

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bletchington Village Hallon Thursday 26th September at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr A.K.Saunders (Chair), Cllr C. Lane, Cllr M. Taylor, Cllr D. Ledger, Cllr R. Pirie, Volunteer Co-ordination Officer for Oxfordshire County Council Mrs R.McNaught and Parishioner Mrs C. Jones.

204/19 **Apologies:** Cllr A.Jordan, and County Cllr. C Griffiths.

205/19 **Declarations of Interest:** D. Ledger with regards to Planning Application 19/01758/F

206/19 **Public Participation:** Mrs R.McNaught & Mrs C. Jones.

207/19 **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th August 2019:**

The Minutes were approved by all and signed by Cllr Saunders.

208/19 **Reports from District or County Councillors:** None. At this point Cllr D. Ledger arrived.

209/19 **Traffic Calming:** Cllr Saunders reported that there has been an update from both Chris Grain and County Cllr C. Griffiths since our last meeting. Chris Grain has confirmed that after the works on the scheme are complete, a Stage 3 Road Safety Audit will be carried out. Any problems raised by the auditor would need to be resolved by the developer before Oxfordshire County Council will sign off on the scheme. He is going to go back to his RAT team to clarify the comments about a third speed cushion in the service/parking lane. Clerk to keep in touch with Chris on this matter.

County Cllr C. Griffiths updated us with news on the weight restriction on Islip Road. Since nothing was followed through since the initial correspondence in 2006, the process will need to be started again. This will involve a strategy meeting and surveys. She will keep us informed with progress. Cllr D. Ledger confirmed he has already been informed the meeting is set for the 10th October 2019.

210/19 **Progress with the stone path from Springwell to Station Road and Plastic Path:**

Cllr Saunders reported that there has still been no reply from Nick Mould since his last email, therefore Cllr Saunders will contact him again.

211/19 **Sewage Smell:** The Clerk reported Thames Water decided the best course of action to put a stop to the sewage smell, was to install special “sealed, no leak, air tight” covers.

These were put in place on the 4th September 2019. They then closed the case.

However, the smell is still there and all agreed that the Clerk should go back to Thames Water and ask them to reopen the case. It is a huge Health and Safety issue for all residents in the village and this needs to be stressed to Thames Water.

212/19 **Enforcement Update:** Cllr Saunders reported that he emailed both Heather Nesbitt (Principle Planning Enforcement Officer CDC) and Paul Ihringer (CDC) for updates on the Enforcement cases.

Heather Nesbitt reported that she has met with the new owners of Diamond Farm and although there are still a number of items to be removed, most of them have been sold and are just awaiting collection. With regards to the Digs and The Studio at Heathfield, although they are now occupied, this will not alter any enforcement notices. The notice is currently with their legal team and once ready, things should move swiftly. Cllr Saunders confirmed he will contact her to try and get a date of confirmation when the items need to be removed from Diamond Farm by.

Cllr Saunders also reported that he had no reply from Paul Ihringer about the Hedges so he will chase him again.

213/19 Report from Volunteer Co-ordination Office for Oxfordshire County Council

Mrs R. McNaught : Mrs McNaught reported that Chris Grain is one of her trainers who is looking to recruit a number of “Highways Fix My Street Super Users”, Ideally at least one in each Parish. The Super User would be trained to identify certain pot holes/road repairs including new and/or replacement curbing and drainage issues. They will then have direct access to a system to report these issues where a repair should then be complete within 28 days. Therefore she is looking for volunteers on Chris Grains behalf and also asking if Bletchingdon Parish Council (PC) may offer a training room for him to train his Super Users.

All agreed that this would be a good way to build a relationship with the Highways department but as not all Cllrs were present, it was agreed that this should be discussed again at the next meeting to see if we have a volunteer from our Parish Council. Or if not, to put something in the next Village News. Therefore, the PC will get back to Mrs R. McNaught at a later date.

214/19 Programmable Flashing Lights: Cllr Saunders reported that the cost of installing new signage and lights on the existing posts is c£1,865 + VAT for both of the units and the installation costs. He also showed the PC that map indication where the current posts are. It was agreed that the post on Islip Road is a little too far away from where the new School is now and also it wouldn't alert any drivers entering the Village via the Causeway or from Kirtlington Road. All agreed the Clerk should go back to them and request a meeting on site to discuss the possibility of moving the second post to somewhere near the Kirtlington/Station Road junction which potentially wouldn't be too costly if using one of the available lamp posts in that area.

215/19 New Notice Board and Bench: Cllr Saunders reported that now the Village Shop is open and we can access the exterior of the building, we should approach the Duchy to request permission to put up the new Notice Board and Bench outside. All agreed so Cllr Saunders will contact Nick Mould on this matter also.

216/19 Planning Applications.

216a/19 Applications Approved:

19/01412/LB – Mr Ian Jones, London House, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – Replacement of 4 no. windows to front elevation and 3 no. windows to the rear elevation.

