

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 25th September, 2014.

Present: Cllrs A.K.Saunders (Chair), D.M.Ledger, M.E.Taylor, Mrs M.M.Knight, M.Kersh and Mrs Greta Bickley (retiring Clerk). 3 representatives from Gigaclear were present until the end of their presentation.

Apologies: Cllr Miss J. Benton & Cllr C.E. Lane

- 194/14 **Declarations of Interest:** None
- 195/14 **Confirmation of Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 28th August, 2014, were approved and signed.
- 196/14 **Gigaclear:** Cllr Saunders welcomed the representatives from Gigaclear stating that the Parish Council needs clarification of information that may be passed on to parishioners, but added that as a Parish Council they cannot steer people either way. Gigaclear's presentation followed. Cllr Kersh agreed to write a piece for Village News explaining O.C.C.s Broadband rollout and the options people will have, including what Gigaclear offer.
- 197/14 **CDC Housing Liaison Meeting:** Cllr Saunders will try to attend this meeting on 15th October.
- 198/14 **Horse Chestnut Tree on Village Green:** One quote (out of two requested) had been received, to carry out the recommended work to the Horse Chestnut, and to carry out works recommended by the Playground Safety Inspection. It was agreed that the quote be accepted and the Clerk was instructed to ask Town & Country Trees to carry out the work as soon as possible.
- 199/14 **Horse Chesnut Trees at No.1 Church End:** The Clerk reported that a Five Day Notice had been applied for, and consent had been given to fell 4 Horse Chestnuts at this property.
- 200/14 **Kirtlington Youth Club:** The Clerk was instructed to ask Cllr Benton if the volunteers who expressed an interest in setting up a Youth Club in the new Village Hall, would consider volunteering at Kirtlington Youth Club in the meantime.
- 201/14 **Sports & Social Club Lease:** Clerk was instructed to chase this in order to bring it to a conclusion by the next meeting.
- 202/14 **Community Project:** Cllr Ledger reported that the sale of the Village Hall would be completed mid-October, with continued rent-free use until the end of the year. Stated that the Parish Council needs to think about where meetings should be held from January 2015. Cllr Ledger suggested that a donation to the school to help pay for the cost of storing furniture would be something we should consider at a future meeting, also stating that the lock-up is now full and whatever is left in Village Hall now needs to be either sold, stored somewhere else or given away/disposed of. Cllr Ledger also reported a successful meeting with the Co-Op, confirming that the Co-Op would fund the building of the shop.
- 203/14 **Planning Matters:-**
- 203a/14 **Applications:-**
1. 14/01412/F – 1 Heathfield Cottages, single storey rear extension - Cllrs had no objections.
 2. 14/01488/F / 14/01488/LB – 4-5 Church End, Bletchington – Refurbish storage shed and extend by one metre – Cllrs had no objections, but instructed the Clerk to forward them on to the rest of the Planning Committee before submitting comments.
- 203b/14 **Consents:-**
1. 14/00937/F – Land south of Diamond Farm, erection of agricultural storage barn
 2. 14/01015/F – Hill Top Cottage, Station Road, Enslow – Proposed alterations & kitchen extension, new vehicular access

- 204/14 **Approval of Annual Return:** The Annual Return was approved and accepted. The Clerk was authorised to display the Notice of Conclusion in the Parish Notice Board.
- 205/14 **Internal Audit / Budget:** It was agreed that a bank charge of £12.50 for a cancelled cheque should be recorded as an unforeseen expense. Cllrs also decided that they would like to look into using BACs as a payment method alternative to cheques. They instructed the Clerk to check with bank and to then write a procedure which would allow a document to be signed by two signatories instructing the Clerk to make payments using the BACs method and use the approved minutes to confirm that payments had been agreed to/made.
- 206/14 **Accounts for Payment:** The following were approved for payment:-
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| BDO LLP (external audit of annual return) £100 + £20vat | £120.00 |
| Cherwell DC (emptying dog bins Apr – Sep) £290.58 + £58.12vat | £348.70 |
| Rebecca McNaught (salary) | £999.99 |
| Greta Bickley (salary) | £290.80 |
| Greta Bickley (expenses) | £4.00 |
| C.Fraser (performing payroll) | £22.50 |
| Green Scythe Ltd (mowing 1 cut VG, 1 cut A.C.) £180.82 + £36.16vat | £216.98 |
| BT Payment Services Ltd (final bill for Greta’s phonenumber) £51.56+£10.45vat | £62.01 |
- 207/14 **Standing Order Review:** It was agreed that Cllr Saunders should amend the Standing Orders document to allow for the ‘Openess Regulations’ which allow the public to record Meetings. The existing Standing Orders are to be reviewed by all Cllrs and any amendments will be discussed at the next meeting.
- 208/14 **Report from Co.Cllr.Gearing:** Report had been circulated to all. Cllr Saunders informed the group that John Howell MP had understood that we do need an active Co.Cllr but that he didn’t think he could have much influence on it. The Clerk will continue to send minutes and agendas to Co.Cllr.Gearing and request his attendance or support when appropriate.
- 209/14 **Newsletter from John Howell MP:** Report had been circulated to all.
- 210/14 **Response from C.D.C. re:2 Oxford Road:** Gary Owens of C.D.C. had emailed the Clerk stating he would try to let the Parish Council know if and when No.2 Oxford Road would be put up for sale so people with a village connection could be made aware.
- 211/14 **Vandalism:** It was noted that the wall and a bench, at the top of St Giles, have been vandalised. Stones have been pulled out of the wall and strips of wood removed from the back of the bench. The bench is one that was placed there by the Thursday Club in memory of a previous Chairman, Mrs Dorothy Pearman. It was resolved to notify the Police.
- 212/14 **Parking on Weston Road:** A local resident had informed Cllr Kersh that they were meeting with O.C.C. Highways dept. to see what could be done about parking on Weston Road following another incident of their parked car being hit by a vehicle.
- 213/14 **Airport Meeting:** Cllr Taylor reported he would be unable to attend the forthcoming meeting on Wednesday 1st October.
- 214/14 **Sewage Smell on London Road/Oxford Road:** The Clerk was instructed to report the ongoing problem to the Environment Agency. Problem also identified further along the road near the bus shelter.
- Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 30th October, 2014.