

# BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 2 AUGUST 2021 AT 7.30PM

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Councillor Leonard Leigh: Councillors Joanna Barton, David Bunn, Daniel Goodwin, Stephen Phipps and Nick Rayner.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and two members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Parish Councillor Agnes Balassa submitted her apologies because she had another appointment, the apologies were accepted and the absence authorised.

Parish Councillor Sophie Floate submitted her apologies because she was on holiday, the apologies were accepted and the absence authorised.

Parish Councillor Mike Fenner submitted his apologies because he had a family matter to deal with, the apologies were accepted and the absence authorised.

County Councillor Kieron Mallon.

**94/21 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.

**95/21 Minutes** – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2021 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman. **Action LL/TG**

**96/21 Matters Arising**

Minute Number 85/21 (iii) – Oxfordshire 2050 – Councillor Daniel Goodwin reported that the consultation had been launched on 30 July 2021 and details would be sent round to Councillors to enable them to make comments. Any comments should be forwarded to Councillor Goodwin or Sophie Floate. The deadline for comments was 8 October 2021. **Action ALL**

**97/21 Chairman's Announcements**

- Footpath at the Rear of Dewey Hall – 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.
- Bloxham School Community Forum – There would be a meeting with Bloxham School on 11 August 2021 to discuss the proposed Community Forum regarding their Masterplan.
- Mis-use of Jubilee Park Play Area – There had been some vandalism and anti-social behaviour at Jubilee Park and residents were encouraged to call Thames Valley Police on 101 or use their on-line service. Thames Valley Police were now doing late night patrols.
- Cumberford Cottage – The hedge which had been overhanging footpath had been cut back and the Chairman had also contacted Cherwell District Council regarding the dilapidated building and was awaiting a reply.
- Oxfordshire 2050 - Eleanor Gingell, Team Leader of Planning Policy at Cherwell District Council had agreed to attend the Parish Council meeting and a date would be confirmed in due course.
- Community Governance Review – Councillors were asked to look at the request from Cherwell District Council in readiness for the next Parish Council meeting. **Action ALL**
- Face to Face Parish Council Meetings – As suggested by Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils, the Chairman had written to Victoria Prentis MP asking for clarification on the action which the Government was taking with regard to virtual meetings.

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Councillors felt that they should all take a lateral flow test on the day of the meeting and wear masks. Members of the public would also be asked to wear masks and encouraged to take a lateral flow test if they were planning to attend a Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council's risk assessment would be updated to reflect this. **Action TG**

**98/21 Open Forum** – A resident addressed the Parish Council with regard to Bloxham School Community Forum. He also asked for Councillor Kieron Mallon to confirm when the white lining on the A361 would be completed. **Action TG**

The resident also reported that there was graffiti on the grit bin and BT box opposite 10 Strawberry Terrace. The Clerk would contact Cherwell District Council to request that the graffiti was removed. **Action TG**

Councillor Nick Rayner highlighted the poor state of rural roads and the dangers for cyclists. It was agreed that would be investigated by the Traffic Calming Working Group. **Action LL/TG**

*(For information, following guidance from the National Association of Local Councils, the Parish Council did not specifically name individual residents within its minutes, unless they were speaking in an official capacity)*

**99/21 Reports from County and District Councillors** – There were no reports from the County and District Councillors.

### 100/21 Planning

i) Results of Planning Applications – The Parish Council noted decisions made by Cherwell District Council since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

ii) Planning Applications

- 21/00557/F Creek Cottage, Little Bridge Road, Bloxham – The Parish Council considered an application for a side and rear extension.

**Resolved** that the Parish Council appreciates the efforts made by the applicant to address the previous objection, however the Parish Council does not feel that they go far enough and objects to application 21/00557/F because it is contrary to the following Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan policies:

BL4 – The current parking proposals are insufficient and a minimum of one parking space is required for dwellings with one or two bedrooms and a minimum of two spaces will be required for dwellings with three or more bedrooms to be provided on the plot. At present the property has only one parking space and there is a danger in such circumstances that parking will at some stage spill over into adjoining streets.

