

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bletchingdon Village Hallon Thursday 28th November at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr A.K.Saunders (Chair), Cllr C. Lane, Cllr M. Taylor, Cllr D. Ledger, Cllr R. Pirie, Cllr M. Knight, County Cllr C. Griffiths and Parishioner R. McNaught.

245/19 **Apologies:** Cllr A. Jordan

246/19 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

247/19 **Public Participation:** Parishioner R. McNaught.

248/19 **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 31st October 2019:** The Minutes were approved by all and signed by Cllr Saunders.

249/19 **Reports from District or County Councillors:** County Cllr Griffiths started by checking we had plans for the Councillor Priority Fund. It was agreed by the Parish Council (PC) last month that failing a grant from Cherwell District Council, this funding should be used to cover some if not all of the cost for the Programmable Flashing School Crossing Lights. County Cllr Griffiths was pleased with this application and the paperwork was signed by herself and Cllr Saunders as Chair. For the record, the Clerk did check to see if the PC could apply for a Grant through Cherwell District Council to fund the lights but the PC is not eligible to apply for retrospective funding and any fund approved would not be paid until April 2020.

County Cllr Griffiths went on to report with regards to climate change, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) have agreed that in order to be carbon neutral by 2050, there needs to be a focus on putting plans actually into action. Following on from that, the Oxford/Cambridge expressway was discussed as this would only add to the problem. They held a 'free vote' and the results were that OCC is against the Oxford/Cambridge Expressway plans. County Cllr Griffiths wrote to Ian Hudsberth asking him to contact the Minister for Transport which he did and he has received a reply. County Cllr Griffiths has asked for a copy of this letter to share with the Parish Councils.

She has attended a couple of meetings held by Margie Charnock with regards to signs being put in place restricting HGV's driving through the Village. She is waiting for further information as to what the possible options are but also explained that the Growth Plan in OCC is going to have a huge impact on how traffic is going to be strategically placed in and around Oxford and therefore it is unfortunately low on the list of priorities. If signage is best placed on the A34 then it is down to Highways England. County Cllr Griffiths has stressed to Margie Charnock and the group, the importance of getting the support from the PC.

Cllr Ledger suggests we invite them to come to a meeting once they have a proposal ready. He has also drafted a letter to Highways England to send from PC. Clerk to share this draft with all Cllr's for comment before sending.

Following Chris Grains update with regards to huge delays in pot-hole repairs and white line markings, County Cllr Griffiths suggested the PC should chase Highways

around February/March 2020 time to make sure we are top of the list in the new financial year. Clerk to create diary note.

- 250/19 **Traffic Calming:** Cllr Saunders reported that Chris Grain has written to the Traffic Team and Road Agreement Team for answers but as yet, no-one has replied. Clerk is to contact Cllr Jordan (not present), to see when we might be able to get a 'black box' installed. Cllr Saunders is meeting with Nick Mould on the 2nd December 2019 to discuss the issues raised last month.
- 251/19 **Sewage Smell:** No one has reported any smells since the new manhole cover was installed so it appears to have solved the problem.
- 252/19 **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 but unfortunately she is still no further forward. She said she will chase for further information.
- 253/19 **Programmable Flashing Lights:** The Clerk reported that Chris Marks has received the cheques and has contacted Simmonds Signs to order the signs. Clerk to contact him again to enquire when he will be Banking the cheques so things can progress.
- 254/19 **The Slipe:** The BCF will be in touch with an invoice for the rent. Please can the Clerk find out how long is left on the lease.
- 255/19 **Grass Verge Parking:** A Weston Road resident has asked why parking on the verge along Weston Road is discouraged but not at the Kirtlington Road/Islip Road junction? All agreed this is a good point raised, but there is little alternative for safe parking in that area. The PC are keen to protect the Verge on Weston Road as it is a scenic road and there is sufficient street parking available, which also acts as a method to slow traffic. Cllr Pirie agreed to put a reply in writing for this resident.
- 256/19 **Planning Applications.**
- 256a/19 **Applications Approved:**
- 19/01676/F – Mr & Mrs Ian Jones, London House, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – Removal of existing two storey extension to read. 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.
- 19/01677/LB – Mr & Mrs Ian Jones, London House, Islip Road Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – Removal of existing two storey extension to read. 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 space.
- 256b/19 **Applications Received:**
- 19/02473/TCA – Ms Jemma Proctor – Little Lime Tree 1, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – T1 Whiteleaf – Reduce height by up to 4.0m. H1 x Leylandii – Reduce height by up to 3.0m, trim back sides to the point to allow new growth. T2 x Firebus – Cut down and ground out stump. – No objections.
- 19/02459/TCA – Ms Jemma Proctor – Briar Cottage, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – T1 x Weeping Birch – Cut back to neighbouring boundary as overhangs garden shed, obscures some light coming into property, overhanging branches lay on top of outbuilding and are damaging roof. T2 x Lawson Plum, T3 Holly – Cut back to neighbouring boundary. – No objections.
- 256c/19 **Applications Declined/Withdrawn:**

