Bloxham Parish Council - Report for October 2020

Meetings
- Virtual Parish Council meeting were held on Zoom on 16 September 2020 and 5 October 2020 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
- 20 October 2020 & 2 November 2020 at 7.30pm on Zoom.

Planning
- 20/02384/AGD, Land North of Bloxham Road, Milcombe – The Parish Council had no objection to an application for the erection of a new agricultural building for machinery and hay/silage storage. However, it commented that the proposed building will be visible from the public footpath, despite the application form stating the contrary. In addition, Cherwell District Council will be asked to provide six figure grid references for this type of application in future, so it is clear exactly where the development is located.
- 19/01639/F - 27 Lawrence Leys, Bloxham – The Parish Council had no objection to an application for the extension of an existing dropped kerb by 4.5m.
- 20/02470/F - 12 Colesbourne Road, Bloxham – The Parish Council had no objection to an application for a single storey rear extension.
- The Parish Council was still liaising with Cherwell District Council and Miller Homes to address all of the outstanding issues on the site. There had been some progress which included more signage on the site and around the balancing pond and also the boundary fence between The Slade and the Country Park had been erected. Although it was still to be secured with posts at either end.
- Victoria Prentice's office had agreed to facilitate a meeting with Motor Fuel Group with regard to Bloxham Service Station, once the 8 week trial period of no alcohol sales was complete. Residents had also been in touch with Thames Valley Police over the anti-social behaviour. MFG was being updated regularly when issues of anti-social behaviour occurred.

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.

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- Oxfordshire County Council's Fix My Street Super Users was a new initiative, using volunteers, to try and improve the rate at which pothole 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.
- Volunteers are required to assist the Parish Council with a new initiative to tackle the on-going problem with dog fouling in the village. The volunteers were required to remove any dog mess on the ground and then spray the area with a florescent water-soluble paint to highlight the extent of the problem to residents.
- 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
- Oxfordshire County Council would be contacted with regard to replacing two bus shelters in the village and refurbishing current bus stops, using Section 106 funds allocated to the village. Bus stops which were no longer in use would be removed by Stagecoach.
- Works to the alder, sycamore and horse chestnut trees in Gascoigne Way would be carried out 20 November 2020. Work to the silver birches would be completed on 16 November 2020.
- Concerns around the safety of two walls in the village which adjoined the highway, would be reported to the Cherwell DC/County Council for further investigation.

Community
- The Parish Council sent it condolences to the wife and family of former Bloxham County Councillor Keith Mitchell CBE, who passed away on 26 August 2020.
- The Christmas lights 'switch on', will be on 30 November 2020.

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.
- Social distancing should also be maintained in public houses in the village.
- 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**
- 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.