216b/19 Applications Received:

19/01568/OUT – Mr Roger Simmonds – New House, St Giles, Bletchingdon – Demolition of Garage and part of existing house, construction of one bedroom house and rear single storey extension to existing house. No objections but all comments to be reported to the Planning department.

19/01676/F & 19/01677/LB – Mr & Mrs Ian Jones, London House, Islip Road, Bletchingdon, OX5 3BDP – Removal of existing two storey extension to rear. Construct new part single storey, part two storey extension to rear. New staircase to serve converted first floor over attached out-building. 2 no. new rear windows. New en-suite to main bedroom. – No objections.

19/01682/LB – Mr & Mrs Ian Jones, London House, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – Replacement guttering on the front elevation. – No objections.

19/01901/TCA – Mr J Brewer – Model Farm 19, Bletchingdon Road, Hampton Poyle OX5 2QG – W1 x6 no.s Willow Trees – Pollard (Cutting them back to nearly the trunk so as to produce a dense mass of branches. – Not our Parish.
 19/01758/F – Mrs R Collins – Little Healthfield, Islip Road, Bletchingdon Kidlington OX5 3DP – 2 no. side and 1 no. rear dormers, alterations to rear gable window. – No objections but comments to be reported to Planning department.

216c/19 **Applications Declined/Withdrawn:** None.

217/19 Parishioner Mrs C. Jones left the meeting.

218/19 **Finance:**

The mandate was returned by Barclays Bank to confirm the current signature for Cllr C. Lane. New forms duly signed as requested by the Bank and will be returned promptly by the Clerk.

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

Cheque No	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Total Amount	VAT
101602	Fiona Mason Salary – July, August and September 2019	Clerk's Salary	218/19	£1,125.00	£0.00
101604	Bletchingdon Village Hall – Hire of Hall for July, August and September 2019	Village Hall Hire	218/19	£450.00	£0.00
101603	Fiona Mason – Reimbursement for purchase of Internet Security for Parish Council Laptop	General Admin	218/19	£49.99	£8.33
101605	Green Scythe Limited – Grass cutting in August 2019	Contract/Grounds Maintenance	023/17	£556.80	£92.80
101606	C Fraser – Accountant. Payroll for Clerks Salary for July, August & September 2019	General Admin	218/19	£30.00	£0.00

The Direct Debit to BT is due to go out on or just after 23rd September 2019 for £31.32 including VAT.

All payments approved.

219/19 **Kick Wall:** Cllr Saunders reported that the works have now been completed satisfactorily and signed off. All agreed it is great to see how popular it is with the children.

220/19 Correspondence Received:

- a) John Howell newsletter.
- b) Email from Oxfordshire County Council Road Safety Team – Footsteps. They are trying to reach as many parents/carers as possible to encourage them to use the Footsteps programme. All agreed that once the new Notice Board is put up, we should go back to them and ask for more posters to display, advertising this programme.
- c) Email from Mark Williams with a report on the progress on the housing development in response to the email from Sue Morris. He also replied to Cllr Saunders comments about the weeds in the new footpaths. Cllr Lane reported that Nick Mould is also unhappy with the weeds and with the response from Mark Williams.
- d) Email from Ashley Neville from Cherwell District Council about moving the Bottle Banks in our Village to opposite the entrance to the Recreation Ground/Sport Field. All agreed this would not be a good location for a lot of residents as the current location is quite central for everyone to use. However, it would be beneficial to the residents who live right next door to the Bottle Banks. All agreed the Clerk should reply to Ashley Neville and ask him for another alternative suggestion.
- e) Email from Sarah Collins, Cherwell District Council – Empty Homes week. They are asking for our support in reported any known empty homes in our area. All felt this is something we already do and are happy to continue doing.
- f) Email from Kay Turner about Car Parking Problems. Cllr Saunders reported we had received an email which was more for the Bletchingdon Community Foundation as her question was “Why has the Village Hall car park been built and why can’t we use it?”. He replied in his capacity as Parish Chairman and Chair of Trustees for the BCF.
- g) Email from Oxfordshire County Council - Connecting Oxford.

221/19 **Reports from meetings:** None.

222/19 Items for information or next Agenda only - all items for next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Thursday 24th October 2019.

- Cllr D. Ledger has created a draft booklet for all Parishioners, explaining what powers the Parish Council have. Cllr A. Jordan has already provided some feedback and it was agreed that any other comments or suggestions should be emailed to Cllr D. Ledger so he can edit it accordingly.
- It has been noted that a White Van owned by Christopher Bell Limited has been badly parked outside The Clinic on the Green again. This occasion the Van was blocking her doorway entrance completely. All agreed the Clerk should email this company again on this issue and send proof of the bad parking as provided by Cllr C. Lane.
- Clerk to contact Jake again to try and clarify exactly what he plans to do about the weeds in the Village and when.
- Cllr R. Pirie confirmed she will not be able to attend next month’s meeting.

223/19 **Date of Next Meeting:** to confirm the date of the next meeting as 31st October 2019 at 7.30pm.

Meeting Ended : 9:30pm