

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

on Thursday 29th October 2020 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr A.K. Saunders (Chair), Cllr D. Ledger, Cllr C. Lane, Cllr M. Taylor, Cllr R. Pirie, Cllr A. Jordan, PTR A. Maclachlan and Parishioner G. Jennings.

218/20**Apologies:** Cllr M. Whitehead, County Cllr C. Griffiths and District Cllr T. Hallchurch

219/20**Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Lane with regards to Planning Application number 20/02581/F which is discussed in minute number 239b/20.

220/20 **Public Participation:** Public Transport Representative (PTR) Anne Maclachlan.

221/20**To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th September 2020:** The Minutes were approved by all and they will be signed by Cllr Saunders when received in hard copy form from the Clerk.

222/20**Reports from District or County Councillors:** None.

223/20**Traffic Calming:** Cllr Saunders reported the observations and discussion had with Dave Catling when he came to Bletchington on the 20th October 2020. At that meeting, full width speed humps and a 20mph speed limit throughout the Village were discussed. Dave confirmed he will look into both options for us and advised that the support of County Cllr C. Griffiths would be beneficial. The Clerk is to ensure this information is received and shared accordingly.

224/20**Enforcement Update:** Cllr Saunders confirmed he wrote to Amy Sedman 2 weeks ago for an update on all enforcement cases but has had no reply to date.

225/20**Additional Dog Poo Bin:** Cllr Taylor confirmed he will meet with Jake Williams as soon as possible to install the post for the new bin.

226/20**Village Proposals:** A meeting was held with the benefactor, Mr M Webber, Cllr A. Jordan, Cllr Lane and Cllr Saunders to discuss the feedback from Parishioners received. It was agreed that all matters in relation to the Village should be discussed under a new heading 'Village Master Plan' which is coming up under minute number 238/20.

227/20**White Paper:** Cllr Ledger reported a summary of the proposed new planning regulations. Land will be categorised as either 'Protected' or 'For Growth' with a view to speed up the process for approvals. All agreed the Parish Council do not wish to comment on these proposed changes so no further action required.

228/20**Tree Survey:** The Clerk confirmed she had received a quote for a visual tree survey at a cost of £540.00 inc VAT. All agreed this should proceed.

229/20**Snow Warden Scheme:** The Clerk reported that there had been no new volunteers come forward but the two couples from last year who came forward are still happy to volunteer. The Clerk is to go back to the Communities Co-ordinator for Oxfordshire County Council to seek advice on how to proceed with so few volunteers.

230/20**250 Bus Service and Future Plans:** PTR A. Maclachlan had previously shared her report with the Parish Council via email. As things are, it is not commercially viable to run the 250 bus service and it is currently being subsidised by S106 funds which

will run out by December 2022. A discussion was had about what our options are and what alternative solutions there might be. It was agreed that PTR A. Maclachlan will try to canvass as much information as possible about the current need and usage of this service so that this data can be analysed and used to put together a business plan.

231/20 **Cutting the long grass around the bottle banks to the allotment wall:** It has been noticed that the grass in this area has been neglected. It is believed that Cherwell District Council (CDC) are responsible for this area. The Clerk is to contact them first to clarify if this is their responsibility and what frequency they would usually come.

232/20 **Road Sweeper notice in advance:** In the same location, it would be helpful to know in advance when the road sweepers are coming because the parked cars in the lay-by block access to this area so they debris from the trees etc is not getting cleared away. The Clerk is to find out the routine so that people can be asked to park elsewhere at those times.

233/20 **Broken kerb on finger piece:** It has previously been reported to OCC that there are broken kerb stones on the Finger Piece but their response was that it was not bad enough to warrant attention yet. Cllr Jordan will try again by reporting this as a Super User.

234/20 **Trees in Springwell Close needing attention:** It has been reported that there is a dead tree and a broken tree in the area between the new houses in the development and behind the houses in Springwell Close. The Clerk is to contact the developer to advise him and request a new tree inspection.

235/20 **Putting Green Scythe on hold:** To ensure that the grounds are not over-maintained, the Clerk is to contact Green Scythe to ask what frequency they usually attend during the winter months but also to request that they don't come again until further notice.

236/20 **Sewerage Smell opposite the Blacks Head:** It has been reported that the sewerage smell has returned so the Clerk is asked to contact the relevant team for investigation again and keep a record of when these smells arise for future reference.

237/20 **Slype Access:** Cllr Lane asked when access to the Slype might be available. Cllr Saunders confirmed that the BCF will contact the new owners of Frognest Farm in due course to request access.

