

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bletchingdon Village Hallon Thursday 5th July, 2018 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr. A.K.Saunders (Chair), Cllr. Mrs. M. Knight, Cllr. D. Ledger, Cllr M. Kersh &, Dist. Cllr. D. Hughes(part)

101/18 **Apologies:** County Cllr. C. Griffiths, Cllr. C.E. Lane, Cllr. M. Taylor, Dist.Cllr Hallchurch

102/18 **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May 2018:**

103/18 **Declarations of Interest and Public Participation:** None

104/18 **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May 2018:** The Minutes were approved by PC and signed by Cllr Saunders.

105/18 **Update of Progress from the Minutes**

- a) Village Hall Borders – Cllr Lane was going to talk to Julie Benton about what he intended to do, but the Clerk did not know the outcome. The Clerk to ask Julie not to do any more weeding and to put in her claim for payment for time spent so far.
- b) Weed control in paved areas – Greenscythe have sprayed off the area, but there is still weed growth. The Clerk to ask Greenscythe to apply a further application of herbicide and to not cut the grass at the moment due to the drought/heatwave.
- c) No Parking Signs are with Cllr Lane and will be installed by himself and Chad Hendron shortly.
- d) Insurance – the renewal quotes did increase after the Clerk informed Came & Co of the recent claim. The final figure was £656.97.

106/18 **Reports from District or County Councillors:** both John Howell's & Carmen Griffiths' reports were circulated to Parish Councillors by email.

107/18 **Enforcement Update**

- a) Hedge removal – the Clerk received response from DEFRA which explained that a record had been made of the information provided and it will be used if the person responsible makes claims under any of the cross compliance schemes.
- b) Land south of Diamond Farm – Cllr Saunders reported that no further appeals have been made and that Cherwell D.C. enforcement officers intended to apply for an injunction.

108/18 **Highways Update (Fix My Street)** – The Clerk reported that only the kerbstones on the Fingerpiece and the lampposts outstanding, along with numerous potholes. The Clerk has also asked about the weed growth in highways (in particular Annesley Close & St Giles) this is at 'Investigating' stage still (after 6 weeks).

109/18 **The Row, Bletchingdon:** Cllr Saunders confirmed that he and Cllr Ledger had been unable to identify a covenant on the properties, which had been withdrawn from auction, but Green Square now intends to sell them at the July auction. A discussion concluded that the PC had attempted to carry out due diligence to ensure properties intended for poorer families within the Parish were not lost, but that no further action would be taken. Cllrs agreed that if Channel 4 Despatches programme contacted Cllr Saunders he should speak to them.

110/18 **District Cllr David Hughes' Report:** Cllr Hughes talked to the meeting about issues concerning the District Council at the moment, in particular working more closely with Oxfordshire County Council, following the financial problems at Northampton County Council and the affect this has had on CDC working with South Northants

District Council. Cllr Hughes insisted that this was not the start of a Unitary, but efficiency in working - sharing expertise and costs.

111/18 **Cherwell District Council Business Rates Demand:** Cllr Saunders explained that a rates demand for the Village Hall had repeatedly been incorrectly addressed and the most recent demand had the Clerk's name on it. Dist.Cllr Hughes suggested the PC should email the Chief Executive (Yvonne Rees), Barry Wood and to CC district councillors and he asked the Clerk to send an email to him. The intention is to ensure the Clerk is not personally responsible for an unpaid bill, which has nothing to do with the Parish Council.

112/18 **Perceived increased traffic through village:** Cllr Kersh will organise a second traffic survey to establish if there has been an increase in HGVs. Cllr Saunders suggested increasing the size of the 'unsuitable for HGVs' signs at the entrance to the village from the A34. Await results of 2nd survey.

113/18 **Recreation Ground Equipment:** postponed to next meeting due to large agenda and not a full Council present.

114/18 **Finance:**

114a/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
101533	Came & Co – insurance	General Admin	094/18	£656.97	N/A
101534	Greenscythe – grass cutting	Trees & Open Spaces	069/16	£516.00	£86.00
101535	Greenscythe – grass cutting & herbicide application	Trees & Open Spaces	069/16	648.00	108.00
101536 (101487 void)	C Fraser – payroll - this was payment for work carried out in June 2017 – chq never cashed, so voided and re-issued	General admin	114a/18	£40.00	N/A
101537	C Fraser – annual internal audit	General admin	065b/18	£350.00	N/A
101538	R McNaught – salary April, May, June	Clerk's Salary	037/16	£1125.00	N/A
101539	Cherwell DC – parish election charges	General admin	114a/18	£39.00	N/A
101540	Bletchingdon Village News - donation			£150.00	N/A

The Direct Debit to BT went out on 24/6/18 for £33.29.

