

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bletchington Village Hallon Thursday 23rd May 2019 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr. A.K.Saunders (Chair), Cllr C. Lane (Vice Chair), Cllr A. Jordan, Cllr. Mrs. M. Knight, Cllr R. Pirie, Cllr M Taylor & 1 member of the public

101/19 **Apologies:** Cllr D. Ledger

102/19 **Welcome** Fiona as new Parish Clerk

103/19 **Election of Chairman and Declaration of Acceptance of Office:** The Clerk invited Cllrs to give nominations for Chair of Bletchington Parish Council. Cllr Taylor nominated Cllr Saunders and this was seconded by Cllr Knight. The Clerk asked if there were any other nominations and Cllr Lane confirmed that the decision was unanimous. Cllr Saunders was then duly elected and accepted the role of Chair by signing the declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Proper Officer, the Clerk, and full Council.

104/19 **Election of Vice-Chair:** Cllr Saunders invited nominations for the role of Vice Chair. Cllr Knight nominated Cllr Lane and this was seconded by Cllr Jordan. Cllr Lane accepted the role of Vice-Chair and signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Proper Officer, the Clerk, and full Council.

105/19 **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th April 2019:** The Minutes were approved by PC and signed by Cllr Saunders.

106/19 **To publish 'Draft' minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting now:** It was agreed that publishing a draft copy of the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting now would allow parishioners who were unable to attend, be aware of what is happening now. It was also felt by doing this, it could have a positive impact on attendance next year.

107/19 **Confirmation of Representatives and Advisory Groups:**

Bletchington Charity Committee – Mrs Sue MacReady, Previously Greta Bickley and Julie Fenn were listed as PC nominees. They remain on the committee but are no longer PC nominees and in the future it was agreed we will only nominate 1 individual.

Village Hall Committee – Cllr Ledger tendered his resignation from the Village Hall Committee tonight. Therefore unable to a representative any longer. It was decided to delay the decision of whom to nominate until a later date.

Sports & Social Club Committee – Cllr Lane confirmed

Transport Representative – Miss Elinor Webber confirmed

Village News – Chair & Clerk confirmed

Planning Advisory Group – Cllr Saunders, Cllr Lane, Mr Mark Webber, Mr Roger Simmonds & Mr Andy Jordan

Representative on School Governing Body – Mr Wayne Dobbins. Cllr Saunders confirmed he has approached the Governors through the proper channels three times now, with no response. It was agreed by the Council that Cllr Saunders could now try to approach Wayne directly and invite him to attend our meetings.

London Oxford Airport Representative – Cllr Taylor confirmed

108/19 **Declarations of Interest:** None

- 109/19 **Progress with the stone path from Springwell to Station Road and Plastic Path:**
Still no reply to Cllr Saunders emails requesting a meeting. Cllr Saunders to try new approach to progress this. .
- 110/19 **Nettles:** Cllr Jordan raised concerns over the nettles adjacent to the public footpath and the risk of children falling into them. It was agreed that the Council will ask Green Scythe to provide a quote to add this area to their contract with a view to asking them to maintain this area.
- 111/19 **New Notice Board:** Cllr Saunders to speak to Nick Mould from the Duchy with regards to requesting permission to erect the new notice board.
- 112/19 **Councillor Priority Funding:** The Clerk requested the Cllrs to consider items for funding, to follow.
- 113/19 **Sewage Smell:** The Clerk reported that Thames Water have recorded a level of sewer gas which they believe is sitting in the pipe. Thames Water have suggested that a Chemical Dosing Unit may solve the problem. The issue has been passed to their Technical Office who will discuss it at their next Risk meeting and let us know the outcome, in due course.
- 114/19 **Picnic Bench:** Cllr Knight advised she has keys to the gates to allow access. Cllr Lane confirmed he had the necessary equipment to move the bench and he'll do it. Date to be confirmed.
- 115/19 **Enforcement Update:** Cllr Saunders confirmed there is no further update as yet.
- 116/19 **Speed Limit Change:** Cllr Saunders read the email reply from James Wright. It was agreed that the survey can be shared with him but that the Clerk should challenge him with regards to the Parish Council having to fund the cost of moving the sign when the sign was never in the right place to begin with.
- 117/19 **Fix My Street:** Chris Grain reported back following our meeting with him which was read at APM. On fix my street the potholes on Islip Road are still outstanding as is the street light on Church path. Three other items have been added on. A blind exit in Enslow, Pavement on Islip Road and a vehicle in a public car park, which was forwarded to the DC.
- 118/19 **Planning Applications:** Cllr Jordan requested that the Clerk do a report of planning applications that have been discussed in the last year and possibly ask for David Hughes input.
- 118a/19 **Applications Received:**
19/00136/TCA – Home Farm House, Islip Road –T1 x Holly reduce height and T2 x Robinia felled. The application was passed to all on planning committee with all making 'No Objection'.
19/00146/TCA – London House, Islip Road – Apple: Rear Garden: Reduce the crown by 1 meter. The application was passed to all on the planning committee with all making 'No Objection'.
19/00762/F – Stockyard Buildings, Station Road, Enslow – New stock yard buildings for calf rearing and 2 no feed hoppers. The application was passed to all on the planning committee with all making 'No Objection' but with an observation to be recorded with concerns over the increased height.
- 118b/19 **Applications Approved:**
19/00356/LB – Michaelemas Cottage, Islip Road – Garage Conversion.
19/00093/TCA – Corner House, Weston Road – T1 Fell old apple tree.
- 119/19 **Finance:**
119a/19 Cllrs were asked to consider invoices for payment itemised on the payment schedule.

