

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bletchingdon Village Hall

on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

**Present:** Cllr A.K.Saunders(Chair), Cllr C.E.Lane (Chair), Cllr M. Kersh, Cllr D.M.Ledger & Cllr M.E. Taylor.

**Apologies:** Cllr Miss J. Benton, Cllr Mrs M. Knight.

- 211/15 **Confirmation of Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015 were approved and signed.
- 212/15 **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Lane declared an interest in planning application 15/01580/Q56 as the owner of the property. Cllr Ledger declared an interest in matters associated with the Parish Office rental agreement as member of the board of trustees for the Village Hall (??)
- 213/15 **Village Traffic Meeting:** Cllr Saunders confirmed that both OCC & Thames Valley Police have been invited by email. OCC responded saying Owen South (Senior Transport Planner) and David Tole (Traffic, Safety & Area Steward Manager) will attend a meeting. Suggested 8th October. It was agreed to hold meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October, the Clerk will inform the police. Cllr Kersh will produce advertising and flyers will be distributed throughout Parish. Cllr Kersh stated that the objective of the meeting is to channel issues through one body to improve communications and improve success. The Clerk will minute the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr Kersh & Cllr Saunders will establish big issues and put together format for meeting. The Clerk is to invite Co. Cllr. Gearing, Dist. Cllr. Holland and Leader of the Council, Ian Hudspeth.
- 214/15 **Public Bridleway 134/21, Red Lane:** The Clerk had asked OCC Rights of Way to confirm if this route was indeed offline as Cllr Lane had suggested last meeting. OCC had confirmed that it was. A discussion followed and it was decided that the Clerk should ask OCC for a self-closing gate and Cllr Lane will speak with the adjacent landowner. The Clerk was also asked to obtain a large OS Map showing the whole of Bletchingdon.
- 215/15 **Parish Office:** Cllr Ledger informed the PC that the Village Hall had purchased a filing cabinet for the Parish Office for sole use by PC. Cllrs agreed to reimburse the Village Hall for this cost. Cllr Ledger proposed that the PC make a monthly payment to the Village Hall to cover the use of the small meeting room, storage of files and equipment and use of the large hall for bigger meetings. £20/wk for 6 hrs use of office (£960), £10/mth for the PC monthly meeting (£110), 10/wk for storage (£520) and 6 large meetings/yr at £10/hr, 3hrs each (£180). Cllrs agreed a monthly figure of £150, to be paid from October, to cover all PC use of the Village Hall. To be reviewed in 12months.  
Cllrs voted to stop paying a grant to the Village Hall as it was now planned to be self-funding through commercial lets.
- 216/15 **Community Project Update:** Cllr Ledger reported that once the housing phase starts the community areas would also be started – this should be before the end of the year. Cllr Lane asked what the perimeter fence would be between houses and adjacent field. Cllr Saunders suggested it might be temporary, but then a hedge – the matter will be taken to a site meeting, when they start. Cllr Kersh asked who would maintain such a hedge. Cllr Saunders stated PC could pick up maintenance of any hedges and grass areas from the start to establish the development as part of Bletchingdon and not an isolated community. Cllr Taylor added some other areas of village could be included in this at same time.  
Cllr Ledger reported that the bright car park lights are being dealt with but light measurements need to be taken – awaiting report. Cllr Lane added that lighting is needed

along the temporary path by Springwell Close – Cllr Saunders said BCF need to sort this as soon as possible.

Cllr Ledger also confirmed that the Bishop of Oxford will bless the school on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2015.