114b/18 Year End March 2018 – Audited Accounts Report & Annual Return

Cllr Saunders read out the report by the internal auditor, Claire Fraser. Cllr Saunders checked the year-end figures against section 2 of the Annual Return which had been completed by the Clerk. He then read aloud the accounting statements in Section 1 of the Annual Return and completed them accordingly. The Clerk will send the Annual Return to the external auditors.

115/18 Planning Applications:

115a/18 To consider all recent Applications received from Cherwell District Council or on the District Council website up to the date of the meeting;

18/00901/F – Burdock Cottage, 1 Home Farm, Station Road, Bletchingdon – erection of front porch – circulated to planning committee and comments sent to CDC on 19/6/18 stating ‘No Objections’.

18/00865/F – Dell Tower House, 8 Station Road, Bletchingdon – new dwelling with orangery – discussed, Cllrs had no objections

18/00156/TCA – Park House, Church End, Bletchingdon – 1 x apple tree – fell – discussed, Cllrs had no objections

115b/18 To note Notices of Decisions;

14/5/18 – start date of appeal against refusal of retrospective change of use to private amenity space at Keepers Cover, Church Lane, Weston-on-the-Green

18/00107/TCA – notice of intent to undertake works to trees in a conservation area at 4 Bletchingdon Park Stables, Church End – 1 x Scotts Pine fell, 1 x Cypress fell, 1 x elm fell

18/00492/F - permission for development subject to conditions for Grove Farm, Pinchgate Lane for erection of an agricultural building for cattle housing.

18/00302/F – refusal of permission for development for The Oxfordshire Inn, Heathfield, for conversion of existing building to provide 15no. serviced apartments.

18/00559/F - permission for development subject to conditions for 4 Station Road, Bletchingdon for a 2-storey side and single storey side extension.

18/00490/F - permission for development subject to conditions for Grove Farm, Pinchgate Lane for erection of an agricultural building for the storage of straw.

18/00046/F - permission for development subject to conditions for office building, Station Road, Enslow for restoration/rebuilding, and addition of a single storey extension to provide office desk space and ancillary facilities for 6 occupants.

116/18 **Reports from Meetings:** Cllr Saunders & the Clerk decided not to attend the Parish Liaison meeting in June as there was nothing relevant on the agenda. Minutes of that meeting have since been emailed to all Cllrs.

117/18 **Correspondence Received:** To note correspondence received not otherwise on the agenda where decisions are not required.

117a/18 Cllr Saunders has been asked by The Clinic on the Green if it can put up an ‘A-frame’ sign. The Clerk will respond saying the PC does not allow commercial advertising on The Village Green.

117b/18 NHS consultation about controlled locality determination, which Bletchingdon seems to be outside area of determination (as does ISLIP surgery) and its not at all clear what it would mean for the area if it was determined ‘rural for the purposes of pharmaceutical services.

118/18 **Councillor Vacancy:** Cllr Saunders reported that three parishioners wished to be considered as a councillor: Ms Rachel Pirie of 12 Valentia Close, Mr Andrew Jordan

of The Malt House, Weston Road and Mr Paul Rolfe of Frogs Nest Farm. Cllr Saunders asked for nominations for a person to be co-opted into the vacancy left by Julie Benton. Cllr Ledger nominated Rachel Pirie, this was seconded by Cllr Knight. Cllr Kersh nominated Andy Jordan, this was seconded by Cllr Saunders, who had the casting vote, and Mr Jordan was co-opted into the vacancy.

119/18 **Cllr Martin Kersh:** Cllr Kersh announced that he was selling his property and moving out of the Parish. When he moves, and it may be as soon as September, he will no longer be able to be a Cllr for Bletchingdon PC. Therefore, Cllr Kersh intends resigning from the PC from 1/8/18.

120/18 **Second Councillor Vacancy:** Following Cllr Kersh's announcement, and with two interested parishioners, Cllr Saunders suggested it would be sensible to try to fill the vacancy which will be made by Cllr Kersh's resignation. Cllr Saunders asked for nominations for co-option. Cllr Ledger nominated Rachel Pirie and this was seconded by Cllr Knight. No further nominations were received and Cllr Saunders declared that Ms Pirie should be co-opted onto the PC after Cllr Kersh resigns.

121/18 **Items for information or next Agenda only:**

- Cllr Saunders expressed his sincere thanks to Cllr Kersh for resigning before he needed to in order to make the co-option process easier.
- Cllr Knight asked if anything could be done about improving the bay markings in the Village Hall Car Park.
- Cllr Kersh reported that the Litter Pick had been successful. Cllr Saunders thanked Cllr Kersh for organising.

122/18 **Date of Next Meeting:** It was agreed to postpone the July meeting to 2nd August 2018, firstly because the June meeting had also been postponed by one week, secondly to allow Cllr Kersh time to finish off any council business and to stand down before the next meeting, and thirdly to ensure Cllr Saunders could attend. Date of next meeting confirmed as 2/8/18.