

## BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bletchingdon Village Hallon Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2016.

**Present:** Cllr A.K.Saunders(Chair), Cllr D.M.Ledger, Cllr Mrs M. Knight, Cllr Miss J. Benton, Cllr C.E.Lane, Cllr M.E.Taylor

**Members of the Public:** Mr & Mrs Grady

- 021/16 **Confirmation of Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were approved and signed.
- 022/16 **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Kersh declared an interest in planning application 16/00166/F as a neighbour.
- 023/16 **Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** Cllr Ledger suggested a celebration of 1926, which was the year Bletchingdon got it's first village hall. Cllr Miss Benton asked if there was any funding. The Clerk will enquire. Cllrs agreed to the idea of some sort of village party and Cllr Miss Benton agreed to meet with the Clerk to discuss further before next meeting.
- 024/16 **Spring Clean:** Cllr Kersh reported that Alex Watkins has arranged this for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm. Posters are being put up around village.
- 025/16 **Footpath Across Black's Head Car Park:** OCC has responded to the Clerk stating that there is no footpath at this location on the old maps. Cllr Miss Benton suggested that the steps were private property and can't be repaired by the PC.
- 026/16 **Public Footpath from Bletchingdon to The Rock of Gibraltar, Enslow:** OCC also told the Clerk that although they had no funding for gates to replace stiles they did have manpower to install the gates. OCC suggested the Clerk contact Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) for possible funding of footpath improvements. Cllr Lane asked why the stiles needed replacing. The Clerk stated that they are difficult to use and in need of maintainance in some cases. Cllrs agreed the Clerk could enquire what funding might be available.
- 027/16 **Bus Service Subsidies:** Cllr Saunders reported that OCC were withdrawing the subsidies it gives to the bus companies for certain services, included the 25 & 25A Thames Travel routes through Bletchingdon. Thames Travel can't run the services without the subsidies. Andrew Smith of Hampton Poyle has written to Cllr David Nimmo-Smith on our behalf. Cllr Saunders read the letter. Cllr Saunders suggested this is a main item on the Annual Parish Meeting agenda and that the Clerk invites Andrew Smith to speak.
- 028/16 **Damaged Wall, St Giles:** The Clerk still hasn't established who is responsible for the wall, having been in contact with both CDC and Sanctuary. Cllr Taylor will ask his brother-in-law for local knowledge.
- 029/16 **Parish Council Telephone:** Cllr Saunders confirmed that the phone is now set up and in use, the new number has been put in Village News. The handset & dongal cost £58.98. The Clerk asked if she could set up the bill to a monthly direct debit, as BT charge £6/month for payment by cheque and we risk being late every month with a cheque. Cllrs unanimously agreed to set up direct debit and to inform the meeting of the monthly cost.
- 030/16 **Bollards on Finger Piece:** Cllr Saunders reported that a cheque for £1014.19 had to be sent to OCC in order for any site meeting to take place. Cheque has now been sent.
- 031/16 **The Blacks Head:** Cllr Saunders stated that the legal advice received last month had been incorrect. Cllrs agreed to re-nominate the pub for the Asset of Community Value list. Cllr Ledger would re-submit the original application. Cllr Saunders suggested a planning application of some sort is imminent as surveyors have been seen on site.
- 032/16 **Planning Matters**  
032a/16 **Applications:**

**16/00166/F – Willow Cottage Nursery**, Weston Road – permanent retention of modular classroom and relocation of access ramp (retrospective) – Cllr Ledger asked Mr & Mrs Grady (who were present) if they intended using it as a classroom or office space – they confirmed it was for classroom. Cllr Lane raised the concern that it would increase the number of children attending the nursery. Mr Grady said not having the permission would reduce the number of children they would be able to accept – at the time of purchase they were under the impression that the temporary permission for the building had another two years. Cllr Miss Benton & Cllr Mrs Knight had no objection as it was originally thought this classroom would be used as part of the nursery. Cllr Saunders had a concern about this type of building becoming permanent. Cllr Mrs Knight suggested that if the building is trustworthy and expected to go on being so for next few years, let it. Cllr Ledger commented that the building is in good condition. Cllr Kersh passed items of correspondence received from residents on the matter to the meeting. All aspects were considered and Cllr Saunders stated that the request is to keep a modular building there permanently, adding that when this one comes to the end of its useful life another, replacement modular building could be put in this location. Cllrs (Cllr Saunders as Chair did not vote, Cllr Kersh declared an interest and did not vote) unanimously voted in favour of allowing the nursery to keep the modular building there permanently.

