

**BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 at 7:30pm

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

147/20**Apologies:** Cllr R. Pirie & Cllr M. Whitehead.

148/20**Declarations of Interest:** None.

149/20 **Public Participation:** None.

150/20**To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020:** The Minutes were approved by all and will be signed by Cllr Saunders when received in hard copy form from the Clerk.

151/20**Reports from District or County Councillors:** None.

152/20**Traffic Calming:** No further news from Dave Catling. Cllr Saunders reported that apart from his own personal experience, the H-Bars on Station Road appear to be working.

153/20**Pot Holes:** No further news from Chris Grain.

154/20**Enforcement Update:** No further update from Cherwell District Council (CDC). Cllr Saunders confirmed he will pursue them for a further update again.

155/20**Bottle Banks:** Cllr Saunders reported that the Bottle Banks are still not being emptied often enough and people are still resorting to leaving bottles on the ground surrounding the bottle banks, when they are full. He contacted CDC and requested weekly collections from now on, instead of fortnightly. He also reminded them that the Parish Council are not happy with this current location and they advised they will report it to the relevant department on our behalf.

156/20**Blocked Footpath behind The Row:** Cllr Saunders reported that the Land Registry are still not taking calls due to Lockdown and the Clerk has not had any response to her chaser email on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 either.

157/20**Additional Dog Poo Bin:** Cllr Taylor reported that he has spoken with the Landowners of Beehive Corner and they will allow us to install a new dog waste bin in this area, as long as they can select the location. Cllr Taylor said he will meet with them on site to discuss further in person and then report back to the Parish Council.

158/20**Additional Defibrillator:** Cllr Saunders has spoken to Paul Timms in relation to the power supply from the Pub to the Bus Shelter, which he is not sure is accurate. He will investigate further and let us know.

159/20**Spring/Summer Clean** – The Spring Clean that was postponed from March till September is approaching again. A discussion was had as to whether or not we should promote a ‘Spring Clean’ during the summer holidays or co-inside it with the ‘Keep Britain Tidy’ initiative in September. All agreed we should co-inside it with ‘Keep Britain Tidy’ as that is a Nationwide event that advertising and promotional material will be provided for. The Clerk is to ensure posters are displayed around the Village and information is available on the Website to let people know in good time.

- 160/20 **Making the Village Hall available to the School** – Cllr Saunders reported that the Trustees are in contact with the School with regards to making the Small Hall available to them if necessary when Term begins in September 2020.
- 161/20 **Garages Vs Parking Spaces** – A discussion was had about the parking issues in St Giles and a potential solution being to replace the Garages with parking spaces. The Clerk is to contact CDC to find out how much use the Garages are currently getting before pursuing this any further.
- 162/20 **Bletchingdon Playground** – Cllr Saunders reported for the record that a risk assessment was completed at the beginning of July with a review planned for the end of July 2020. The result of which was that the Parish Council do not have the means or the manpower to manage and make it safe for use so it should remain closed. Cllr Jordan added that most of the playgrounds that have been opened have teams of people working on site to sanitise and manage appropriately. He also reported that a special solution has been applied to coat the equipment which is supposed to reduce the length of time germs can survive on the surface. A discussion was then had around re-opening the Playground to make it available to families during the summer holidays and beyond. Since the beginning of July 2020, it is apparent that despite the Parish Council making it clear that our Playground is closed and the entrance sealed off, people have broken the seals and entered the Playground anyway. This potentially poses a greater risk as it has not been sanitised and people may not be aware of the risks they are taking. Therefore, all agreed that the Clerk should arrange for a 'Covid Clean' to be completed on the Playground and to try and find out what solution CDC used on their equipment so that we can do the same. Following which, the Parish Council would look to re-open the Playground with new signage. This new signage is to advise people what steps the Parish Council have taken to sanitise the equipment but also to make sure people understand what our limitations are and that the responsibility now lies with them. They must satisfy themselves that they are taking the necessary precautions and are following the Government guidelines.
- 163/20 **Planning Applications.**
- 163a/20       **Applications Approved:**
- 20/01469/TCA – 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 no.'s Leylandii hedges – Fell as these are large and overbearing hedges that dominate and 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.
- 163b/20       **Applications Received:**
- 20/01577/F – Mr Paul Bagnall – Enslow Farm, Station Road, Enslow OX5 3AY – New two bed bungalows to serve farm (cattle breeding and calf rearing) – Objection. This is the second attempt at getting a house on this site. The last time was in 2018 which was withdrawn. Bletchingdon Parish Council objected to that at the time. The site is a very small 32 acre holding. New houses in the green belt are deemed an

