

## BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bletchingdon Village Hall

on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

**Present:** Cllr A.K.Saunders(Chair), Cllr C.E.Lane, Cllr D.M.Ledger, Cllr Mrs M. Knight, Cllr M.E. Taylor & Miss E Webber (Transport Rep).

**Apologies:** Cllr Miss J. Benton, Cllr M. Kersh (arrived 9:30pm)

- 244/15 **Confirmation of Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 were approved and signed.
- 245/15 **Declaration of Interest:** None.
- 246/15 **Christmas Tree:** Cllr Taylor will ask Bert Timms to source a tree for the village, to be located safely outside the front of the village hall. Cllr Lane will assist with ensuring it is safe. Cllr Saunders will look for solar lights.
- 247/15 **Subsidised Buses – Cabinet Decision:** Cllr Saunders reported that on 10<sup>th</sup> November O.C.C.'s decision making cabinet met to consider public feedback to the subsidised bus service proposals that were put forward in a consultation held between 19<sup>th</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> September. It was decided to withdraw all subsidies paid to run 118 subsidised bus routes in Oxfordshire – this includes No.25 & 25A. Miss Webber reported that she had attended a number of meetings with O.C.C. and she gave the PC a comprehensive report that she had given to O.C.C. regarding the lack of information and clarity from O.C.C. Cllr Ledger had read the Cabinet Decision and confirmed that if O.C.C.s funding contained a surplus, this would be used to subsidise bus services that prioritise off-peak services. If the subsidy is removed from bus service 25 & 25A it does not necessarily mean it would stop running – if the service is well used to a profitable level, the operator may decide to continue running it without any O.C.C. subsidy. Miss Webber concluded that final decisions will be made at the County Council's full budget setting meeting in February 2016. Cllr Saunders thanked Miss Webber for her extensive work and asked her to report back to PC with any updates.
- 248/15 **Parish Council Telephone:** Cllr Ledger asked for approval to go ahead with ordering a BT phone line (and handset with answerphone) for use by the Clerk and other PC members in the room used as the PC Office. All Cllrs agreed that this was required and that Cllr Ledger should go ahead with this purchase.
- 249/15 **Dog Bin:** Cllr Saunders thanked Cllr Lane for installing the new dog bin alongside the temporary footpath to the school/village hall.
- 250/15 **Damaged Wall, St Giles:** Cllr Saunders reported that the Clerk had emailed Sanctuary Housing regarding the wall, as it had been established that it was in their ownership, but as yet had not had a response.
- 251/15 **2 Oxford Road:** Cllr Saunders reported that the Clerk had been told by Sanctuary Housing that the first two successful applicants had been unable to obtain mortgages. The third successful applicants were in process of arranging a mortgage and should be moving into the property shortly.
- 252/15 **Sanctuary Residents Meeting:** Cllr Ledger reported that Sanctuary are holding a residents meeting (for Annesley Close) on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 11am. Cllr Saunders said he would attend.
- 253/15 **Bollards on Fingerpiece:** Cllr Saunders reported that a quote had been received from O.C.C. to install 12 wooden bollards around the fingerpiece at a cost of £1014.19. O.C.C. had already informed PC that the work can only be carried out by their engineers as it is associated with the Highway, so therefore Cllrs agreed to accept this quote and get the work done. Cllr Lane would like to be present at a site meeting with O.C.C. before the work is carried out. The Clerk will arrange the works.

- 254/15 **Public Bridleway 134/21:** Cllr Saunders reported that O.C.C. have stated that they are willing to provide a new gate, but that it must be put in the correct location. The Clerk is to arrange a site meeting and will invite Cllr Lane to attend, to resolve the matter.

#### Accounts for Payment

Bletchington Village Hall (Oct & Nov)		£300
Greenscythe (Sept & Oct work)	(vat £74.50)	£446.98
Duncan Ledger (expenses incurred – Freezone internet £89.55 & travel £20.70)		£110.25
BDO (external auditors) (vat £20)		£120
SLCC membership renewal		£88