**16/00069/F – Ingleby Paddocks, Enslow** – Continued siting of storage container, land south Dairy Cottage – Cllr Saunders reported that the Planning Committee made no objections and comments needed to be made by 11<sup>th</sup> February, which had passed.

**16/00044/ADV – Starbucks on A34 by Weston on the Green** – 2 x internally illuminated fascia signs, 2 x internally illuminated sign 1 x non illuminated sign. Cllr Saunders reported that comments had to be made by 19<sup>th</sup> February and that no comments were made.

032b/16 **Notice of Decision:**

**15/02155/F – Land south west of Underdowns, Lince Lane** – Continued siting of mobile home – permission granted 25/01/16

**15/02077/F – The Oxfordshire Inn, Heathfield** – Change of use of existing hotel accommodation to form 8 dwellings – Permission granted 19/02/16

**15/02223/F – Court Yard House, Church End** – demolition of existing conservatory and erection of replacement conservatory – Permission granted 08/02/16

**15/02264/OUT** – By Ingleby, Station Road, Bletchington – 10 no dwellings with revised access, demolition of existing dwelling – Refusal of permission 23/02/16

032c/16 **Withdrawal of Planning Application:**

**15/01914/F – Heathfield Golf & Country Club** – Change of use to caravan park to include replacement building together with static mobile to house managers accommodation and new bund – Withdrawn 04/02/16

033/16 **Traffic Working Group Update:**

Cllr Kersh reported that at the Working Group Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January the proposal, in the new housing/shop plans for Station Road, for the repositioning of the pinch point at the entrance to the village (on Station Road). All agreed there seemed little point in this exercise and Cllr Saunders would investigate further. Cllr Taylor suggested a ‘public car park’ sign was needed for the car park associated with the village hall/school, to indicate that anyone using the site could use it. Cllr Ledger reported that some new signing stating ‘Village Hall & Primary School’ had been purchased and would direct people to the car park.

Cllr Kersh also stated there were discussions about bollards to protect the verge along Weston Road.

Cllr Saunders suggested widening the road on the Islip Road corner and outing up mirrors to allow better visibility of oncoming traffic or go further by putting in traffic lights here.

Cllr Kersh will see that a traffic count is organised as soon as possible.

Cllr Saunders will remind Davis Tole (OCC) to move the 30mph sign on the Kirtlington Road to beyond Springwell Hill housing and entrance road to Village Hall. David Tole had stated that this should be done within 6 month on 8/10/15.