inappropriate development and should be refused under planning policy. In this case they are using the key farm working as a loophole to try and justify this new house on the grounds of needing to be near the livestock when calving. The difference in this application is that the owners have since sold off Greenhill farm where there was a farm workers house. If permission is given here for a new house and then the farm subsequently fails for any reason (which is very possible) they get a house and can just leave sheds derelict or convert them to some other use. You cannot just benefit from the sale of the main farm and set up a small holding on a small strip of land and build a house on it. This would set a precedent for building houses on every 32 acre strip of farmland in the Parish in what it open country. The other main problem with this application is the actual design of the house. It is plain, utilitarian and looks like a 1960's bungalow with no redeeming features. The letters of support for this application on the planning portal are from a former employee and other people connected with the farm, therefore dubious.

20/01764/F – Minns Estates Limited – Land adjacent, Lince Lane, Access off Station Road, Enslow, Kidlington OX5 3FE – Erection of 2 no. two storey, 3 bedroom semi-detached houses with car parking. No objection from Parish Council. Planning Committee to provide feedback by the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

#### 164/20 Finance:

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

#### Invoices for payment 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Method	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Amount	VAT	Total
Debit card purchase	1 month Zoom Pro subscription	General Admin	095a/20	£11.99	£2.40	£14.39
Bank TF	St Giles Churchyards – Donation towards Churchyard ground maintenance	Grant for Church Mowing	164/20	£800.00	£0.00	£800.00
Bank TF	Bletchington Village News – Donation towards printing costs	General Admin	164/20	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00

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

All payments approved.

#### 165/20 Correspondence Received:

- a) John Howell Newsletter – Shared via email, no further action.
- b) An email reply from David Peckford with regards to our enquiry about S106 funds, which confirmed they have already been used up. – Shared via email, no further action.

- c) An email from Paul Mann, Oxford County Council (OCC), asking if we have locations available to assist with supplying bottled water during a water supply incident. Shared via email. All agreed that in front of the Village Hall is the best location we could suggest and the Clerk is to reply to this effect with a contingency to put sufficient traffic controls in place, during such an event.
- d) An email from CPRE asking for the Parish Council to complete a survey to help highlight how they can do more to protect and enhance our landscape. Shared via email – no further action.
- e) An email from Dr Alistair Reed about the parking around the Co-op and surrounding areas. Shared via email. The Clerk is to reply and thank him for his observations and that we are aware of these issues. The clerk will also explain that our intention is to re-visit this site when it is complete and report our observations at that time.
- f) An email from Perry Hatwell with regards to his Fair coming to Bletchingdon this year, or not. All agreed that if he is prepared to come, the Parish Council have no objection. The Clerk will send a reply.
- g) A letter addressed to the Chairman from the Office of Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire thanking Parish Councils for their hard work during Lockdown. Cllr Saunders shared during the meeting. No further action.
- h) An email from Tiffany Haynes to Cllr Saunders, shared by Cllr Saunders during the meeting. He confirmed that this is not a Parish Council issue and he advised her whom she can contact in this regard. No further action.
- i) An email from Helen Duckering, Market Overton Parish Clerk. She is looking for any planning application information we can share with regards to the hen rearing facility near us as they have received a similar application near them. All agreed the Clerk should reply with the planning application reference so she can see the comments made at the time and the mitigations put in place. It was also suggested that the Clerk should put her in touch with the Clerk from Weston on the Green.

166/20 **Reports from meetings:** None.

167/20 **Any Other Business:**

- Cllr Taylor reported that some residents have been complaining about the noise from planes passing over the Village. In order to complain, he advised that we need to have a log of the date, time and type of plane. The Clerk is to share this information on the Village website so that people know what to do in order to help us create a log.
- Cllr Lane asked if the Slupe is due for some maintenance of the grounds. Cllr Saunders confirmed he will investigate and let him know.
- Cllr Lane reported that the curb stones on the finger piece are loose. The Clerk is to report this to Highways using 'Fix my Street'.
- Cllr Saunders reported that the Clerk's laptop has had a hard drive failure. The cheapest way forward is to replace the hard drive and purchase a new windows package. All agreed Cllr Saunders should proceed.

**168/20 Items for information or next Agenda only - all items for next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020.**

**169/20 Date of Next Meeting:** to confirm the date of the next meeting as 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 7:30pm.

Meeting Ended : 9:00pm.