

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bletchingdon Village Hallon Thursday 29th November, 2018 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr. A.K.Saunders (Chair), Cllr C Lane (part), Cllr. Mrs. M. Knight, Cllr. D. Ledger, Cllr M. Taylor, Cllr A. Jordan, Cllr R. Pirie (part), Dist. Cllr Hughes (part) & 3 parishioners

209/18 **Apologies:** County Cllr C. Griffiths

210/18 **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st November**

2018: The Minutes were approved by PC and signed by Cllr Saunders.

211/18 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Saunders declared an interest in Planning Application 18/01948/F The Blacks Head Inn as a 'Neighbour'.

212/18 **Public participation:** Cllr Saunders asked the members of public to sign the declaration forms.

213/18 **Blacks Head:** Cllr Saunders explained that a planning application has been received by CDC and that the pub has now opened for drinks only.

214/18 **Progress with the stone path from Springwell to Station Road:** Cllr Saunders has asked the Duchy Fields development to bring forward the work on the footpath, as the temporary path has been down for over 3 years, and no remedial work was carried out as had been suggested it might. No response received to email, so Cllr Saunders will chase .

215/18 **Litter Bin:** A bin has been ordered from Broxap and cost included in Councillor Priority Funding application. When received needs to be installed and added to CDC list. Clerk to arrange with Cllr Lane.

216/18 **School Board of Governors:** Cllr Saunders confirmed that the Clerk has put something in Village News with assistance of Cllr Ledger.

217/18 **Marlborough School Bus:** Cllr Saunders explained that Parents are holding a final meeting in Village Hall on 13th December. It is hoped that a 53 seater bus can be filled with children from Islip and Bletchingdon, in order to keep costs to a minimum. So that is now in the hands of parents and no further PC action required at this stage.

218/18 **250 Thames Travel:** Cllr Saunders confirmed that Elinor Webber & the Clerk continue to report no shows and late buses to OCC as they continue their period of monitoring of the service due to unacceptable service problems.

219/18 **Line Painting:** Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Saunders looked at all the road junctions in the village – OCC will carry out works in next year's budget.

Cllr Jordan introduced OCC new initiatives to improve efficiency of the Highways gangs.

220/18 **Councillor Priority Funding:** The Clerk submitted an application which has been approved by Cllr Griffiths and sent to OCC – unfortunately we can't get funding outside of current financial year, so the village name signs can't be claimed for, but everything else looks like it'll get the go-ahead. Just under £2000 claimed. Cllr Griffiths had said to apply for additional £500 funding if possible. Cllr Saunders said that would be considered. Cllr Jordan asked about some signage for the school to raise awareness of school for safety reasons. Cllr Pirie concluded that as the village centre changes signage needs to reflect that. Cllr Ledger confirmed that a permanent sign would not be approved by the Village Hall Committee.

221/18 **The Row:** Cllr Saunders reported that the Clerk reported the rubbish at the side of the properties to Green Square – someone inspected it on 16/11/18. With regards to the pathway to the rear and the wall, Green Square has stated it does not own the wall. They have raised their concerns about the wall with Cherwell District and are still seeking clarity on the pathway to access the rear of the properties known as The Row, but indications are that this is not Greensquare land. The 2 empty properties were auctioned on Monday, however the website reports that they were ‘withdrawn’.

222/18 **Reports from District or County Councillors:** John Howell’s report was circulated

223/18 **Enforcement:**

223a/18 Land south of Diamond Farm – Cllr Saunders has been told that solicitors are now involved but this should not stop matters progressing.

223b/18 Hedge removal – Cllr Saunders contacted CDC and has had no response

223c/18 The Digs, Heathfield – Cllr Saunders contacted CDC no response received

224/18 **Highways Update (Fix My Street):** Cllr Saunders reported that The Clerk reported the school flashing lights, the extent of 30mph limit on Weston Road, and asked how to get a 30mph reduced to 20mph all through Fix My Street and it was all passed to correct departments and has been responded to – see later item. The Vegetation in the kerbs and pavements is not going to be dealt with, but has been passed to the relevant department for consideration in future works programmes. They are monitoring a ‘sunken section of pavement’ in Oxford Road, this has now been passed to Gigaclear to deal with. The Clerk has reported the Street Light out on Church path (20/11/18) and this has been added to list but is low priority. Clerk will continue to chase.

225/18 **Planning Applications –**

a)To note Notices of Decisions

18/01203/F - Investfront Ltd – redevelopment of the site to provide 2 no. detached dwellings following removal of existing function hall – the Oxfordshire Inn, Heathfield – REFUSED

18/00311/TCA – Manor House, Islip Rd – 62x Leylandii Fell – Notice of intent approved.

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

18/01901/F – Hawthorn House, 5 Ingleby Paddocks, Enslow – erection of porch to front elevation – Cllrs raised no objections.

18/01947/F – Park View Cottage, Church End, Bletchingdon - Alterations and erection of a single storey side extension to form double garage and a 2-storey side extension to provide additional living accommodation. Replace concrete tiles with thatch. Cllrs support this application to restore cottage.

18/01949/LB & 18/01948/F – Blacks Head Inn, The Green, Bletchingdon – Internal & external alterations to and extension of the Blacks Head Inn and upgrading of the existing services and some external landscaping work: conversion of Well House into serviced guest rooms. – Cllrs spent a considerable time discussing the plans. Cllr Pirie asked the 2 Parishioners in attendance for their views as neighbours to the property. Their concern was regarding proposals to the existing boundary fence. Cllrs concluded that overall the PC support this application, but seek to assist the neighbours to get a resolution regarding boundary ownership and proposals for the boundary.