- 255/15 **Traffic Working Group Update:** Cllr Saunders read Cllr Kersh's report from the first meeting of the group which was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015. It concluded that a traffic survey was needed, they would look at getting Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and that the installation of a traffic light controlled pelican crossing on Station Road was top priority to benefit the whole village. Cllr Kersh will contact David Tole, O.C.C., for assistance with procedures on installing bollards along Weston Road (if that is what the Group decided was necessary). The next meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> January at 8:15pm.
- 256/15 **Village Hall Update:** Cllr Ledger reported that the Village Hall had decided to purchase two litter bins for outside the Village Hall. The Village Hall Committee would like to know if the PC would be able to contribute to the cost of these, which was £553.08. Cllr Mrs Knight was concerned about the bins being emptied, but Cllr Saunders stated that when the Village Hall had a cleaning contractor this would be part of the duties. Cllr Taylor confirmed that the bins would be placed on 'village' property (ie. the square in front of the Hall, adjacent to Station Road, and that therefore PC could contribute. All Cllrs agreed to contribute half the cost, £276.54.
- 257/15 **Parish Liaison Meeting Report:** The Clerk had attended this meeting which had included presentations on Green Space Designations and Assets of Community Value. Cllr Ledger asked the Clerk to establish what designations we have – the Village Green, The Fingerpiece, The Slipe, the verge alongside Weston Road, Hodgeman's Spinney and the Recreation Ground. The Clerk will email C.D.C. Cllr Lane raised concerns that the new owners of the Blacks Head are going to challenge the Asset of Community Value designation. Cllr Saunders stated that the ACV expires in 2019 and that it cannot be changed from a pub. The Clerk will contact Kevin Larmer to discuss the concerns.
- 258/15 **Planning Matters**
- 258a/15 **Applications:**
- 15/00061/DISC** – land south east of Heathfield Nursing Home, Heathfield - discharge of conditions 8,9 & 10 of 11/01784/F on.
- 15/01914/F** – Heathfield Golf and Country Club, Heathfield. - Change of use to caravan park to include replacement building (office/reception, shop, store, launderette, kitchen, toilets, showers and washing facilities) together with static mobile to house managers accommodation and new bund. – There was an application which was permitted on 23/3/12 to allow for this development (11/01784/F), which has expired. Cllrs objected to the first application, they have objected to this application on the grounds that the area has poor services, which are already overstretched; poor access roads, unable to take that number of vehicle movements; lack of turning lane off the B4027 and the effect on existing businesses. It is considered by PC to be wholly inappropriate, and strongly objected to.
- 15/00822/F** – Land at Lince Lane with access off Station Road, Enslow. – Erection of office building and 14 no. dwellings together with associated car parking, cycle parking, garages, public amenity spaces and new footway link (amendments to application made in May 2016) – Cllrs discussed the amendments and thought that reducing the housing by 2 properties (16 to 14) did not affect previous comments that the number of residential units is too high for the space available. A major concern was that of access onto what is a very fast road (Station

Road), as well as lack of mains sewerage. Cllrs opposed this application again. (NB. There is already planning permission for 10 houses on this site)

258b/15 **Notice of Decision:**

**15/01402/F** – Court Yard House, Church End – alterations to dormer windows... - permission granted 23/10/15

**15/01774/F** – Willow Cottage Nurseries – external play canopy – permission granted 19/11/15.

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260/15 **Budget 2016/17:** Cllrs agreed to earmark £15,000 of PC funds currently in the bank, for traffic calming measures. The remainder of the budget will be discussed at the Precept Meeting in January. The Clerk will look at prices for a fireproof safe.

261/15 **Grit Bins:** Cllr Saunders reported that following a recent frosty morning, the Clerk had requested some free bags of grit from O.C.C. for use on pavements and pedestrian areas. Cllr Saunders suggested the PC purchases a bin to store it in. Cllrs also decided to purchase another bin for use in Annesley Close or another suitable location. The Clerk will purchase 2 Grit Bins.

262/15 **Life Build:** The Clerk had been contacted by a resident to ensure Life Build (who are building the new houses on the site of the Old Village Hall) keep the access road free of mud and other debris during the works, as it is well used by pedestrians. The Clerk received a positive email response and the road is being kept reasonably clean and free of stones. Cllr Taylor raised concern about the quality of the stonework on the new houses. Cllrs asked the Clerk to ask C.D.C. if this is acceptable on a new build.

263/15 **Dog Mess in Valencia:** Cllr Taylor reported dog mess in Valencia Road. The Clerk was asked to contact the Dog Warden at C.D.C. and to request more signage and other assistance with this matter.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 7:30pm, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 at Bletchingdon Village Hall.