

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bletchingdon Village Hallon Thursday 31st October at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr A.K.Saunders (Chair), Cllr C. Lane, Cllr M. Taylor, Cllr D. Ledger, Cllr A. Jordan, and Cllr M. Knight

224/19 **Apologies:** Cllr R. Pirie and District Cllr T. Hallchurch.

225/19 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

226/19 **Public Participation:** None.

227/19 **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th September 2019:** The Minutes were approved by all and signed by Cllr Saunders.

228/19 **Reports from District or County Councillors:** None.

229/19 **Traffic Calming:** Cllr Saunders reported that Chris Grain's anonymous contact has confirmed that the Zebra Crossing won't be raised but all agreed some kind of traffic calming is required here. Cllr Saunders will email Chris Grain, requesting formal feedback from the decision makers as to why traffic calming in this area seems to be unimportant to them, and to explain the impact on clear vision for drivers caused by the illuminated Belisha Beacon poles. Cllr Saunders has also spoken with two PCSO's when they were recording speeds on Station Road at 11am on Wednesday 9th October 2019. The top speed at that time was recorded at 38mph. All agreed we should arrange for a 'black box' to monitor the speeds for a week so that we have an official record and also a record of the number of pedestrians using the crossing. Cllr Jordan confirmed he will look into this.

In addition, all agreed that a site meeting should be arranged with Nick Mould to review traffic movements and parking issues around the shop and the road junctions. Cllr Ledger also reported that we should be receiving an email soon from his contact, Wesley, with options for traffic calming all along the B4027.

230/19 **Progress with the stone path from Springwell to Station Road and Plastic Path:** Cllr Saunders reported that he has spoken with Nick Mould and he said he couldn't remember anything about footpaths being included in the plans. However, he is potentially going ahead with a new housing development in that area and if that does go ahead, he agreed to include the footpaths in those plans. All agreed we should wait and see those plans and if the development doesn't go ahead, then at that point we should chase Nick Mould to complete the footpaths.

231/19 **Sewage Smell:** The Clerk reported that Thames Water said they had previously replaced the wrong cover. They returned on the 25th October 2019 and confirmed they have now replaced the cover with the special, sealed cover. This should resolve the problem but we can contact them again if not. All agreed, we should review this at next month's meeting but also review again in the summer as the smell is not likely to be as bad in the winter months. Clerk to create diary note for the summer.

232/19 **Enforcement Update:** Cllr Saunders reported that he emailed both Heather Nesbitt (Principle Planning Enforcement Officer CDC) and Amy Sedman (Planning Enforcement Team Leader CDC) for updates on the Enforcement cases and although Heather confirmed she would send an update prior to this meeting, she didn't. Cllr Saunders will chase this up again and also ask for a closure date for the Land South of Diamond Farm.

For the record, the current enforcement cases are;

The Land South of Diamond Farm,

The Digs at Heathfield,

An enquiry into The Rock of Gibraltar, and

A request to re-open the case re the removal of hedges at Tollbrook Corner.

