

Bloxham Parish Council - Report for February 2021

Meetings

- A Parish Council meeting was held on Zoom on 19 January 2021 and 1 February 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 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.
- 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

- 15 February 2021, 1 March 2021 and 16 March 2021 at 7.30pm on Zoom.

Planning

- The Parish Council still had concerns about the drainage on the Miller Homes (Tadmorton Road) car park and at the attenuation pond and these would continue to be followed up with Cherwell District Council.
- 21/00102/F, 11 Courtington Lane Bloxham - The Parish Council had no objections to an application for a two storey rear extension with internal remodelling, however given the location and access issues of the site, a transport and management plan will be needed from the developers.
- 20/03242/F, 3 Gauntlets Close, Bloxham – The Parish Council had no objections to an application for a front, side and part rear extensions with associated internal and external works subject to confirmation from Cherwell District Council that: (1) the proposal is not an overdevelopment of the site, which would be contrary to Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan BL11a and (2) the neighbours do not have any objections which affect the amenity of their properties which would deem the proposal contrary to Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Policy BL9.
- 20/03653/F, Bloxham Plant Nursery, Chequer Tree Farm, Ells Lane, Bloxham - The Parish Council had no objection to an application for a change of use and the erection of a tea room (resubmission of 19/02968/F) subject to the County Council's approval of the Transport Plan.
- 20/03617/F, 3 Hyde Grove Bloxham Banbury - The Parish Council had no objections to an application for a first floor rear and single storey side extensions subject to confirmation from Cherwell District Council that the proposal is not an overdevelopment of the site, which would be contrary to Bloxham Neighbourhood Development BL11a.
- 20/03584/F, 13 Chipperfield Park Road Bloxham - The Parish Council had no objections to an application for an extension of a utility room (ground floor) on the back of garage and change the roof of the garage from flat to pitched, which would also encompass the new extension of the utility room; in the loft space above the garage and utility room, knock through from the upstairs bathroom to enlarge the family bathroom (2nd storey), subject to the applicant following the pre-application advice.

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

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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. This is again a particular issue on the stretch of the A361 outside of The Loft.

- Please do not park on the grass verges as this destroys them and damages the appearance of the whole village.
- The Hobb Hill footpath would be marked out with paint so that walkers know where the edge of the Public Right of Way is and where the private land starts, to ensure they did not damage the grass on the private land.
- 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
- Work to tidy up The Gogs footpath would be undertaken shortly. It was hoped the County Council would then reimburse the PC for the cost.
- If footpaths/stiles/gateways are impassable due to mud and/or flooding, please could walkers be sensible and not knock down and damage farmers' fencing to gain access. This has unfortunately happened at a footpath in the village and if this type of vandalism occurs again and people do not respect the countryside, then more footpaths could be closed by landowners.
- The County Council was currently looking at solutions to address the very muddy footpath from Queen Street to Greenhills Park and would update the Parish Council in due course.
- Three trial biodiversity areas would be established in the village and thanks are sent to those volunteers involved with the project.
- Three new benches would be purchased for the village and quotes would be agreed at the next meeting.

Community

- If any residents would like to assist with litter picking in the village, please contact the Clerk.
- There are a number of vacancies on the Parish Council. Please contact the Clerk for more details if you are interested in the roles. bloxhamparishcouncil@gmail.com
- The 2021 Bloxham Annual Parish Meeting would consist of a virtual update provided to the village via the Parish Council web site, together with the various reports. A video introduction and slides would then be generated and any questions from the village should be sent to the Clerk.
- If any residents would like to be involved with the Parish Council's Traffic Calming Working Group to address speeding and other traffic issues in the village, please email the Clerk.

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 two meters apart, but if this is not possible, it should be 1 meter with extra precautions, such as a face covering.
- The latest guidance on the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

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