

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

on Thursday 26th November 2020 at 7:30pm

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

245/20 **Apologies:** Cllr A. Jordan

246/20 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Jordan with regards to planning application number 20/03159/TCA.

247/20 **Public Participation:** None.

248/20 **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th October 2020:**

With one minor amendment to be made, the Minutes were approved by all and they will be signed by Cllr Saunders when received in hard copy form from the Clerk.

249/20 **Reports from District or County Councillors:** County Cllr C. Griffiths reported that there has been a lot of discussion around budgets for next year in Oxfordshire County council (OCC). There is some uncertainty around whether or not the Councillor Priority Funding (CPF) will be available in 2020/2021 and she reminded us to get our applications in by the end of January 2021 if we wish to take advantage of this year's CPF. She also reported that she has been in frequent contact with the parishioners in our Village who have an interest in putting a weight restriction along the Islip Road/through the Village and she wanted to let us know she has recommended to them that they work through us to give their campaign more weight.

250/20 **Traffic Calming:** Cllr Saunders reported that he has been approached separately by Parishioner R. Watkinson and Parishioner M. Charnock, from Islip Road, but on two different matters. One with regards to implementing a weight restriction and the other with regards to a 20mph speed limit throughout the Village. He had invited each of them to join our meeting tonight to discuss further but neither responded to this request. Cllr Saunders confirmed he will be meeting with them on the Islip Road to discuss their matters as they have requested.

A discussion was had around the best way to make the roads safer in the Village and whether the Parish Council (PC) should focus on getting the speed limit reduced to 20mph throughout the Village, full width speed humps installed or to do both.

Dave Catling has previously suggested that a physical restriction such as full width speed humps will be more effective than a speed limit reduction as a 20mph speed limit is unlikely to be enforced. We already have '20 when lights flash' signs operating in the Village during School opening and closing times and some drivers are still seen speeding and clearly not taking any notice.

Another suggestion is to put a roundabout at the junction of Valencia/Station Road. It was agreed that the Clerk will go back to Dave Catling on behalf of the PC to add the roundabout idea to his plans, get the costings on full width speed humps at strategic points throughout the Village as well as timescales. County Cllr C. Griffiths confirmed she will fully support our plans when the time comes.

- 251/20 **Enforcement Update:** Cllr Saunders has still not received a reply from Amy Sedman despite email fortnightly, so he will chase for updates weekly from now on.
- 252/20 **Additional Dog Poo Bin:** Cllr Taylor confirmed he is meeting Jake Williams on site this coming weekend (28/29th November 2020).
- 253/20 **Tree Survey:** The Clerk confirmed she replied to the tree surgeon to tell him to proceed but that nothing further has been heard since. The Clerk is to follow this up.
- 254/20 **Snow Warden Scheme:** The Clerk reported that a parishioner has volunteered to maintain the roads and footpaths in Enslow and that some grit has been provided to him. There is still a request in the next Village News to seek additional volunteers. Cllr Lane also put himself forward to assist with clearing snow and ice.
- 255/20 **Cutting the long grass around the bottle banks and towards the allotment wall:** CDC replied to the Clerks email to inform us that they are not responsible for this area. Currently this area has been tidied up but long term, this will need to be maintained by the PC. All agreed this area should be included in next year's grounds maintenance list.
- 256/20 **Road Sweeper notice in advance:** The Clerk reported that the next road sweep due for Bletchingdon is January 2021 and then every 3 months. CDC were able to give a specific date of the most recent visit in November 2020 so the Clerk will make a diary note to get a more specific date, nearer the time.
- 257/20 **Broken kerb on finger piece:** Cllr Jordan was not able to attend tonight so this will be carried forward to the next meeting in January 2021.
- 258/20 **Trees in Springwell Close needing attention:** The Clerk reported that Nick Mould confirmed he will investigate the trees as requested by the PC. Cllr Lane reported that it looks as though they have already tidied up the trees in question.
- 259/20 **Putting Green Scythe on hold:** Green Scythe confirmed that they would not normally attend more than once in October and not usually return until the spring so there is no need to put them on hold. The Clerk is to obtain a tender from Green Scythe Ltd plus two other companies for the year 2021.
- 260/20 **Sewerage Smell opposite the Blacks Head:** The Clerk shared the email response from Thames Water. They are investigate the smell and will provide an update on the 30th November 2020.
- 261/20 **Parish Plan:** Members of the Parish Council met on Thursday 19th November 2020 to discuss the Parish Plan. Cllr Jordan put together a document to update the Parish Vision and break down all plans into 'Buckets' so that they can be organised and funded appropriately. This was shared via email and it was agreed that if anyone would like to add to this, they will email the Clerk who will then update the document with all of the ideas and share with everyone again prior to the next meeting in January 2021.
- 262/20 **Additional Bins and Litter Pick:** Cllr Whitehead reported the litter problem throughout the Village but specifically around the Village Hall. He requested that two additional bins be purchased by the PC and placed nearer the benches to encourage people to use them as well as arranging more frequent litter picks. Cllr Saunders added that presently, it is himself that empties the two bins that exist by the entrances to the Village Hall but that perhaps it should be CDC who empty all the other rubbish bins in the Village. Cllr Saunders confirmed he will contact CDC to request this.