None

256d/19 **Appeal against Refusal:**

19/00621/F – Mr & Mrs Joanne Arnold – Huckleberry Farm, Heathfield, Kidlington OX5 3DU – Continued use of transportable building to be made permanent (Retrospective). - No further comments to be submitted.

257/19 **Finance:**

Cllrs were asked to consider invoices for payment itemised on the payment schedule. The Clerk has prepared a payment schedule for November 2019 and December 2019 as there is no meeting to be held in December 2019.

Invoices for payment 30th November 2019

Cheque No or Bank TF	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Total Amount	VAT
Bank TF	Mr A Saunders - Chairman's Annual Allowance	Chairman's Allowance	This Minute	£150.00	£0.00
Bank TF	Green Scythe Limited	Contract Grounds Maintenance	023/17	£278.40	£46.40

The Direct Debit to BT is due to go out on or just after 23rd November 2019 for £44.23 including VAT.

Invoices for payment 31st December 2019

Cheque No or Bank TF	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Total Amount	VAT
Bank TF	Fiona Mason Salary - October, November and December 2019	General Admin	This Minute	£1,125.00	£0.00
Bank TF	Bletchingdon Village Hall – Hire of the Hall for October, November and December 2019	General Admin	This Minute	£450.00	£0.00

The Direct Debit to BT is due to go out on or just after 23rd December 2019

All payments approved.

258/19 **Correspondence Received:**

- a) Email from Dave Raynor – Charity Scope, Textile Banks asking if we can suggest somewhere we might be able to put one in Bletchingdon? All agreed that this is not something Bletchingdon can accommodate at present. Clerk to reply.

- b) Email from Power for People requesting our support of the Council motion request with regards to national community energy campaign – Local Electricity Bill. All agreed that as there is not enough critical mass to make this viable in our village, no further action will be made at this time.
- c) Email from David Woodley offering to quote us for any grounds work we might need. Clerk to reply to him explaining we are currently tied into a contract but that we will keep him on record for the future.
- d) John Howell Newsletter shared with the PC.
- e) Email from Mr Christopher Bell with regards to vandalism to his van when parked on Weston Road. He has reported the incident's to the Police and has asked for our assistance in their investigation. The Clerk replied to Mr Bell to let him know this will be shared at the meeting. All agreed if the Police should get in touch, the PC will do what we can to help.
- f) Email from Parishioner R. McNaught with plans to create a volunteer group for gritting the footpaths around the village. All agreed this is good idea but asked the Clerk to check on the liability/risk of setting up such a group first. As winter is fast approaching, this is to be done as soon as possible and any actions to be shared with the Cllrs via email for comment, rather than waiting for approval at the next meeting.
- g) Email from Cherwell District Council with regards to the Weston on the Green neighbourhood development plans. Shared with PC.
- h) Email from Sylvia Jay OCC, about the High Sherriff Awards 2019/2020. No nominations this year.

259/19 **Reports from meetings:** None.

260/19 **Any Other Business:**

- a) Village Hall Sign on the Kirtlington Road. This needs to be temporarily covered whilst that road is closed. Cllr Saunders will contact the building contractors to do this.
- b) A parishioner has approached the PC about the footpath behind The Row as it is blocked with rubbish and overgrown shrubs. This could be a safety risk for residents in The Row therefore all agreed the Clerk should write to the owner to ask that this be put right.
- c) A parishioner has brought it to the PC's attention that a couple of the homes on The Row appear to be empty. All agreed the Clerk should contact the owner to confirm if this is correct as empty homes are to be avoided.
- d) The drainage grips on Weston Road, Islip Road and Station Road are not working. Clerk to contact Cllr Lane to see if he can clear them.

261/19 **Items for information or next Agenda only - all items for next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Thursday 2nd January 2020.**

- 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 in preparation for adding to the next Village News.

262/19 **Date of Next Meeting:** to confirm the date of the next meeting as 9th January 2020

Meeting Ended : 9:50pm