

Bloxham Parish Council - Report for September 2020

Meetings

A virtual Parish Council meeting was held on Zoom on 7 September 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

Parish Council: 16 September 2020 & 5 October 2020.

Planning

- 20/01994/F & 20/01995/LB, Clinton House, Humber Street, Bloxham – Subject to comments from the Conservation Officer, the Parish Council had no objections to an application for the demolition of an existing single storey extension on shared boundary wall to be replaced with a smaller extension to enlarge the existing kitchen/diner, along with associated improvements to the remainder of the boundary wall (resubmission of 20/00990/F)
- 20/01953/F, Wayhouse Farm Barn, Bloxham Grove Road, Bloxham – The Parish Council had no objections to an application for an extension to an existing garage and external first floor platform, however Councillors highlighted a number of concerns which would be raised with Cherwell District Council.
- 20/02054/F, Hornton House, Chapel Street, Bloxham – The Parish Council had no objections to an application for the demolition of the existing dwelling, carport and greenhouse and erection of a new build 4-bed, energy efficient dwelling, with new boundary wall to the south and west, remodelled driveway and a newly landscaped front, side and rear gardens. The Parish Council applauds the intent of the applicant to ensure that the property would be energy efficient.
- The Parish Council was still progressing the outstanding issues on the Miller Homes site, including the boundary fencing with The Slade to protect the nature reserve, drainage and issues with the car park surfacing.

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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- New litter bins would be installed on Tadmerton Road and outside the shops and a new dog waste bin would be installed on Milton Road.
- 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.
- The two silver birch trees in Gascoigne Way would be trimmed back by Cotefield Treecare.
- Volunteers are required to assist the Parish Council with a new initiative to tackle the ongoing 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 fluorescent 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
- The Parish Council discussed a request from a resident for handrails on the bridge over The Brook on Church Street/High Street A361. Advice had been sought from the Bridges Team at Oxfordshire County Council and the Conservation Officer at Cherwell District Council had commented that the railings would affect the character of the bridge significantly and therefore was unlikely to be supported. Based on these comments, the Parish Council was unable to support the request.
- Cherwell District Council would be contacted about the dilapidated house on Cumberford which was in disrepair and was an eyesore in the village.

Community

- There was a proposal from Cherwell District Council to become part of a new Unitary Authority over the next 2 years. The Parish Council would keep a watching brief with regard to how this will affect the Parish Council, our Neighbourhood Plan and the village.

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.
- 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. **It is hoped to restart these face-to-face sessions on Saturday 10th October.**
- Contact the Clerk, Theresa Goss, on 01295 710965, during normal office hours or email bloxhamparishcouncil@gmail.com