

Bloxham Parish Council - Report for November 2020

Meetings

- Virtual Parish Council meetings were held on Zoom on 20 October 2020 and 2 November 2020. Agendas and minutes are available on the PC web site. <http://www.bloxhamparishcouncil.co.uk/>
- All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and are held twice a month; the first Monday (unless it is a bank holiday, then it is the Monday of the following week) and either the third Tuesday or Wednesday. Both meetings include consideration of planning applications. These meetings are also forums for residents to raise issues of concern. There will only be one Parish Council meeting in December 2020.
- Parish Council meetings would continue to be held on Zoom until Government guidance was changed to allow for physical meetings. Agendas will be available on the PC web site as usual and the Clerk should be contacted for further details, including attendance at the meetings held on Zoom.

Next Meetings

- 17 November 2020 & 7 December 2020 at 7.30pm on Zoom. Only one meeting in December 2020.

Planning

- 20/02769/F, 9 Brookside Way, Bloxham – The Parish Council had no objections to an application for a two storey rear extension with associated internal and external works.
- Liaison was continuing with the County Council with regard to possible S106 funding to improve the surface of the car park on the Miller Homes site on Tadmarton Road.
- Discussions were also continuing between Miller Homes, Cherwell District Council and the Parish Council with regard to the other outstanding issues on the site, including the drainage.

Planning applications and comments could be viewed at

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/115/planning/443/see-or-comment-on-a-planning-application23as>

Environment/ Highways

- Potholes, overhanging trees or hedges and street lighting issues can be reported by residents at <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/> When reporting on this site, photographs are useful.
- Please could drivers park their vehicles safely and considerately in all areas of the village and be aware that Thames Valley Police are continuing to carry out patrols and will issue parking fines to drivers who park their cars dangerously or cause an obstruction on the footpaths. Please do not park on the grass verges as this destroys them and damages the appearance of the whole village.
- Residents are reminded that grit bins are not to be used for throwing away general rubbish and dog waste.
- Oxfordshire County Council's Fix My Street Super Users was a new initiative, using volunteers, to try and improve the rate at which potholes are fixed. The volunteer would receive training and the role would involve measuring and spraying potholes and then reporting them straight to OCC's contractor. This will hopefully be making the service more efficient. If any residents would like to volunteer for this role, please contact the Clerk.
- There are no allotments in Bloxham, however there are some in Milton which can be rented. More information can be obtained by contacting Harriet Featherstone at Carter Jonas. harriet.featherstone@carterjonas.co.uk
- There had been an increase in the amount of horse muck which was accumulating on the roads around Bloxham, especially the narrow single track roads. The issue would be monitored.
- A licensing review of the 24 hour alcohol licence at Bloxham Service Station site would be

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undertaken by Cherwell District Council.

- Contact would be made with Bovis Homes to establish whether signage could be erected on Golby Road asking drivers to slow down.
- Residents are reminded that wheelie bins should not be left at the front of their property once they have been emptied, unless they have no rear access to their property.
- The farmer who is affected by the proposed new public right of way from The Ridgeway to Milton had reported that the footpath had been closed due to the poor behaviour of walkers, which included riding bikes across his crops, dogs fouling on his crops and his colleagues being spat at when walkers were asked to follow the Countryside Code.
- The dog fouling initiative to spray piles of dog poo to highlight the extent of the issue in the village, would be started in the spring when the weather was not so wet. In the meantime, additional signs would be added to the footpaths around the village and all dog owners were encouraged to pick up after their pets.



Community

- The current issue of free school meals for children during school holidays was being investigated by District Councillor Andrew McHugh and the Parish Council was in support of this initiative.

Covid-19

- If any residents needed support during the Covid-19 Pandemic, they should contact the village support group by email at bloxhamcommunity@yahoo.com for advice.
- Residents were reminded that social distancing should be maintained at all times, staying 2 meters apart, but if this is not possible, it should be 1 meter with extra precautions, such as a face covering.
- If anyone is organising a large gathering in the village, advice should be sought from Cherwell District Council in the first instance. It is important we all follow the Government guidelines to ensure we do not have a local lockdown.
- The latest guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

Communication

- Follow Bloxham Parish Council on Facebook.
- The Parish Council's 'Drop-In and Chat' sessions are usually held from 10.30 am to 11.30 am on the second Saturday of every month at the Ex-Servicemen's Hall, however they are currently cancelled due to Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Contact the Clerk, Theresa Goss, on 01295 710965, **during normal office hours** or email bloxhamparishcouncil@gmail.com

Bloxham Parish Council - Report for November 2020

- The Digital Infrastructure Programme at Oxfordshire County Council has been awarded £1m from the MHCLG, 'Getting Building Fund.' OCC are using this funding to top-up the existing voucher scheme **up to a value of £7,000** per qualifying property in Oxfordshire; both residential and business premises can receive this amount.

This presents a great opportunity to increase broadband speeds up to 1,000Mb/s on a full-fibre connection. All other terms and conditions remain and anyone interested should visit: <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk> where the application process starts.

OCC will readily help anyone if they have any questions and applications must still form part of a group project - two or more residents and/or SMEs combining their vouchers towards the shared cost of infrastructure build; single connections are *not* eligible for funding.