238/20 **Village Master Plan:** Further to minute number 226/20, Cllr Saunders summarised the meeting held with the benefactor. A number of suggestions of ways in which we can improve the look of the Village were discussed. In addition to those suggestions are the plans the Parish Council have to make the Village safe by improving traffic calming. The conclusion of that meeting was that one Master Plan should be put together to include all plans for the Village. It was agreed that a separate Parish Council meeting to discuss this Master plan should be arranged prior to the next monthly meeting. This plan will be prioritised and then presented to the benefactor for his consideration. The Clerk is to arrange this additional meeting with a reminder for all to prepare their ideas in advance.

PTR A. Maclachlan left the meeting at 9:30pm.

239/20 Planning Applications.**239a/20 Applications Approved:**

20/02344/F – Land at Station Road, Bletchingdon, Kidlington OX5 3FA – Change of use of amenity land to private curtilage and change of use of vacant land to amenity land.

239b/20 Applications Received:

20/02474/F – Mr Roger Simmonds – New House, St Giles, Bletchingdon OX5 3BX – Variation of condition 4 (plans) of 19/01568/OUT – Extend the existing cat-slide roof profile across the site, reducing plot 2 roof height while retaining footprint. Two new rooflights have been added to front elevation in plot 2 first floor bedroom. One new window has been added to the side elevation. This new opening will be glazed with obscured glass as noted on the drawings. The following observations were noted: It appears to be an unreasonable and inappropriate design and size for a dwelling. It might be more appropriate as a holiday let but as it is, it is undesirable infill.

20/02581/F – Mr Graham and Martin Hill – OS Parcel 9521 Underdowns, Lince Lane, Kirtlington – Proposed agricultural workers dwelling and new agricultural building. Objections were raised as follows by the Planning Committee and the Parish Council: This is the same type of application that was refused back in 2017 but now appears in a different guise. They now call the mobile home a temporary house when it is effectively a static caravan. They say the house is a typical agricultural workers house when in fact it is four bedrooms, which is very large. So what we have here is simply a 4 bed house in the open countryside.

This is not an essential workers' house but a generous 4 bedroom house in the open countryside. This will set a precedent in the area for other houses on small holdings.

240/20 Finance:

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

Invoices for payment 30th October 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 | KJ Cleaning Solutions – Zoono Spray to protect Bletchingdon Playground 28 th September 2020 | Parks, Trees and open spaces | This Minute | £60.00 | £0.00 | £60.00 |
| Bank TF | Cherwell District Council – Emptying of dog waste bins | Dog Bin Purchase and Emptying | This Minute | £457.60 | £91.52 | £549.12 |
| Bank TF | Green Scythe Limited – Grassing cutting in September | Contract Grounds Maintenance | This Minute | £479.00 | £95.80 | £574.80 |
| Bank TF | Navitas Design Limited – Web | General Admin | This Minute | £53.99 | £10.80 | £64.79 |

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| | hosting and domain name registration renewal for the year | | | | | |
| Bank TF | KJ Cleaning Solutions – Zoono Spray to protect Bletchingdon Playground ar October 2020 | Parks, Trees and open spaces | This Minute | £60.00 | £0.00 | £60.00 |

The Direct Debit to BT is due to go out on or just after 23rd October 2020 for £38.04 including VAT.

All payments approved.

241/20 Correspondence Received:

- a) John Howell Newsletter – Shared via email, no further action.
- b) An email from Christian Mauz, OCC with regards to proposed speed limit changes in Weston on the Green. Shared via email. No comments.
- c) An email from Ian Ashley of ‘Need not Greed Oxfordshire’ asking for us to share their views with our parishioners. Shared via email. Further information is required before agreeing to share their views.
- d) An email from Jo of Oxfordshire Artweeks 2021 asking if we would include information about their Artweeks 2021 in our newsletter. Shared via email. Clerk to put in the next Village News.
- e) A request from Ian and Kathy Gedling asking if the Parish Council could ask the owners of the Corner House (Islip/Oxford Road) to cut back their tree which has become overgrown and is stopping the light from shining down on the pavement, making it dangerous to walk along at night. Clerk to lodge this on Fix my Street as this is an electricity board issue.
- f) The Cherwell Parish Bulletin update – Shared via email. No further action.

242/20 Any Other Business:

- The Clerk shared with all the message from Cllr M. Whitehead that he has not had a response from the speed watch email he sent following the meeting with Dave Catling.
- Cllr Saunders confirmed the BCF have been approached about the new Notice Board. They suggested an alternative location which the Parish Council do not prefer so Cllr Saunders will report this back to them.
- With regards to the broken wall along the footpath behind Coghill and The Row, The Clerk has the costs involved should we try to find this out via Land Registry which may not help so this could be a waste of money. Another approach to identify the owner of the wall will be attempted before proceeding any further via Land Registry.

243/20 Items for information or next Agenda only - all items for next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Thursday 19th November 2020.

244/20 Date of Next Meeting: to confirm the date of the next meeting as 26th November 2020 at 7:30pm.

Meeting Ended : 10pm.