

Bloxham Parish Council - Report for August 2021

Meetings

- Parish Council meetings were held on Zoom on 20 July 2021 and at Jubilee Hall on 2 August 2021. 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 the third Tuesday. Both meetings include consideration of planning applications. These meetings are also forums for residents to raise issues of concern.
- Councillors have agreed to wear masks at Parish Council meetings and will take a lateral flow test prior to the meeting.

Next Meetings

- 6 & 21 September 2021, venues TBC. Please check the agenda the week prior to the meeting. Members of the public are asked to wear face masks when attending the meetings and if possible, take a Covid-19 lateral flow test too.

Planning

- 21/02209/F, Lynton, Banbury Road, Bloxham – The Parish Council objected to an application for a single storey rear extension to form kitchen, diner and snug; single storey side extension to create gym; first floor to be extended to enlarge bedroom and create dressing area and en-suite.
- 21/02187/F and 21/02188/LB, The Coach House, Cumberford, Bloxham – The Parish Council had no objections to an application for the removal of unsafe existing stone boundary retaining wall and replacement with a new wall comprising reinforced blockwork below ground level and re-use of the existing stone to face the blockwork and to form the wall above ground level.
- 21/00557/F Creek Cottage, Little Bridge Road, Bloxham – The Parish Council objected to an application for a side and rear extension.
- The Parish Council made comments on Cherwell District Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and they will be publicly available on CDC's web site in due course.

Planning applications and the Parish Council's 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.
- Thanks had been passed from the Parish Council to Bloxham School for fencing off their boundary hedge behind Dewey Hall playing fields, but still allowing access to walkers to the unofficial footpaths.
- 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
- DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON A LEAD IN THE JUBILEE PARK PLAY AREA, AS PER THE SIGNAGE
- The Barford Road bridge was now open, however there was restricted access and the width of the road was only just wide enough for a car to fit through and there had been reports of damage to cars.
- Residents were kindly requested not to leave wheelie bins at the front of their properties, if there was rear access. Bins should be put out and put away again on the day they were emptied. Bins should be stored within the curtilage of their properties and please could residents ensure that footpaths are not blocked by bins, at any time.
- New Vehicle Activated Signs would be erected on the A361 by Warriner School and Bloxham Recreation Ground.

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- The Community Speedwatch Scheme would be commencing soon to address speeding in the village with support from Thames Valley Police. If any residents would like to volunteer to support the Scheme, please contact the Clerk.
- The Parish Council would be supporting Bloxham Biodiversity Group with 'The Big Green Week' being held from 18 to 26 September 2021. <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>
- Cherwell District Council would be asked to remove the graffiti on the BT box and grit bin on Strawberry Terrace.

Community

- The Parish Council would be taking part in the 2021 Christmas Tree Festival.
- The Women's Cycling Tour 2021 will be passing through Bloxham, between 11am and 3pm on Monday 4 October 2021. There will be rolling road closures in place during this time and more details will follow. Please come out and show your support for the event! <https://www.womenstour.co.uk/>
- Bloxham School had agreed to discuss with the Parish Council, a Community Forum regarding their Masterplan. Further details would follow in due course.

Communication

- Follow Bloxham Parish Council on Facebook.
- The Parish Council's 'Drop-In and Chat' sessions are held from 10.30 am to 11.30 am on the second Saturday of every month at the Ex-Servicemen's Hall. Please come along and meet your Councillors on Saturday 14 August 2021.
- Contact the Clerk, Theresa Goss, on 01295 710965, **during normal office hours** or email bloxhamparishcouncil@gmail.com

Home Library Service

Would you like to borrow library books but are unable to visit the library any reason? The Home Library Service is run from Oxfordshire County Council and serves 700 customers throughout the county.

How it works - Contact us to discuss the kind of Books, Large Print/Regular Print, DVDs, Audio Books on CD, Music CD or DVD's, that you like to read or enjoy. We can then arrange for a library volunteer to deliver these to you in your home. Our volunteers are DBS checked, wear an identification badges and provide a helpful and friendly service. Whenever possible, we try and arrange for the same volunteer to visit you each time. Your library materials will be delivered and collected every 3 weeks. The Home Library Service is free of charge, and there is no charge for requests or late returns.

How to register - To register for this service or for further information call your local library or telephone the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Anti-Social Behaviour

There have been a number of instances of anti-social behaviour at Jubilee Park Play Area and at Bloxham Recreation Ground. Equipment has been vandalised and groups of young people are making the play areas a 'no-go zone' for parents with young children. If residents witness anti-social behaviour in the play areas, or anywhere in the village, please report this to Thames Valley Police on-line or by calling 101. Residents are not encouraged to approach anyone causing these issues, please leave that to the Police. If the Police are aware of the on-going issues, they will increase their presence in the village.

Parking Issues

The Parish Council has become increasingly concerned about the number of instances of dangerous and inconsiderate parking in the village. Drivers are reminded that they should not park on footpaths as this blocks the way for those with wheelchairs and pushchairs and parking on grass verges damages the surfacing. Parking on junctions is illegal and it blocks the view for other drivers and creates a dangerous situation. In addition, please be mindful of not double parking and blocking narrow streets because as well as being inconvenient to others, it can impede the access for bin lorries and also emergency vehicles, which can have devastating unintended consequences.