BL11 (h) - The development does not respect the local character and the historic and natural assets of the area and the design and materials chosen do not preserve or enhance our rural heritage, landscape and sense of place. The proposal does not take account of the scale of any harm or loss that it might impose upon any non-designated historic assets

BL12 (b) – The proposal fails to demonstrate that it does not result in harm to the rural or heritage character of the village. The Parish Council refers to the reservations expressed by Jenny Ballinger, Conservation Officer and to the more elaborate observations of the Heritage consultant.

Should Cherwell District Council be minded to approve the application, a Traffic Management Plan is required to limit the impact on local residents who live along the narrow roads in the vicinity of the site.

**Action TG**

iii) Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – The Parish Council discussed the draft Statement of Community Involvement public consultation document.

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**Resolved** that the comments, as drafted by Councillor Daniel Goodwin, be submitted to Cherwell District Council. **Action TG**

## 101/21 Environment/Village Matters

- i) Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) – The Parish Council discussed replacing two VAS in the village and consider quotes.

**Resolved** that quotes for two new VAS be approved. **Action DB/TG**

- ii) Community Speedwatch Scheme – The Parish Council discussed a Community Speedwatch Scheme for Bloxham and Councillor David Bunn gave details of how the Scheme would operate.

**Resolved** that the Community Speedwatch Scheme be progressed. **Action DB/TG**

## 102/21 Finance

- i) Income, Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for Payment - The Clerk submitted to the Parish Council, the income which had been received since the last meeting, the accounts for payment and the bank reconciliation.

**Resolved** that the income received since the last meeting and the bank reconciliation be noted and following accounts for payment be approved:

Theresa Goss – Salary and expenses for August 2021	
HMRC – Payments for August 2021	
Oxfordshire County Council – Clerks pension for August 2021 & under payment for 2020/2021	
Nigel Prickett – Grass Cutting for July 2021	£774.00

- ii) Biodiversity Group – The Parish Council discussed a request from Bloxham Biodiversity Group for funding to support 'The Big Green Week'.

**Resolved** that the request for funding be approved and further details about the event be requested from Bloxham Biodiversity Group. **Action TG**

## 03/21 Parish Council Matters

- i) Vacancies – The Chairman reported that there were no applications for co-option onto the Parish Council.

**Resolved** that the vacancies continue to be advertised. **Action TG**

- ii) Parish Council Meetings, Post May 2021 – The Parish Council discussed confirming all of the decisions which had been made by the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer under delegated authority, based on recommendations made by the Parish Council, since 7 May 2021.

**Resolved** that all of the decisions which had been made by the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, under delegated authority, based on recommendations made by the Parish Council, since 7 May 2021 be approved.

**104/21 Correspondence** – The Clerk reported on the route of the Women's Tour Cycling event which would go through Bloxham on Monday 4 October 2021, between 11am and 3pm. There would be rolling road closures and some disruption to the village when the cyclists passed through, however it was hoped that the residents would show their support of the event.

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## 105/21 Exclusion of the Public and Press

**Resolved** that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the minute numbered 106/21 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

**106/21 Jubilee Hall Project** – The Parish Council considered a report with regard to funding of the Jubilee Hall Project, in respect of the roof and plumbing. The contract with Seckington and Whitehead was due to be signed on 3 August 2021.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

*(The public and press were invited back into the meeting at the conclusion of this item)*

**107/21 Meeting Dates** – The Chairman reported that the next Parish Council meeting on 6 September 2021 would be held at one of the halls in the village. The meeting would commence at 7.30pm.

**Resolved** that it be noted that, future meeting dates for Bloxham Parish Council are as stated below.

- Monday 6 September 2021
- Tuesday 21 September 2021
- Monday 4 October 2021
- Tuesday 19 October 2021

## 108/21 Items for Future Agendas

- Goggs Tree works for Monday 6/9/2021
- Co-option Procedure (Sept 2021)
- Parish Council Responsibilities/Appointments to Other Bodies
- Bench in Gascoigne Way
- Condition of the footpath next to Warriner School
- Toddler Slide at Jubilee Park
- 'Good Neighbour' Leaflet
- Representative on St Mary's Thursday Club Committee
- Oxfordshire 2050 / CDC Local Plan Presentation from Ms Gringall
- Swings at Bloxham Recreation Ground
- Traffic Calming Working Group

(The meeting ended at 9.15pm)

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Chairman – 6 September 2021