

## BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bletchingdon Village Hallon Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.**Present:** Cllr A.K.Saunders(Chair), Cllr D.M.Ledger, Cllr Mrs M. Knight.**Apologies:** Cllr Miss J. Benton, Cllr C.E.Lane, Cllr M.E.Taylor

- 001/16 **Confirmation of Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were approved and signed.
- 002/16 **Declaration of Interest:** None.
- 003/16 **Grit Bins:** Cllr Saunders reported that two grit bins were purchased by the Clerk over the Christmas Holidays and one has been placed near to the car park, filled with the free bags of salt given out by OCC, which the Clerk claimed. Annesley Close already has a bin, which has some salt in it. This will be topped up with the new supply of salt. The second new bin will be used in the Village Hall area. Both bins are for the use of the community to help themselves keep public areas ice free. Cllr Ledger is to purchase some scoops to assist spreading the salt.
- 004/16 **Sanctuary/Annesley Close Residents Meeting:** Cllr Saunders attended this meeting, which was held in the Village Hall. There were a number of representatives from Sanctaury Housing and it was a drop-in session for residents to ask questions or report problems. There were low numbers of residents in attendance and Cllr Saunders suggested to Sanctuary that a meeting in the Spring/Summer using a gazebo set up in Annesley Close would be more accessible to the residents.
- 005/16 **Public Bridleway off Red Lane:** OCC has installed a bridlegate to get this path back on the correct route.
- 006/16 **Tree at Coghill:** The new tree in Coghill, a *Prunus padus* or bird cherry, was sourced by Simon Horwood and collected and planted by Jamie McNaught. Cllr Saunders thanked them both.
- 007/16 **Parish Council Telephone:** Cllr Ledger informed the PC that BT had made an appointment for the morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> December, and he had waited from 8am – 2pm, but no-one turned up. It seems that although the appointment was generated, along with a subsequent two appointments, the engineers were not told about them. A new appointment has been arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> January. Hopefully a phone will be installed by the next meeting. The installation will cost £115, and Cllr Ledger will purchase a suitable handset with answerphone facilities.
- 008/16 **Bollards on Fingerpiece:** The Clerk will inform both Cllr Lane and Cllr Saunders when a site meeting will take place to discuss positions of bollards.
- 009/16 **Bus Shelter:** Cllr Saunders informed PC that Jez Pewsey had been checking the bus shelter light and also the general state of the bus shelter. He had already cleaned mud off the inside walls and intended to sweep it out. Cllr Saunders thanked Mr Pewsey for his assistance with this.
- 010/16 **Blacks Head Inn:** A notice of removal from Register of Asset of Community Value was received on 4th December. The Clerk sent a number of emails to Sue Marchand (CDC Countryside & Conservation Officer) to establish why this had happened and what the PC should do about it. The response was that the PC could re-nominate it if they wished. In the meantime, Cllr Saunders & Cllr Ledger had made enquiries with Howard Dellar (Secretary of the Bletchingdon Charities & Solicitor) and the outcome of that was that the PC believe that the pub should not have been removed from the register of ACV when it was sold, and that it should remain an ACV until 2019. The Clerk will contact Sue Marchand again, in writing, to ask for the Blacks Head Inn to be reinstated as an ACV.

011/16 **Bus Services Update:** Cllr Saunders reported that Elinor Webber, PC Transport Rep, was attending a meeting with Thames Travel, on 19<sup>th</sup> January, to talk through options if the County Council withdrew all subsidies for Service 25 & 25A. Other PCs along the bus routes will also be in attendance. Cllr Ledger added that one possibility was getting all the PCs along the route to join together to contribute money to make up the amount of the subsidy.

012/16 **Traffic Working Group Update:** Cllr Kersh reported that the January meeting had been postponed. He added that Mark Webber was studying the traffic plan for the housing development.

013/16 **Community Project Update:** Cllr Ledger reported the housing building work would commence in February/March and that the contents of the Red Barn need re-homing as the barn is to be demolished. There are a number of folding chairs and tables which the Village Hall would like to keep for outside events.

014/16 **Planning Matters**

014a/16 **Applications:**

**15/00822/F - Land at Lince Lane**, Portdevon LLP Minns Estates Ltd - Erection of office and 14no. Dwellings comments made by 30/12/2015- PC objected, as before.

