

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bletchington Village Hallon Thursday 22nd February, 2018 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr A.K.Saunders (Chair), Cllr C.E. Lane, Cllr Miss J Benton, Cllr Mrs M Knight, Cllr M.E.Taylor, Cllr M. Kersh, Cllr D Ledger & County Cllr C Griffiths & 1 Parishioner

016/18 **Apologies:** District Cllr D Hughes

017/18 **Declarations of Interest:** None

018/18 **Public Participation:** 1 parishioner present – Cllr Saunders explained the Council’s code of conduct concerning public participation

019/18 **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th January 2018:** The Minutes were approved by PC and signed by Cllr Saunders.

020/18 **Update on progress from the Minutes:**

- a) **Tree Works on Village Green** – Cllr Saunders informed PC that the chosen contractor was not able to carry out the works until March.
- b) **Village Name Signs** - Cllr Saunders explained that the signs have been paid for and made and locations marked-up by OCC on site-visit with the Clerk, Cllr Ledger and himself.
- c) **Duchy Field Sales Update** - 3 properties have exchanged contracts and a further 4 have been reserved.
- d) **Drainage works on Kirtlington Road** - email sent to Gordon Kelman On 5/2 – no response but a OCC highways inspection van was seen there a few days later by the Clerk and again more recently by Cllr Knight. The Clerk is to chase a response and copy Cllr Griffiths into email.
- e) **Grit Bins – The Clerk sent** 2 emails to winter.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk with no response, however information on OCC website is quite clear – OCC only provide grit/salt for use on the highways (roads) – parish councils who provide grit bins for pavements do so at their own expense. If the PC wish to keep the bins around the school and village hall filled we need to do it ourselves as the bins belong to the PC. We don’t have roadside grit bins in village (the one in Annesley is not on OCC map, it also belongs to PC) The Village Hall bins have been topped up by the Clerk and Annesley Close one is still full. Cllr Saunders added that we could consider applying for roadside bins for next year.
- f) **Sanctuary (25 Valencia Close)** – email from Sanctuary reported slow progress (due to factors she could not divulge) but she is making regular inspections. The PC also received correspondence from the occupier of 25 Valencia to put her point of view across. PC hopes this matter will be resolved in due course.
- g) **Fencing at Recreation Ground** – this has been repaired by Jamie McNaught
- h) **Street light repairs** – Cllr Saunders reported the light on the church path has been out since before Christmas, it was reported then, but it is not a priority and OCC will attend to it when they can. The other light is in Sands Close, which is leaning, and is on emergency to inspect. The Clerk will chase the latter.

- i) **The Bell** – The Clerk has investigated what planning permission was given to The Bell at Hampton Poyle before they increased the size of restraint because of the parking problem on the main road there. Cllr Saunders read email from CDC Duty Planner who explained that there was nothing that could be done as it gained permission and 29 parking spaces were thought to be dequate. Cllr Saunders will pass email on to agent for the owner of The Blacks Head.
- j) **Memorial plaque** – Cllr Benton explained that she had arranged a village meeting on 10th March to discuss the idea of getting a war memorial. This is being organised by Cllr Benton independently, not the Parish Council.

021/18 **Enforcement Update:** Cllr Saunders has had no feedback on the enforcement notices served on land south of Diamond Farm – as the final date has now passed (13th Feb) he will now chase. The Clerk will chase DEFRA for a response to letter sent by PC regarding the hedge removal. Cllr Saunders will contact Paul Irhinger regarding all enforcement issues.

022/18 **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):** The Clerk informed the PC that a new regulation was coming into force in May 2018. The SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) was providing information as to how it will affect the PC. In the meantime, Cllr Benton had passed on information from Paul Clark (Conservation Plan Website Manager) for us to be aware of the new regulations because the website captures personal data. He also will not be continuing business, so the management of the Conservation Plan needs to be agenda item next meeting. The main Parish website also captures data. The Clerk is going to look into further and inform PC next meeting.

023/18 **Outdoor Gym Equipment:** Cllr Benton continues to research funding options. The Clerk is chasing the insurance claim for the damaged teen shelter. Cllr Benton has also arranged a meeting with a local supplier of equipment on April 15th. The Clerk will forward contact details for parishioners who work in fitness who can help make decisions.

024/18 **County Cllr Griffiths' Report:** Cllr Griffiths reported that much of her time is taken up with the houses proposed for Greenbelt land at Begbroke/Yarnton. What happens here will affect surrounding areas, including Bletchingdon in many ways with increased demands on infrastructure and services. Cllr Griffiths reported that Fix My Street has seen a huge increase in use, with 2000 reports being logged throughout 2017, and in Jan 2018 they received 7000 reports. This is in part due to service becoming more known, but also the roads are now in a poor state and reduced funding means that dealing with these reports is an on-going concern.. Cllr Griffiths announced that she has £2500 to give to each parish, so we need to think of what Bletchingdon needs or would like to have. In addition, Cllr Griffiths told PC about 'decriminalisation' being applied for by Kidlington, which means they could get a traffic warden. Unfortunately, Cllr Griffiths had no positive news regarding the funding of the Marlborough School Bus. Cllr Kersh asked if CDC was affected by Northants financial concerns – Cllr Griffiths confirmed that CDC were in a strong financial situation and were not affected. Finally, Cllr Griffiths asked the Clerk to find out from OCC when the changes to the speed limit and the associated traffic calming would be taking place, and to copy her in to any emails.

