

## BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held by Zoom (due to Coronavirus)

on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7:30pm

**Present:** Cllr A.K. Saunders (Chair), Cllr D. Ledger, Cllr R. Pirie, Cllr M. Whitehead, Cllr A. Jordan, Cllr M. Taylor, Parishioner M. Harvey & A. Maclachlan.

126/20**Apologies:** Cllr C. Lane

127/20**Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Saunders with regards to the discussion about the possibility of opening up the Village Hall for School use.

128/20 **Public Participation:** Parishioner A. Maclachlan.

129/20**To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020:** The Minutes were approved by all and will be signed by Cllr Saunders when received in hard copy form from the Clerk.

130/20**Reports from District or County Councillors:** None.

131/20**Traffic Calming:** Cllr Saunders reported that the white line 'H' bars have now been painted either side of the Zebra Crossing. He also shared the correspondence received with regards to the Road Closure on Station Road which is in order to move the speed limit sign further out as part of the new housing development plans. The Bletchington Village sign was removed when the development started so the Clerk is to contact Oxfordshire Highways (OH) and request that this be re-instated at the same time. Cllr Taylor reported that the road sign near Enslow is not pointing in the right direction any more so the Clerk is to report this to OH. Cllr Taylor also reported that the signs as you enter the Village from the Kirtlington Road are no longer visible due to overgrown trees and bushes. The Clerk is to contact Jake Williams to cut these back accordingly.

132/20**Pot Holes:** No further news from Chris Grain.

133/20**Enforcement Update:** Cllr Saunders reported that he has contacted the Enforcement team at Cherwell District Council (CDC) but they have not yet responded to his email.

134/20**Bottle Banks:** Cllr Saunders reported that CDC have replied to confirm they will arrange more frequent collections of the Bottle Banks and that they have plans to improve the current location. This location is still not favourable and the layby opposite the loading bay of the Coop has been suggested as a more suitable, alternative site. The clerk is to contact CDC to ask them to meet us on site to discuss moving the Bottle Banks to this location and to find out what ways they might be able to make it more attractive so it is not an eye-sore on entering the Village.

135/20**Blocked Footpath behind The Row:** Cllr Saunders reported that the Clerk has contacted CDC to find out who owns the land and/or the wall, who referred the Clerk to Land Registry. Land Registry are not taking any calls at the moment due to lockdown restrictions so the Clerk has used their online messaging system and is waiting a response.

136/20**Rocks on pavement/grass verge:** Cllr Saunders reported the news from Chris Grain that this issue appears to be resolved but should the rocks return, we are to contact him again.

**137/20 Additional Dog Poo Bin:** Cllr Saunders reported what the increased cost would be for an additional bin. All approved the purchase and site location. Cllr Taylor confirmed he will approach the land owners for consent to attach the new bin to the existing post/sign on their land as suggested by CDC and to ask permission to cut back the nettles that currently surround the base of the post. If granted, all agreed the Clerk should contact Jake Williams to install the new bin.

**138/20 Public Transport Representative:** Cllr Saunders welcomed Parishioner Anne Maclachlan who has volunteered for the role of Public Transport Representative (PTR) and joined the meeting to discuss the role and how best to work with the Parish Council. The Clerk is to forward the recent, relevant information received from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and provide some useful contacts.

**139/20 Additional Defibrillator:** Cllr Saunders reported the response from CDC with regards to the process to follow when looking to attach something like this to a listed building. Before pursuing this location any further, all agreed the Bus Shelter should be considered and investigated as this building is not listed and is owned by the Parish Council. The electricity supply to the lamp post/bus shelter is unclear so Cllr Saunders will contact Paul Timms to clarify.

**140/20 Planning Applications.**

**140a/20 Applications Approved:**

None

**140b/20 Applications Received:**

20/01343/CLUE & 20/01344/CLUE – Greenhill Leisure Park – Greenhill Farm, Station Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3BQ – Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use for Use of Land as a Caravan and Camping site and as a Recreation Land Ancillary to a Caravan Site. No objection from Planning Committee or Parish Council.

20/01469/TCA – Mr James Prior – Court Yard House, Church End, Bletchingdon OX5 3DL - G1 x Group of 3 no's Leylandii and 1 no. Macrocarpa - Fell as they have outgrown their limited location and also because of concerns of damage to adjacent walls. G2 x 2 nos Leylandii hedges - Fell as these are large and overbearing hedges that dominate the garden, their removal will allow more light to penetrate the garden and allow for future planting of various species. G3 x 5 no's Conifers along the lawn - Fell as excessive shading plus have outgrown their current location. No objection from Planning Committee or Parish Council.