All agreed that the PC should seek funding through the Councillor Priority Fund to purchase two new bins plus litter pick equipment such as pickers, bags, gloves and Hi-Vis jackets. The Clerk will prepare the application ready for approval at the next meeting.

263/20 Planning Applications.

263a/20 Applications Withdrawn:

20/01343/CLUE & 20/01344/CLUE – Greenhill Leisure Park, Greenhill Farm, Station Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3BQ – Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing User for Use of Land as a Caravan and Camping Site and as Recreation Land Ancillary to a Caravan Site.

263b/20 Applications Received:

20/02870/F – Duchy of Cornwall – Land South of Springwell Close Adj to Station Road, Bletchingdon – Application for the erection of a two-storey dwelling with associated works and access. Concerns have been raised with regards to the parking issues that will arise if this development is approved and have been lodged with CDC.
20/03159/TCA – Mr Julian Howe – Barley Cottage, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – T1 x Silver Birch in rear garden, approx. 15.00m tall – Reduce height by approximately one third, remove wind damaged branches. Remove any deadwood (exempt). No objections.

264/20 Finance:

County Cllr C. Griffiths left the meeting at this point (8:21pm).

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

Invoices for payment 30th November 2020

Method	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Amount	VAT	Total
Debit card purchase	Purchase of a note book for taking the minutes	General Admin	This Minute	£1.46	0.29	£1.75
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 16 th November 2020	Parks, Trees and open spaces	This Minute	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00
Bank TF	RoSPA Play Safety Inspection	Parks, Trees and open spaces	This Minute	£100.00	£20.00	£120.00
Bank TF	Moore – External Audit Report	General Admin	This Minute	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00

Invoices for payment 30th December 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 December 2020	Parks, Trees and open spaces	This Minute	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00
Bank TF	Clerks Salary for October, November & December 2020	Clerks Salary	This Minute	£1,320.00	£0.00	£1,320.00
Bank TF	C. Fraser Accountant – Payroll	General Admin	This Minute	£35.00	£0.00	£35.00
Bank TF			This Minute	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00

The Direct Debit to BT is due to go out on or just after 23rd November 2020 for £39.62 including VAT and again in December 2020, amount to be confirmed but this is usually £38.04.

All payments approved.

265/20 Correspondence Received:

- a) Report from District Cllr T. Hallchurch. – Shared via email.
- b) An email from Anna Phillips on behalf of the Children’s Air Ambulance, Oxfordshire – asking for support. Shared via email. – All agreed a donation of £150 should be made. This has been included in December’s list of payments.
- c) An email from Matthew Price, sharing information from the Woodlands Trust. – Shared via email. All agreed this should be forwarded to the School as this may be of interest to them and their sensory garden. The Clerk will forward this to Caroline Walker.
- d) John Howell Newsletter – Shared via email, no further action.
- e) The Cherwell Parish Bulletin update – Shared via email, no further action.
- f) An email from Marc Evans (OCC) with regards to a new speeding taskforce. Shared via email, no further action but this may be helpful to us in the future.
- g) An email from ‘20 is Plenty for Oxfordshire’ asking us to support their campaign. Shared via email. No further action but also potentially of use in the future.
- h) A news email from OCC with regards to a Zero Emission Zone proposal and advising how we can comment if we wish to. Shared via email, no further action.

266/20 Any Other Business:

- Cllr Saunders reported that he saw that the Government have pledged £4m for local, rural bus services which would be of great help to us. The Clerk is to contact our Public Transport Representative and make sure she is also aware of this.
- Cllr Saunders confirmed he spoke with Diane Bohm, Clerk to Weston on the Green, with regards to the Great Wolf Resort appeal application. All agreed via email prior to this meeting that our previous objection comments should be submitted, which was done by the Clerk on the 25th November 2020.

- Cllr Jordan reported via email that CDC had sent some men to clear the footpath along Weston Road but that they only used a leaf blower which was completely ineffective. He requested that a complaint be made, which everyone agreed to. The Clerk will contact CDC.
- Cllr Whitehead reported that there is a street light on Station Road not working and another in Sands Close which appears to have been hit by a vehicle and is standing at a bad angle. The Clerk will report these.
- Cllr Saunders wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as well as giving thanks for everyone's hard work during a very difficult year.

267/20 Items for information or next Agenda only - all items for next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Thursday 31st December 2020.

268/20 Date of Next Meeting: to confirm the date of the next meeting as 7th January 2021 at 7:30pm.

Meeting Ended : 8:40pm.