

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 27th
November, 2014.

Present: Cllr A.K.Saunders (Chair), Cllr D.M.Ledger, Cllr Miss J Benton & Cllr Mrs M.M.Knight and 1 member of the public.

Apologies: Cllr C.E. Lane, Cllr M.E.Taylor & Cllr M.Kersh.

- 239/14 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Miss Benton declared an interest in item 257/14 It's a Knockout.
- 240/14 **Confirmation of Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th October, 2014, were approved and signed.
- 241/14 **OCC Maintenance of roundabouts & verges:** OCC are only able to pay for 2 cuts per year of the roadside verges and it is up to PCs to decide if they want to maintain them to a higher standard than that by taking on the maintenance contract and may want to consider raising the precept to take this into account. Cllr Miss Benton stated that it could be done more environmentally, perhaps cutting a width of 1m only. The Clerk was asked to get a quote from Green Scythe to see how much one cut would cost, based on the schedule provided by OCC.
- 242/14 **Community Emergency Plan:** Following the request from OCC/CDC to complete a form detailing emergency contacts and the Clerk finding that the school was unwilling (due to safeguarding concerns) to be included in this, the Clerk attended a training session at CDC, the outcome of which was that she proposed to write a Community Emergency Plan for the village. This would be a fairly simple task as she had been given a template to use, so it will be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- 243/14 **Planning Matters**
- 243a/14 **Applications:-**
1. 14/01862/LB & F – **The Malt House** – Proposed two-storey rear extension and first floor side extension including works to adapt dwelling. Extension and raising roof of outbuilding to rear garden. Widening of existing entrance in frontage wall and provision of off-street car parking area. Mr Jordan, the owner, was present and Cllrs invited him to explain the plans as they were complex. Cllrs liked the proposals, although Cllr Mrs Knight was concerned that the outbuilding extension/renovations made it another dwelling. Plans are to be circulated to Planning Committee before making comments to CDC.
- 243b/14 **Consents:-**
1. 14/00346/TCA – Tree works at The Malt House
- 244/14 **Coghill Tree Replacement:** Cllr Saunders read out all feedback received from residents. After a discussion it was decided that the Clerk should ask Mr Simon Horwood to suggest suitable trees, and get prices, to present to next meeting.
- 245/14 **Broadband Services Update:** Gigaclear look set to get full requirement in Kirtlington, so looks as though it will go ahead with bringing highspeed fibre to the village. In the meantime, BT Infinity 2 is now available in the village.
- 246/14 **CDC Parish Liaison Meeting:** Cherwell DC Local Plan – Bletchington has now become a 'Category A' village which means it may be in line for further housing in the future. However Cllr Saunders stated that at a recent planning meeting Bob Duxbury had commented that our current housing development is a major contribution, meaning we are less likely to find space for too many more houses. It was decided that we do need to document our development process but Cllr Ledger said that this was something that we could easily do when required.

- 247/14 **Community Project Update:** Cllr Ledger reported that the housing plans had now been approved by CDC.
- 248/14 **Bus Shelter Light:** This has still not been repaired. The Clerk was asked to see if Jez Pewsey could do it as he had been involved in the past.
- 249/14 **Damaged Bench in St Giles:** The Clerk was asked to speak to Roz Wing (Thursday Club)
- 250/14 **Accounts for Payment:** The following were approved for payment:-
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| D. Ledger (payment made to Freezone Internet Ltd) £74.88 + £14.97vat | £89.85 |
| Green Scythe Ltd (mowing 1 cut VG, 1 cut A.C.) £180.82 + £36.16vat | £216.98 |
| Town & Country Trees Ltd (Horse Chestnut & rec.ground tree) £240 + £48 vat | £288.00 |
| R. McNaught (expenses – ink cartridges) £18.49 + £3.69 vat | £22.18 |
- 251/14 **Budget 2015/6:** Cllrs looked at the budget prepared by the Clerk. Some adjustments were made and an updated version will be emailed to Cllr Ledger ahead of next meeting. Cllrs discussed broadband expenses for the Clerk, as she is using her home telephone line for all PC matters. Cllr Mrs Knight proposed that 50% of the Clerks broadband costs should be paid for by the Parish Council. Cllr Miss Benton seconded this. It was also agreed that a 2-drawer fire safe should be purchased for the Parish Council Office and this was included in the budget. The tree inspection report was also reviewed highlighting that 2x lime trees on the green were due an inspection. The Clerk was instructed to get Town & Country Trees to do this. Cllrs also discussed further expenditure including the possibility of purchasing The Slipe and paying for traffic calming on the Kirtlington Road (as you enter the village before the new school entrance road).
- 252/14 **Report from Co.Cllr.Gearing:** Report had been circulated to all.
- 253/14 **Newsletter from John Howell MP:** Report had been circulated to all.
- 254/14 **Aircraft Noise Over Bletchingdon:** Following a letter on behalf of a person interested in buying Bletchingdon House the Clerk was advised to respond stating that Cllrs cannot recall the last time a complaint was received about aircraft noise over the village.
- 255/14 **Blocked Drains:** The Clerk was asked to report the problem of blocked drains (by leaves, we think) to OCC Highways dept.
- 256/14 **It's a Knockout:** Following a letter from Julie Benton, who is organising a major fundraising event for the village hall/school development, Cllr Mrs Knight proposed the Parish Council contribute £435 to pay for Bouncy Castles for the event. Cllr Ledger seconded this. This will be paid next year when the money is required by Miss Benton.
- 257/14 **Dog mess:** Following a complaint made by a villager directly to the Clerk it was proposed that the Clerk contact CDC Dog Officer asking if we could get any signs and any other advice.
- 258/14 **Confidential Matter:** minuted separately
- 259/14 **Society of Local Council Clerks membership renewal:** The Clerk requested that the Parish Council pay for this to be renewed and it was agreed to do so.
- 260/14 **Names for the houses to be built on former Village Hall site:** Cllr Ledger suggested using the 4 original 'trustees' of the Village Hall, according to the Land Registry document of 1959 – Rev. R. Daubney, Mr W. Haynes, Mr W. Rogers and Mr A. Eeley. **This was agreed.**
- 261/14 **Obscured Street Light on Oxford Road:** The Clerk was instructed to contact S.E.B. to cut the tree that is obscuring the street light outside No.14 Oxford Road.
- Date of Next Meeting: 7pm, Thursday 15th January, 2015 at Bletchingdon Primary School.**