18/01945/F, 18/01946/LB, 18/01969/F and 18/01970/LB with regards to the Bletchingdon Park Estate do not have any new documents to view and therefore there is nothing to comment on. The Clerk is to contact the Planning Officer as soon as possible to request the new information and also ask Mark Webber from the Planning Committee for advice/comment.

**141/20 Finance:**

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

Invoices for payment 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Method	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Total Amount	VAT
Debit card purchase	1 month Zoom Pro subscription	General Admin	095a/20	£14.39	£2.40

Bank TF	Green Scythe Limited - May 2020 grass cutting	Grounds Maintenance	141/20	£574.80	£95.80
Bank TF	C. Fraser, Accountant – Payroll and P60	General Admin	141/20	£60.00	£0.00
Bank TF	Fiona Mason – Clerks Salary for April, May and June 2020	Clerks Salary	141/20	£1,255.00	£0.00

The Direct Debit to BT is due to go out on or just after 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 for £38.04 including VAT.

All payments approved.

**142/20 Correspondence Received:**

- a) John Howell Newsletter – Shared via email, no further action.
- b) An email of the Notice with regards to the 30mph speed limit moving further out. – Shared via email, no further action.
- c) A letter from Ian Gedling asking if the Parish Council is happy to support the Village News with a donation towards the printing costs and the Church with a donation towards the Churchyard mowing costs, as before. A donation of £800.00 to the Church has been budgeted for in this financial year. All agreed this amount to the Church should be made plus the same donation to the Village News for printing costs as was made last year, which was £150.00.
- d) FYI – An email from Kate Prudden with regard to Frognest Farm Field proposed CDC wildlife site. A reply was sent explaining this land is not owned by the Parish Council. – Shared via email, no further action.
- e) An email from Amie Overington asking if we can place her advert looking for volunteers for victims of crime, on our website or in our Village News. – Shared via email. The Clerk is to display poster on our Noticeboard, put a copy on our website and approach the Village News with the article.
- f) An email from Chris Fennell asking about land adjacent to 24 St Giles. – His email and our reply was shared via email. A discussion was had about the Parish Councils view in general with regards to parking in the Village. A number of garages exist for use in the Village but are not used for parking. The question was raised, would it be more beneficial to replace the unused garages with additional parking? The Clerk will put this on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss further.
- g) Email reply from Wayne Dobbins. – This is a positive response and good to have this link with the School.
- h) An email from Dan Woodward asking if we will help to promote their initiative ‘Donate your Cough’ – shared via email. The Clerk is to display his poster on our Noticeboard, put a copy on our website and approach the Village News with the article.
- i) An email from Roland Tate who is thinking of purchasing one of the new houses in the development and is asking about the lack of electrical charging points. The Clerk is to reply with a welcome message, to let him know that they were not part

- j) of the plans and that he should approach CDC if he wishes to pursue this any further.

143/20 **Reports from meetings:** None.

144/20 **Any Other Business:**

- All agreed the Parish Council insert should go in the next Village News. The Clerk is to contact Ian Gedling to enquire about getting the leaflet printed and inserted.
- Cllr Pirie reported that the School is currently experiencing difficulties with regards to having enough space for each of the different 'bubbles' they are required to keep under the current lockdown rules. She asked if the Parish Council could support the School by arranging for the Village Hall to be made available and covering the cost of this via the Councillor Covid-19 Priority Fund. All agreed this was a good idea. Cllr Saunders confirmed that the Village Hall is still currently closed but that he will get in touch with the Village Hall Trustees to discuss this. Cllr Whitehead added that there are only three or four weeks of term left so asked if this could be looked into as soon as possible.
- Cllr Whitehead reported that he has now taken up the role of Bletchingdon Representative on the Community Forum so any Police issues such as thefts or neighbour watch schemes, he can report back to Thames Valley Police. All agreed this was another good link for the Parish Council.
- Cllr Jordan reported that he has been picking up a lot of litter around the Village and would like to put the Spring Clean back into action. The Clerk will contact the relevant department to see if we can get the supplies before September.

145/20 **Items for information or next Agenda only - all items for next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

146/20 **Date of Next Meeting:** to confirm the date of the next meeting as 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

Meeting Ended : 9:20pm.

#### **Addendum:**

On receipt of the draft minutes for June, Cllr Lane read them and requested that his view with regards to point 134/20 be added for the record. He does not support the alternative location of the lay-by opposite the Coop on Station Road because this is a hugely congested site, with passing and parked cars all around making it a dangerous location. Cllr Lane asked if the original site should be reconsidered if no other alternative can be found?