[Cllr Pirie Left]

226/18 **Dist Cllr David Hughes’ Report:** Cllr Hughes reported that Cherwell DC are setting

budgets, disentangling from South Northants DC and winning awards.

He announced that he is Chairman of the Council next year and wants to organise some events in parishes that are more accessible, for volunteers, Parish Councillors and village members and asked if Bletchingdon would be able to host something. Cllr Saunders suggested he communicates with Cllr Ledger with his Village Hall Committee hat on.

227/18 **Finance:**

Cllrs were asked to consider invoices for payment itemised on the payment schedule.

| Cheque No | Payee and Reason | Budget | Minute Ref | Total Amount | VAT |
|-----------|---|-----------------|--|--------------|--------|
| 101555 | SLCC – annual membership | General Admin | This minute | £106.00 | £22.00 |
| 101556 | R. McNaught Expenses McAfee Renewal (1yr) | General Admin | This minute | £12.75 | £2.13 |
| 101557 | Bletchingdon Village Hall | General Admin | Standing Order (to make this at bank for future payments) | £450.00 | N/A |
| 101558 | Chair's Allowance | General Admin | This minute | £150.00 | N/A |
| 101559 | N Walton Removal of teen shelter | Playground Fund | 192/18 | £40.00 | £8.00 |

The Clerk added that the The Direct Debit to BT went out on or just after 23/11/18 for £32.50. Cllr Ledger asked if the Bletchingdon Village Hall payment might be made by standing order monthly in the future.

The Clerk reported that the position is that there is at the end of October a balance of £48,788.46. This is made up of playground, traffic calming and conservation funds, leaving an actual available balance of £21,536. Most of the things are on track within the budget and there are some small savings. The Clerk also reminded Cllrs that the meeting in mid-January will be to discuss

[Cllr Hughes left]

228/18 **Traffic Survey:** Cllr Saunders announced that the traffic surveys are up and running.

Cllr Ledger raised concerns that the survey on Islip Road will be skewed due to unusual numbers of parked vans exactly where the data recorder is positioned due to a recent house-move. Cllr Jordan agreed to contact OCC to extend the survey.

229/18 **30mph on Weston Road:** Cllr Saunders allowed the parishioner, Oliver Lindsey, to explain his concerns.

All Cllrs agreed that the 30mph should be extended to The Stables private road. Cllr Jordan suggested white gates/ flowers/signage should be used at all the entrances to the village. Cllr Taylor reminded the Council that this might be what the traffic calming fund should be used for. Cllr Jordan & Cllr Saunders suggested a further survey is carried out on Weston Road in the National Speed Limit zone to assess current speeds.

Cllr Jordan added that OCC have some good strategic minds on this now and they have to make efficiencies.

[Chris Lane arrived][Oliver Lindsay left]

- 230/18 **Zebra Crossing:** Cllr Saunders reported that the Zebra Crossing was a ‘raised’ crossing in the original plans, and that Cllr Griffiths was chasing to find out how this has changed.
- 231/18 **20’s Plenty:** After some discussion about ‘20mph when school lights flash’ signage being obtained from OCC (maybe funded by the Councillor Priority Funding) it was agreed that the Clerk should establish the process to a) apply for an extension of the 30mph speed limit on Weston Road and b) apply for a 20mph speed limit through the village, in particular on Station Road.
- 232/18 **School Sign:** Cllr Jordan suggested that the school was awaiting a response regarding their request for school signage at the front of the village hall to be visible from Station Road – to advertise that the school is there for both promotional and safety reasons. Cllr Ledger stated that he would not be happy with a permanent sign in front of the Village Hall, only a temporary banner promoting open days, for example. Cllr Saunders concluded that this was a BCF matter, as is the school parking safety problems. Cllr Jordan will respond to the school.
- 233/18 **Abandoned roadworks signs:** Cllr Jordan reported there are a number of road signs around the village – Cllr Lane said he’d pick them up.
- 234/18 **Sewage smell:** The Clerk is to ask for air-tight seals to be put on the problem points at Gate House and the corner of the Row.
- 235/18 **OCC Parish Event:** Cllr Jordan gave a detailed report about the meeting he attended hosted by OCC. The overall feeling was positive with an emphasis on giving more control to the Parishes, possibly with a volunteer coordination scheme or collaborative working between Parishes. For Highways there will be a single point of contact and ‘Super-User’ access on Fix My Street. Live Well Oxfordshire is the website we need to be part of/link into and in terms of Emergency Planning is now a Resilient Communities Fund whereby the more you participate the more funding opportunities there might be.
- 236/18 **Oxford-Cambridge Expressway:** Cllr Ledger reported that there was concern about increased numbers of housing focused around the expressway. The meeting concluded with the need to get a group together and a need for funding the judicial review. Cllr Saunders suggested the group needs to be clearer in it’s objectives. A decision on the route will not be made until 2020.
- 237/18 **Grounds Maintenance Contract Quotes:** The 3 quotes that were received were discussed. They were similar prices, with Green Scythe Ltd coming about in the middle. It was decided that the Clerk would ask Jake Williams to do the weed control and the hedge cutting, and if he agrees, we’ll just ask Green Scythe Ltd to carry out the grass cutting because they are experienced and understand the job. The Clerk will report back to meeting.
- 238/18 **Items for information or next Agenda only - all items for next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Thursday 22nd November:**
- a) Move the Picnic Bench & Kick Wall to next agenda
 - b) The drains are blocked, as usual, around the Green. The Clerk needs to report them to be cleaned.
- 239/18 **Date of Next Meeting:** to confirm the date of the next meeting as 10th January 2019 at 7.30pm
- Meeting Ended 10:12pm