025/18 **The Slipe:** Cllr Lane is going to contact family of previous tenant. If they do not want to graze the land he will manage it this year. Cllr Lane confirmed that negotiations are still ongoing between The Duchy and The Charity regarding the

possible sale of The Slipe to The Charity. The PC might need to formally relinquish it's interest in it at some point.

026/18 Annual Parish Meeting: Cllrs agreed to have this meeting earlier than usual due to PC elections taking place on 3rd May. The meeting is for the PC to report the previous year and if new Cllrs are elected that would be difficult to do after the elections. 19th April was agreed as the date. Agenda will be discussed at next meeting.

027/18 Annual Litter Pick: Cllr Kersh is unable to organise a litter pick during March due to other commitments so it was agreed to hold it in April. Cllr Lane said he can help with taking full bags away, and the Clerk will try to get equipment from CDC.

028/18 Elections: Cllr Saunders reminded PC that elections would take place this year. The Clerk is attending a training workshop on 6th March and will get nomination forms. The Clerk put a note in Village News letting parishioners know they could nominate themselves. Cllr Saunders informed PC that an uncontested election will cost less than £40, whilst a contested election could cost up to £900. The Clerk was asked to find out how soon after the elections a meeting to re-confirm Cllrs needs to take place.

029/18 Finance, Budget and Precept 2018/19:

029a/18 Cllr Saunders viewed bank reconciliation @31st January 2018.

029b/18 Cllrs were asked to consider invoices for payment itemised on the payment schedule.

Cheque No	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Total Amount	VAT
101519	R. McNaught expenses	General admin	This minute	£23.75	£3.96
101520	Bletchington Village Hall rent- Jan, Feb, Mar 2018	General Admin	215/15	£450	N/A
101521	Cherwell District Council – highway closure for funfair	General Admin	164c/17	£105.00	£17.50

The Direct Debit to BT was taken on 23/1/18 for a sum of £31.39 and another will be going out on 23/2/18 for £32.39. Our regular charge has increased from £22.50 to £23.40(jan) and £24.80(feb)

029c/18 Cllrs were asked to advise the Clerk about purchasing of genuine Brother ink cartridges at £80 or an alternative at £35. Cllrs agreed that genuine product should be purchased. Cllr Saunders would research prices.

Planning Matters:

030/18 Planning Applications

030a/18 To note Notices of Decisions:

18/00013/TCA – 7 – 8 Bletchington Park Stables – T1 x Field Maple – crown reduce by up to 4m T2 x Plum, T3 x Cotoneaster – fell – No further comments or objections.
17/02550/F – Stockyard Buildings, Station Road, Enslow – Erection of new stockyard building – PERMITTED

17/02388/F & 17/02388/LB – The Malt House, Weston Road – Reinstate original window opening with installation of new obscured glazing – PERMITTED

17/02315/F – Keepers Cover, Church Lane, Weston-on-the-Green – erection of 1.5 storey extension with internal remodelling - REFUSED

030b/18 To consider all recent Applications received from Cherwell District Council or on the District Council website up to the date of the meeting;

18/00123/TPO – 10 Station Road, Bletchington – Tulip tree - Crown thinning up to 20% & crown reduction – This was discussed and PC made no objections.

17/02455/F – Orchard House, Weston Road –demolition of existing house, garage and outbuildings and erection of single new dwelling house with garage and outdoor storage. – this was discussed and No Objections made.

031/18 **Reports from District and County Councillors:** all reports circulated – nothing to note

032/18 **Reports from meetings:** None attended, however Cllr Benton will attend airport meeting 28th February.

033/18 **Correspondence Received:**

033a/18 **Rural Oxfordshire Network:** The PC had received invite to Rural Youth Forum to be held at Kirtlington Village Hall. All agreed Clerk could attend at a cost of £5.

033b/18 **Open Gardens:** Email received from Sue Bedwell requesting she puts up Open Garden signs on Village Green as usual. PC agreed providing they are taken down after each opening. Clerk to reply to Ms Bedwell.

033c/18 **New Bus Timetable & Number – 250 Service (new number for 25A):** The Clerk had received information about new bus timetable (& route number) from Elinor Webber – with effect from 3rd April. It had been forwarded to Village News and Thames Travel will put up at bus stops.

034/18 **Items for information or next Agenda only:**

- Cllr Benton has also been asked to put something in Village News for Islip Surgery Prescription Service. The Clerk asked her to send PDF to Liz at Village News and forward a link to the Clerk to put on website.
- Cllr Kersh asked if we can protect the verges on Weston Road and prevent parking on them. Cllr Ledger will look at prices for small ‘No Parking’ signs. This will be researched and added as item on next agenda.
- Clerk to report damaged kerbstones on Fingerpiece, in addition to those in Annesley Close reported by Cllr Ledger earlier.
- Cllr Benton raised the weeding of the beds around car park and village hall. Cllr Benton and Cllr Lane will consider best practice & costs, the Clerk will contact Greenscythe to remind them that PC are dealing with this now. Add to next agenda. The clerk reminded PC that items for next agenda to be submitted by 22nd March.

035/18 **Date of Next Meeting:** Cllr Saunders confirmed the date of the next meeting as 29th March at 7.30pm

Meeting ended at 10:00pm