**15/02186/ADV - Eat and Go**, A34 by Weston-on-the-Green, 23.5 Degrees - 2 illuminated fascia signs and 1 illuminated sign – comments were due by 29/12/2015 we made no comment, but application was withdrawn 8/1/16.

**15/02077/F - The Oxfordshire Inn**, Heathfield, Investfront Ltd - Change of use of existing hotel accommodation to form 9 no. dwellings - re-submission of 13/01278/F Comments were made by 23/12/2015 stating that PC stands by original comments made in 2013. The application has since been amended with a reduction to 8 dwellings (rather than 9)PC made no further comments.

**15/02223/F - Court Yard House**, Church End, Mrs E Turnbull - Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of replacement conservatory - Comments were made by 06/01/2016 in support of this application.

**15/02155/F - South West of Underdowns**, Lince Lane, Mrs G & M Hill - Continued siting of mobile home - re-submission of 15/01689/F - Comments were due by 4/1/16 – PC did not object to this back in October, and no further comments were submitted.

**15/02264/OUT - By Ingleby**, Station Road, Bletchingdon, Lexham Stone Ltd - OUTLINE - 10 no. dwellings with revised access: demolition of existing dwelling - As this is outline comments were not able to be made at this time. PC did not dislike the plan however the location is not ideal on a fast road with poor visibility and facilities in Enslow are limited. In addition PC feels the 90, or so, houses being built or at the planning stage within the parish is sufficient number for the village to sustain.

014b/16 **Notice of Decision:**

15/01530/LB & F, Malt House - Proposed single storey extension to the rear and works to replace roof to existing side single storey projection inc new roofing to presently open yard cum porch - Permission granted 7/1/16

015/16 **Accounts for Payment**

R.McNaught (expenses – Grit Bins)	(vat £31.20)	£187.20
St Catherine's College (reimbursement for <i>Prunus padus</i> for Coghill)	(vat £15.20)	£91.20
J Pusey (works to bus shelter)		£735.00
Bletchingdon Village Hall (rent Dec)		£150.00
C.Fraser (payroll)		£30.00
R.McNaught (salary)		£1000.00
Duchy of Cornwall (The Slipe rent)		£30.00

Cllrs agreed to pay for the Village Hall rent annually. The next invoice will be for January to March inclusive, then annually thereafter, to save monthly invoices & cheques.

016/16 **Budget 2016/17 & the Precept:** Cllr Ledger presented the financial report which was put together by Cllr Saunders, Cllr Ladger and the Clerk. There is to be a projected

underspend of £7,800. This is due in part to an underspend on parish office of £2700, as much of the assets (eg furniture & equipment) are village hall owned and PC rent the office; an allowance of £1000 for election costs which was not spent and a £1400 contingency which was not spent. With that in mind Cllrs were tasked with thinking where additional spending on village assets could take place. Cllr Saunders stated that the PC should be pro-active in finding ways to improve the village. Cllr Ledger also proposed that the Clerk salary be reviewed at next meeting, all agreed.

Cllr Kersh proposed that the PC set the precept figure at £18,500 (£500 more than last year), however with a tax base of 351.4, this will equate to a rate of £52.65 per Band D property (a 1.1% decrease on last year). This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Knight and unanimously agreed.

- 017/16 **The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** Cllr Saunders read a letter from the Rt Revd The Acting Bishop of Oxford, Tim Stevenson asking what the Parish intended to do by way of celebrating the Queen's birthday. PC asked if the Clerk could talk to Church, PTA, Thursday Club, Brownies, Silver Band & school PTA and to co-ordinate events. The Clerk will report back to next meeting.
- 018/16 **Spring Clean:** Cllr Kersh reported that he had been contacted by Alex Watkinson, who is undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Alex would like to help organise the Spring Clean. Cllr Kersh suggested passing on all the information from CDC to him – all Cllrs agreed. Cllr Kersh will update PC/the Clerk with date for Spring Clean.
- 019/16 **Path from Coghill through The Blacks Head:** Cllr Saunders reported that one of the steps leading into the pub car park is damaged. The Clerk was asked to find out who is responsible and to find out status of path.
- 020/16 **Annual Parish Meeting:** It was decided the meeting would be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Cllr ledger will book the Village Hall.
- Date of Next Meeting:** 7:30pm, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 at Bletchingdon Village Hall.