- 233/19 **Highways Fix My Street Super Users:** Cllr Jordan arrived at this point 7:45pm. Following on from Rebecca McNaught's report in September 2019's meeting, Cllr Saunders briefly explained the concept to Cllr Jordan who was not present last month. Cllr Jordan volunteered for this post so the Clerk will let Rebecca McNaught know and ask her to contact Cllr Jordan to arrange the training.
- 234/19 **Programmable Flashing Lights:** All agreed that the School Crossing, programmable flashing lights will still be valuable even if, in the future, the speed limit in the Village is reduced to 20pmh as it will still warn drivers to be alert for children crossing the road at certain times of the day. Therefore, all agreed the Clerk should contact Chris Marks from Oxfordshire County Council to get moving on these signs as soon as possible and payment for these was also approved by all. Cllr Lane also suggested it might be possible to apply for a grant from Cherwell District Council to fund these lights. The Clerk will look into this. Alternatively, all agreed the Councillor Priority Funding could be used to fund these.
- 235/19 **New Notice Board and Bench:** All agreed this should be brought up at the site meeting with Nick Mould.
- 236/19 **Bottle Banks:** All discussed the current location of the bottle banks in the Village and the alternative suggestion put forward by Cherwell District Council. Cllr Saunders reported that when he spoke with them, they confirmed they had only received one complaint about the noise they cause but they felt the bottle banks were not clearly visible to the residents or in a central location. All Cllrs agreed that the alternative suggestion opposite the entrance to the Sports and Social Club is not suitable as it is on the outskirts of the Village. The Clerk is to reply to them to explain that the opinion of the Parish Council is that they are already in the best location as it is the most central point of the Village and people do know where they are.
- 237/19 **Sports and Social Club Lease:** Cllr Saunders reported the request from the Sports and Social Club to pay the remaining years Lease annual rent payments, in advance. Cllr Lane requested that the Clerk contact the OALC for advice on this matter and following which, the Clerk reported that there could be a potential risk of losing control of a valuable asset if we allowed them to do so. It was therefore agreed by all that the rent should continue to be paid annually.
- 238/19 **'No Parking here please' sign:** Cllr Lane briefly left the meeting at 8:40pm. Parishioner Monica Franke has approached the Parish Council to ask for permission to put a small sign outside her Business Premises on Weston Road, the Clinic on the Green. This is to allow her patients easy access to the building which is sometimes blocked by bad parking right outside the entrance. All agreed she can do this but also it was suggested that as this location on the road is very narrow, it might be worth investigating if some white lines could be painted there as a deterrent to drivers using this as a parking spot as it also causes problems on the road. Clerk to contact Chris Grain.
Cllr Lane returned to the meeting at 8:50pm.
- 239/19 **Planning Applications.**
- 239a/19 **Applications Approved:**

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.

19/01682/LB – Mr & Mrs Ian Jones, London House, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – Replacement guttering on the front elevation.

19/01055/LB – Mr & Mrs Ian Jones, London House, Islip Road Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – Repairs to garage.

239b/19 **Applications Received:**

19/01789/F – Heathfield Golf and Country Club, Street through Heathfield Village, Heathfield OX5 3DX – Change of use to caravan park to include replacement building (office/reception, shop, store, laundrette, kitchen, toilets, showers and washing facilities) together with static mobile to house managers accommodation.

Objections, as follows;

The proposal is unclear on the intention and type of caravan. There is no clarification leaving it open to the possibility of static/fixed pitches. The proposal states existing and proposed parking spaces at 33 yet the plans show nearly 150 pitches. That's 150 cars plus towed caravans. Objection due to the lack of transparency and detail. Does the parish need 3 campsites? There are already adequate sites for camping/caravans in this area. With reference to the 'absent' right turning lane on B4027, with 150 extra vehicles it is a necessity. There are dog kennels and horse stables very close by so there is concern there that the animals will be very negatively affected by this campsite. The proposed site is also very close to an extremely busy road, the A34, which cannot be pleasant for any campers. This site has had mains sewerage problems in the past, how will the sewerage be handled and cope with 150 pitches?

19/02187/LB – Mr & Mrs Ian Jones, London House, Islip Road, Bletchingdon, OX5 3DP – Repair works to roof structure of existing canopy. No objections.

19/02254/F – Mr Paul Jarvis, Half Acre Cottage Heathfield, Kidlington OX5 3DU – Removal of condition 11 (use of building) of 12/00882/F – The Animal Welfare Act 2018 had made the business unviable as it either needs total refurbishment or a complete rebuild. The business has now closed as it cannot meet the new regulations. No objections.

239c/19 **Applications Declined/Withdrawn:**

19/01287/F – Mr Geoff Robins – Heathfield Park Golf and Driving Range, Heathfield OX5 3DX – Change of use of Stud Farm, replace redundant buildings with on-site stabling, all weather riding surface and sunken staff dwelling. Withdrawn.