- 217/15 **Damaged Wall in St Giles:** The Clerk was still waiting to hear back from CDC about ownership. Cllr Saunders suggested PC ask for details of all CDC ownership in Parish.
- 218/15 **Coghill Tree:** The Clerk had asked for a revised quote from Simon Horwood, but had heard nothing. The Clerk had also got advice from Bunkers Hill, who stated they would have trees in at the end of October and we could get one for about £50. Cllrs all agreed to ask Jamie McNaught to use his judgement and select a tree from Bunkers Hill.
- 219/15 **Bus Shelter:** The Clerk had received a quote from Jez Pewsey for supply and fitting of down pipe to guttering, to fit solar light (already purchased by PC), to repair and re-decorate throughout, including ceiling area, and apply anti-graffiti coating to paintwork. The cost of anti-graffiti coating was £149, but Cllrs agreed that needed doing. Total cost will come to £735. Cllr Ledger proposed we accept this quote. Cllr Taylor seconded.
- 220/15 **Enforcement Issues:** Cllr Saunders reported that he still waiting to hear back from Paul Ihringer regarding land south of Diamond Farm, and when he does he will start discussions about other outstanding enforcement issues.
- 221/15 **Planning Matters**
- 221a/15 **Applications:-** 15/01580/Q56 – **Sand Farm House**, Station Road – Change of use of cow shed from agricultural building to dwellinghouses. And prior approval to convert barn into 2 x 2-bed and 1 x 4-bed dwellinghouses. Cllrs objected to this application on grounds of design not in keeping with any other dwellings in the parish, change of use of land to A3 category (housing) particularly as the scope of this area is declared, the proposed development is in green belt and no further housing required at this time due to other ongoing developments which will realise 62 homes currently approved and a further 16 awaiting decision.
- 15/00285/TCA – **Hill View**, Church End – T1 x Willow fell – Cllrs raised no objection.
- 15/00284/TCA – **Wood Cottage**, Weston Road – T1 x Eucalyptus fell – Cllrs raised no objection.
- 15/01530/LB & 15/01529/F – **The Malt House**, Weston Road - 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. Cllrs supported this application.
- 221b/15 **Notice of Decision on Appeal:-** 14/01861/F & 14/01862/LB – **The Malt House**, Weston Road - This appeal was dismissed mostly on the grounds that it was in the green belt, however permission was given to carry out works on the outbuilding
- 222/15 **Accounts for Payment**
- |                                   |                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Green Scythe Ltd – mowing         | £223.49 (vat £37.25) |
| R.McNaught – salary               | £1000.00             |
| R.McNaught – expenses(stationery) | £21.77               |
| C Fraser – payroll                | £30.00               |
| Cherwell DC – emptying dog bins   | £384.38 (vat £64.06) |
- 223/15 **Fingerpiece:** Cllr Lane reported that although there are 17 bollards at present, 12 would be sufficient to protect the fingerpiece. The Clerk was instructed to get quote for 12 from Oxon CC, Highways. Cllr Saunders suggested another solution might be sloped kerbs which would enable the profile of the finger piece to be maintained, at the same time allowing wide vehicles to encroach without damaging the grass.
- 224/15 **Christmas Tree:** The Clerk raised the idea of a village Christmas tree in the square in front of the village hall, possibly with the band playing carols etc. Cllr Taylor will investigate where to get tree from.
- 225/15 **Trees on Green:** The Clerk will ask Bert Timms to trim back the basal growth.

226/15 **Fire on land adjacent to Village Hall:** Cllr Saunders asked if anyone knew anything about the fire that was started on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September in the builders' waste pile adjacent to the new Village Hall. Cllr Lane reported that he had started the fire. His reasons were that he had some waste for disposal, and that as a farmer he can set a fire in a field whenever he wishes. Cllr Saunders stated this area is a building site and that in his view it was an irresponsible act, particularly since there had been no advance warning to residents in the area, and this had resulted in the calling of the Fire Brigade. Cllr Lane advised that he did not consider this to be an irresponsible action. He said the area had been prepared prior to the fire, and that the Fire Brigade had not been given prior warning because they would have advised him against the fire. Cllr Saunders again stressed that as Councillors we should all act responsibly and this action did not demonstrate that.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 7:30pm, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2015 at Bletchingdon Village Hall.