Cllr Taylor suggested an official process should be adopted to ensure jobs are carried out satisfactorily before payment made.

Cheque No	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Total Amount	VAT
101579	Green Scythe Limited – Grass Cutting	Grounds Maintenance Budget	237/18	£556.80	£92.80
101580	Jake Williams Landscape & Tree Services – Weed control & leaf clearing	Grounds Maintenance Budget	237/18 & 078/19	£55.00	0.00
101581	OALC – Training Course ‘Roles and Responsibilities for new councillors and clerks’	General Admin	120/19	£204.00	£34.00
101582	Came & Co - Insurance	Insurance	121/19	£662.03	N/A
101583	Dave Keane	Grounds Maintenance	119a/19	£120.00	N/A

The Direct Debit to BT is due to go out on or just after 24th May 2019 for £31.18.

120/19 New Clerk Training Course: It was agreed that the new Clerk should attend the course provided by the OALC called ‘Roles and Responsibilities for new councillors and clerks’. It was also agreed that as this is the only course appropriate for the new Clerk to take, that it was not cost effective to take out membership with the OALC for discount purposes as the cost of membership was almost equal to the cost of attending the course as a non-member.

121/19 Insurance: It was agreed that Inspire should be the chosen insurance provider for the Parish Council and that the 3 year long term agreement option will also be taken to reduce the annual cost.

122/19 Recreation Ground Graffiti and Damage: Cllr Jordan reported the graffiti and damage to the play equipment in the recreation ground. It was agreed that Jake should be contacted by the Clerk to deal with the graffiti and the play equipment will be repaired as soon as possible, noting the inspection is due in July.

123/19 Kick Wall: Cllr Pirie left the meeting. Cllr Jordan reported that he found a company to supply and install a kick wall at a discounted price of £5,000 + VAT. All agreed he should proceed and get this installed as soon as possible with a view to review again in the autumn to discuss the options of ways to protect the ground.

124/19 Good Neighbour Scheme: The Clerk requested that the Parish Council survey the village to see if there is a requirement for this service and if there are willing volunteers to run and be a part of this service. It was agreed and Cllr Saunders suggested that the best way to distribute the survey would be to insert it in the Village News. The Clerk will contact Ian to arrange time to do this early June.

125/19 Correspondence Received:

- a) Cherwell Community Lottery. All agreed to display posters around Village.
- b) Parishioner Ian Jones emailed with queries which were referred to Highways by Clerk. In addition, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Highways to find out when the white lines will be repainted.
- c) Parishioner Oliver Lindsay contacted the Clerk asking for an update with regards to the speed limit sign being moved further down Weston Road. Clerk responded with update.
- d) Playsafety Limited emailed to say inspection of play area will take place in July 2019.
- e) Parishioner Ian Gedling is asking for a grant for mowing of St Giles Churchyard and also to help with the Bletchington Village News. All agreed £600 for mowing and £150 for the Village news as requested.
- f) OCC town and Parish Council Survey. The Clerk has completed this form for PC approval and all approved.

126/19 No Parking Signs on Village Green: Cllrs Saunders asked if the spare no parking sign could be placed on the Village Green. He did suggest on the Give Way at the end of the causeway. It was agreed by all that it could be and Cllrs Lane to action.

127/19 Dog Fouling: Cllr Jordan reported further issues of dog fouling along the causeway footpath and behind the bus shelter. The Clerk was asked to contact Ed Potter at Cherwell District Council to help resolve the issue.

128/19 Reports from meetings: To receive and note reports from meetings; for information. Airport Consultative Committee Minutes received (Mark Taylor did not attend.)

129/19 12th June Parish Liaison Meeting: It was agreed that the New Clerk should not attend the June meeting and Cllr Saunders confirmed he will try to attend.

130/19 Change of Clerk: The outgoing clerk was asked to ensure that Cherwell District Council had updated all necessary records with regards to the new Clerk.

131/19 Items for information or next Agenda only - all items for next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Thursday 20th June 2019

- Cllr Knight reported the erection of 2 new sheds in house number 38 Valentia Close, which is causing concern. She confirmed she will report any further developments if appropriate.
- Clerk to write to the owners of The Row with regards to tidying up the gardens outside the front of the properties.
- Cllr Saunders suggested that a separate meeting should be held to discuss the traffic calming options.
- The maintenance of The Slipe needs to be discussed at the next meeting with the possibility of inviting a member of the Charity as they are now the owners.

132/19 Date of Next Meeting: to confirm the date of the next meeting as 27th June 2019 at 7.30pm.

Meeting Ended : 9:50pm