Mary's Parish Rooms, Bloxham. The meeting would commence at 7.30pm.

Resolved that it be noted that, future meeting dates for Bloxham Parish Council are as stated below.

- Monday 1 November 2021
- Tuesday 16 November 2021
- Monday 6 December 2021
- Monday 10 January 2022 (only one meeting in January 2022)

169/21 Items for Future Agendas

- Parish Council Responsibilities/Appointments to Other Bodies
- Bench in Gascoigne Way
- Condition of the footpath next to Warriner School
- 'Good Neighbour' Leaflet
- Traffic Calming WG Minutes
- Cooption (16.11.21)

(The meeting ended at 9.30pm)

Chairman – 1 November 2021