- Cllr Saunders added that he had seen balisha beacons that only come on as car approaches – Cllr Kersh will look into these for the crossing on Station Road.
- 034/16 **Community Project Update:** Cllr Ledger reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase (houses & shop) will commence in March.  
Cllr Kersh asked if the BCF holds enough funds to buy the Blacks Head. Cllr Saunders stated that the exact figure would become apparent at the BCF AGM, but he didn't think there was enough to buy the pub.
- 035/16 **Accounts for Payment**
- |  |              |         |
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| OALC annual subscription                       | (vat £27.98) | £167.89 |
| Bletchington Village Hall (rent – jan,feb,mar) |              | £450.00 |
| Mr R P Timms (Bert – village green trees)      |              | £100.00 |
| Mr A K Saunders (chair's allowance)            |              | £150.00 |
| Mr D Ledger (telephone & salt scoops)          |              | £70.95  |
| BT (first phone bill, inc set up)              | (vat £28.90) | £173.43 |
- 036/16 **Future Expenditure:** Cllr Mrs Knight reported that the benches on The Green were in quite good order and just needed minor work and cleaning. Colin Knight has volunteered to do this and Cllr Saunders agreed stating that the PC will reimburse him for any expenses for this.  
Cllr Lane suggested making improvements to the PC website. Cllr Ledger will talk to Will Taylor (Sports & Social Club) about a calendar of events. Cllr Saunders will write something for the next Village News directing people to the website and inviting them to add events to the Events Calendar.  
Cllr Saunders asked the PC if they would fund an online course with SLCC (ILCA) at a cost of £99 plus VAT, to improve her overall knowledge of PC work – Cllrs agreed to this.
- 037/16 **The Clerk's Pay Review:** The Clerk left the room while Cllrs discussed this matter. The outcome was that .....
- CDC – Partial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan (Part 1): Oxford's unmet housing need – Issues Paper. The Clerk attended a workshop at CDC where she had the opportunity to discuss how a Category A village might be affected by Oxford's unmet need to find another 15000 houses. It was suggested that we make formal representations to the consultation (due by 11<sup>th</sup> March) to state our case. Summary leaflet or whole document available on-line. How do we want to do this – now or in a separate meeting with the Clerk & some Cllrs? In addition to this there is to be a Neighbourhood Plan workshop at Chesterton in March, which I will be attending.
- 038/16 **Funfair:** Perry Hatwell had emailed the Clerk requesting to bring his funfair to the Village Green on the same week as usual, arriving Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September, opening Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October, and leaving Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Cllrs agreed. The Clerk will make arrangements for the road closure.
- 039/16 **Potholes on Valentia Close:** Claire Fraser reported the potholes and the Clerk has reported them to OCC Highways Department.
- 040/16 **Garden Open:** The Clerk confirmed that Sue Bedwell had asked her for permission to place posters for her annual open garden event on the Village Green. Sue also gave her apologies for the Annual Parish Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May.
- 041/16 **Bletchington Charity:** The PC agreed to nominate Sue Mcready to be their member on the Bletchington Charity Committee. The Clerk was instructed to write to Sue Mcready and ask her to contact Howard Dellar for further information about the role and date of next meeting.
- 042/16 **CDC – Partial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan (Part 1):** Cllr Saunders briefly explained Oxford's unmet housing need – Issues Paper. The Clerk attended a workshop at CDC where she had the opportunity to discuss how a Category A village might be affected by Oxford's unmet need to find another 15000 houses. Cllrs felt that Bletchington has already taken its share of this housing need, however Cllr Saunders will attend a Neighbourhood Plan Workshop at Chesterton in March.
- 043/16 **Elections May 4<sup>th</sup> 2016:** Cllr Ledger reminded Cllrs that the Parish Council elections take place this year and that if no one else stands then there will be no need for elections to

take place. Forms/information posters should be sent to the Clerk soon. The Village Hall is booked all day for the Polling Station.

- 044/16 **Dirty Road Signs:** Cllr Lane suggested PC asks Alex Watkinson to organise a sign cleaning day as a further part of his D.of E Award. Cllr Kersh will ask.
- 045/16 **Village Signs:** Cllr Taylor asked if two 'Bletchingdon' signs could be purchased for the entrance into the village on the Kirtlington Road and the Weston Road. He suggested one be 'ton' and the other 'don'. All agreed and Cllr Ledger to purchase.
- 046/16 **Virridor:** The Landfill Communities Fund (Village Hall fit-out grant), to which the PC contributed £1228.73 in February 2015, recorded an underspend and as a result Virridor returned a cheque for £21.62 as a refund.
- 047/16 **Multi Use Games Area – extra fencing:** Cllr Lane asked if the PC had actually paid for the extra fencing around the MUGA, which had been agreed to. The Clerk confirmed that they had not. Cllr Saunders thinks it was about £1800 and he will find out more from BCF.
- 048/16 **Land South of Diamond Farm:** Cllr Saunders reported that the new enforcement Officer at CDC is visiting and will let us know what actions are to be taken.
- 049/16 **Hedges at Stonehouse Farm, Tollbrook Corner:** Cllr Lane asked the Clerk to find out what is happening with these hedges as the PC was told to see if they grow back – they haven't.
- 050/16 **Ice on Kirtlington Road:** Cllr Lane reminded PC about the problem of ice forming across the road from natural water run-off from land at Bletchingdon Park. The Clerk will report to OCC Highways.
- 051/16 **Road Closure Notice:** A Traffic Regulation Notice had been received from OCC stating that the Kirtlington Road would be closed on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April between 9:30am – 5pm. The Clerk will post notices around the village.
- Date of Next Meeting:** 7:30pm, Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 at Bletchingdon Village Hall.