240/19 **Finance:**

The mandate has now been changed and the Clerk may now apply for Internet Banking.

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

Cheque No	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Total Amount	VAT
101607	Moore – External Auditor fee for our 2019 Audit	General Admin	This Minute	£240.00	£40.00
101608	Cherwell District Council – Dog Bin	Dog Bin Purchase and Emptying	This Minute	£549.12	£91.52

	Emptying April – September 2019				
101609	Fiona Mason – Reimbursement for the purchase of Stamps	General Admin	This Minute	£8.40	£0.00
101610	Navitas Design Limited – 1 year web hosting and domain name registration	General Admin	This Minute	£80.00	£0.00
101611	Sam Lane – To top and mow the Slype	Grounds Maintenance	This Minute	£80.00	£0.00
101613	Simmonds Signs – Purchase of two new Programmable Flashing School Crossing Lights/Signs	Traffic Calming Measures	This Minute	£2,058.98	£343.16
101612	Robelec Limited	Traffic Calming Measures	This Minute	£1,660.97	£276.83

The Direct Debit to BT is due to go out on or just after 23rd October 2019 for £33.91 including VAT.

All payments approved.

241/19 Correspondence Received:

- a) Email from OCC – Youth Opportunity Fund, aimed to increase opportunities for young people, asking us to help spread the word. All agreed we could forward to the local Bletchington Groups such as Brownies, advertise on our Website and possibly advertise in the next Village News.
- b) Email from Lesley Farrell CDC – Members Allowance Annual Survey. All agreed we are happy with the allowances offered.
- c) Email from Adele Taylor CDC – Council Tax Support Grant being phased out. Cllr Saunders said we should bare this in mind when we apply for the Precept in January 2020.
- d) John Howell Newsletter.
- e) Email from Rebecca McNaught, new Trustee for the BCF, requesting access to the Website. All agreed this is okay and Cllr Ledger will look into setting her up.
- f) Email from Jen Cordell, the new Bar Manager of the Blacks Head, requesting to be added to our Website. All agreed this is okay. Clerk to reply to Jen Cordell.
- g) Email from Joan Deen, 12 Station Road, asking why the new Street light is not yet operational. Clerk to reply to Joan Deen and let her know we are aware of it and that Cllr Saunders will try and find out what is happening. In the meantime, Clerk will also let her know she can report this via ‘Fix my street’.
- h) CPRE email shared with all.
- i) Local Plan letter shared with all.

242/19 Reports from meetings: None.

243/19 Items for information or next Agenda only - all items for next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Thursday 21st November 2019.

- Cllr D. Ledger has created a second draft booklet for all Parishioners, following the feedback after the first draft. All are to read this at home and bring any comments to next month's meeting.
- It has been noted that building supplies have been left on the Verge opposite the entrance to the Wayne Dobbins property. Cllr Saunders said he will write to him to request that this doesn't happen again. A draft letter will be shared amongst the Cllrs to approve, before sending.
- The white lines in our Village have still not been done and the markings alerting the workmen to the areas where pot holes need filling are fading. The Clerk is to contact County Cllr Griffiths to chase this up.
- It has been reported that a red, Citroen car declared SORN has been abandoned on the Weston Road. All agreed the Clerk should report this to the police.
- There is also an abandoned caravan just up from Tollbrook corner towards Weston on the Green. The Clerk is to report this to Cherwell District Council.
- Agenda item for next month, an update on The Slipe.
- Clerk asked if anyone was available to go to the next Parish Liaison meeting on the 13th November 2019. Cllr Saunders said he will go. Clerk to let them know.

244/19 **Date of Next Meeting:** to confirm the date of the next meeting as 28th November 2019 at 7.30pm.

Meeting Ended : 9:50pm